Search Example: ACM Digital Library

You will retrieve more predictable results and gain more control over your search by using the plus operator directly and placing parenthesis in the appropriate places. Let’s say we are interested in medium access control and sensor networks. We could enter the query

\(+\text{sensor} + (\text{"medium access control" "media access control"})\)

in the single search box. Using this query will catch variations in terminology for medium access control. Anything in quotation marks is searched as a phrase. Singular terms seek the singular and plural version of the word. There are no right and wrong answer here. You could enter the query

\(+\text{sensor} + (\text{"access control"})\)

as well. This could give a few more relevant articles and it could add some articles that are not directly relevant. Experiment with different keywords to find the best search. Let’s say we are interested in embedded systems as well as sensors. Edit your query in the single search box to be

\(+\text{sensor "embedded system" "embedded systems"} + (\text{"medium access control" "media access control"})\)

If you find an article that is relevant, you can use the index terms (ACM Computing Classification System – CCS rev. 2012) to narrow your results to make them more relevant, such as choosing the term “mobile networks.” You could use the index terms to expand your results to include articles that might be relevant but don’t list the keywords specifically. You could enter the query

\(+\text{sensor "embedded system" "embedded systems"} + (\text{"medium access control" "media access control" acmdICCS{:"network protocols"})\)

to this end.

Example of The ACM Computing Classification System for a Particular Article

In addition, you can use the classification system to search for articles for a particular index term by selecting it.