



## Happy New Year from the Engineering Village Team!

2009 marks the 125th anniversary of the Engineering Index, the publication founded by Dr. John Butler Johnson with the aim of bringing articles of permanent value to the engineering community. This precursor to the Compendex database has since evolved into the worldwide standard for engineering research. In this issue we look at just how far research has come in the past 125 years - and explore what's on the horizon.

We are gearing up to provide you with more information and greater insight in 2009. We look forward to continuing to do our part in empowering users of Engineering Village (EV), from librarians to students, from academics to corporate researchers... and everyone in between! This year EV will take exciting steps toward more interactive features that help bring research to the next level and better support the engineering community. Already in 2009 we've updated the "Ask an Expert" feature and added a Referex keyword cloud as part of our ongoing efforts to provide the richest, most dynamic search experience possible.

As the landscape of research and information retrieval evolves, we strive to marry powerful technological capabilities with the timeless value of high-quality, trustworthy information. Read on to learn more about where we've come from, where we are now, and where we see the future taking us, and you-our EV community.

Are there areas you'd like to learn about? Articles you'd like to see us cover? Comments on an article in this issue? General feedback? We'd love to hear from you.

[EMAIL THE EDITOR](#)

## The Future of Search: Moving Toward a Semantic Web

**Joe Buzzanga**  
Product Manager, illumin8



The digitization of the information world continues at a phenomenal pace, creating unprecedented opportunities — and challenges. Ubiquitous microprocessors, inexpensive storage and always-on, always connected broadband networks have

unleashed an unparalleled flood of content. The industry research firm IDC projects a ten-fold increase in the amount of digital information over the next five years, to 1,800 exabytes by 2011. A 2008 Netcraft report suggested that there are 156 million web sites. Information is anywhere, everywhere; and there is no sign of any slowdown.

[READ MORE](#)

## Tips and Tricks

### Need expertise to move research forward?

Take advantage of the newly redesigned "Ask an Expert" tool on Engineering Village:

1. Go to [www.engineeringvillage.com](http://www.engineeringvillage.com)
2. Click on the "Ask an Expert" tab
3. Select the option that best suits your needs: Ask an Engineer, Ask a Librarian, or Ask a Product Specialist
4. Send in your question and get a response! Or, view questions from other users, sign up for online seminars, download additional information, and more.

[View a quick demo](#) to see how easy it is.

## Quick Poll

### Which technologies do you feel have made search smarter?

Submit your answers and check out the results in our next issue!

[TAKE POLL](#)

## Engineering Village Product News

**Ask an Expert" Upgrade:** We've re-designed and updated the "Ask an Expert" page. Now it's even easier for researchers to find answers to commonly-asked questions, or to direct more specific questions to an appropriate expert or their organizations' librarian. You can also sign up for online seminars and download training materials via links to [www.ei.org](http://www.ei.org)

**New! Referex Keyword Cloud:** The Book Details section of Referex's full-text eBooks now shows a "cloud" of the most frequently appearing keywords in a title. Place your cursor over terms in the cloud to see how many times that word appears in the book, or click on a keyword to view the pages on which it appears.



### The Evolving Research Landscape: An Interview with John and Jean Piety

Last year, Jean Piety celebrated her 50th anniversary of service to the Special Library Association. Along with her husband John, she was named as the 2008 SLA Engineering Librarian's Division Librarian of the Year. John has been a member of SLA for more than 30 years. Both of them have held a number of different positions in the organization and worked in a variety of library and research settings.

Ei's Leah Snyder recently spoke with Jean and John about their firsthand experiences of the shift from print resources to the introduction of electronic tools. Here's what they had to say about the benefits and challenges of these changes.

[READ INTERVIEW SUMMARY](#)

[LISTEN TO PODCAST](#)

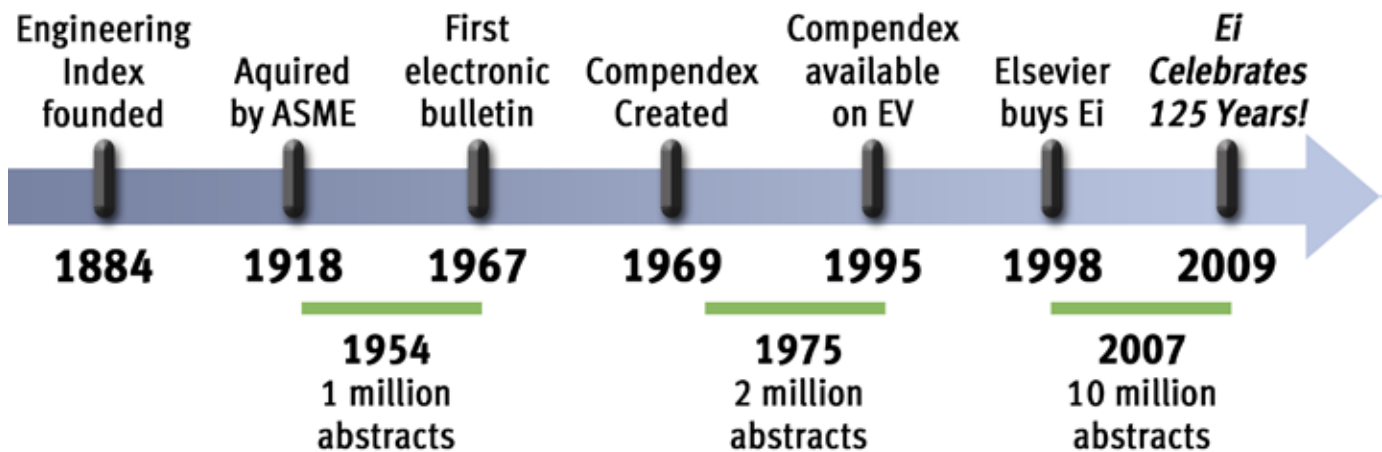
### Share your Ideas!

**Do you have story ideas?  
Comments on an article in this issue?**

We want to hear them. Whether you're taking steps to improve communication between researchers at your institution, exploring innovative ways to make your library more eco-friendly, or seeing interesting trends in engineering research that you'd like to share, let us know. You could be featured in our next issue!

[EMAIL US](#)

### A Brief History of the Engineering Index



### Upcoming Events:

**Take a free online seminar** - Join us for a free online seminar to learn how Engineering Village can help save time, streamline research, and improve results. Visit the [Ei Support Center](#) to view the full schedule and to register for a free seminar.