Public Legacy Library FAQs

The Public Legacy Library contains approximately two million bibliographic citations describing the NRC's documents dated prior to November 1, 1999 that were made publicly-available. These data records were originally maintained in the agency's Nuclear Documents System (NUDOCS) and the PDR's Bibliographic Retrieval System (BRS).

The descriptive data from those older systems has been reformatted and migrated into a document profile that is similar to that used in the current Publicly Available Records Systems (PARS) Library. These records contain information about document's location in agency microfiche collections. For the majority of records there is a bibliographic citation only, however, there are about 150,000 text or abstract files associated with these two million data records.

The Public Legacy Library is a static data base; nothing new has been added to it since 1999. For further information, please contact the Public Document Room, at PDR.Resource@nrc.gov, or 800-397-4209.

What is the Public Legacy Library?

The Public Legacy Library contains citations for documents released prior to November 1, 1999. While there are a limited number of full-text records or abstracts in the Public Legacy Library, the majority of the records are bibliographic citations only

How do I access the Public Legacy Library?

The Public Legacy Library is an option on the ADAMS PUBLIC access screen. You can select either the Public Legacy Library or the Public Library. You will log on to ADAMS the same way that you do to use PARS.

Do I need a password to use the Public Legacy Library?

No.

What types of documents are in the Public Legacy Library?

The Public Legacy Library includes bibliographic citations to regulatory and technical documents and reports issued by NRC, NRC contractors or licensees. Documents include those specific to licensed facilities (such as nuclear power plants, medical or industrial licensees), and generic records (such as NUREG-series reports, NRC Information Notices, or regulatory guides), as well as Commission correspondence. The publicly available documents released prior to November 1, 1999, are in the Public Legacy Library.

Are documents in the Public Legacy Library available on-line in full-text?

There are a limited number of documents that are full-text or have an abstract in the Public Legacy Library, however the majority of records are bibliographic citations only. The text documents open in Notepad. They can be printed or saved to a local drive.

How do I get copies of documents that I find in Public Legacy Library?

Copies of documents can be ordered from the PDR copy service for a fee. Patrons in the area can visit the PDR and view or copy documents from microfiche on coin-operated microfiche reader printers available in the PDR.

How do I determine the microfiche address of a document in Public Legacy Library?

Enter your search criteria and after obtaining your results list select the document wish to view. Go to the "information" icon on the far right-hand side of the page and click. Click the middle "Custom" tab to open the profile. The fiche address can be at the end of the bibliographic record (metadata) under Microform Addresses.

Can I search the Public Legacy Library and PARS at the same time?

No. You will have to select one library or the other. Both libraries cannot be searched at the same time. Also, given the variances in the profiling methods used in the two libraries, you will probably need to construct searches with different criteria for each library.

How do I save a document hit list?

You can create a report in the Public Legacy Library the same way that you do in PARS. Highlight the records that you want in the list and right click on one of the highlighted titles. Select "Create Report" from the drop down menu and select the report format that you want.

Can I view monthly and daily folders in the Public Legacy Library the way I can in PARS?

No, the Public Legacy Library is a "static" database; nothing new will be added to it. The documents in the Public Legacy Library are not filed in monthly and daily folders as in PARS. They may only be accessed using ADAMS Find.

How do I get help using the Public Legacy Library?

Please contact the PDR reference librarians. The direct reference number to the PDR is: 301-415-4737, or toll-free at 1-800-397-4209. You can email questions to the PDR staff at PDR Resource@nrc.gov. The fax number is 301-415-3548. If you would like to schedule a training session on using the Public Legacy Library, or ADAMS in general, contact the PDR staff.