

ERIC Database: Frequently Asked Questions dk's Nov. 2013

What is the ERIC database?

It is a collection of database records which describe articles or documents in all areas of the education and teaching discipline. Each database record includes a full citation and a summary (abstract) of the document or article.

Topical Coverage of the ERIC database:

- * Adult & Early Childhood Education
- * Educational Administration & Finance
- * Child Development
- * Higher Education
- * Vocational & Consumer Education
- * Teacher Education & Teaching
- * Elementary & Secondary Education
- * Reading and Literacy
- * School Health & Counseling
- * Many other education topics

What exactly does the ERIC database contain?

The ERIC database includes citations and abstracts for two different types of materials.

* ERIC records, which describe articles from professional education journals, include an 'EJ' accession number at the top.

* ERIC records, which describe educational documents on microfiche (ERIC Document Collection), include an 'ED' accession number at the top. Documents include policy papers, curriculum and planning materials, teaching guides, handbooks, and more.

Can I use ERIC to locate journal articles?

Yes, ERIC indexes and provides abstracts for articles published in over 700 professional education journals from 1969 to the present. ERIC database records, which cite articles, include a 'EJ' number at the top left portion of the record. The author names, article title, journal title (source of the article), volume number, date and page numbers, descriptors (subject headings), and a brief summary of the article is also included.

How do I access the ERIC database? Is there a charge?

Use the library computers to search ERIC at no cost. Access to the ERIC database is available on all

Public computers in the libraries. You may also access the database on the CSA database system from your home or office using the World Wide Web. (Login w/Bronconet ID and password.

How do I go about searching?

You use keywords and the logical operator AND to link keywords to describe your topic.

EXAMPLE: To find information on art activities in the elementary school, you could ask the computer to retrieve only records containing the words "art" AND "activities" AND "elementary education". The computer would look for ERIC database records, which contain each of the words you have specified. In this example only the records containing the words "art" and "activities" and "elementary education" will be retrieved in the search result.

ERIC may be searched by keyword, author, year, document type, descriptors (subject headings), or any combination of search types. Once a search is completed results will be shown in a title list. You then mark titles for viewing or printing. Results may also be sent to your electronic mail box.

What will the search provide & how do I locate the materials?

Your search result will usually consist of a list of citations and abstracts related to your topic.

How to locate ERIC items with EJ numbers.

- * Examine your ERIC printout and locate records with a "EJ" number at the top left corner. Note the source of the article (this is on the line beginning with SOURCE or JOURNAL NAME). Note the title of the journal where the article appeared.

- * Look for the link FIND IT @ WMU, this link will allow you to see the options for locating the article. The link will list any online article sources, as well as the information needed to find the journal if it is in the WMU Library collections.

- * If the journal title is listed, note the call number of the journal.

- * Go to the periodical shelves and locate the call number you need.

Does WMU own all of the journals indexed by the ERIC database?

No, but many of the articles cited are available online in full text, this means that the entire article may be found online linked to the ERIC database. If you need to get a copy of a journal article that isn't available in the WMU library collection, use the free INTERLIBRARY LOAN service. Use the Interlibrary Loan web page (online forms) to request materials from another library.

How can I locate ERIC records with "ED" numbers?

The full texts of most items in the ERIC document collection are available online in the ERIC database as PDF files. ERIC has made the full-text of many documents available online, they are stored as Adobe Acrobat PDF files and must be downloaded from the database.

How to locate ERIC items with ED numbers:

Look for a PDF or Full-text link in the ERIC database record.

How can I receive help in learning to use the ERIC database?

There are several ways:

- * Each database interface has help features built in; consult the HELP link at the top of the screen.

- * Often a librarian is available to help you in the library. Feel free to ask for a librarian to help you.

- * You may contact a librarian and make an appointment for an individualized help session.

- * Many WMU professors arrange to bring classes to the library for demonstrations and workshops.

Education Library Subject Liaison Assignments

Mr. Bradford W. Dennis, Associate Professor of Libraries, 269-387-1581, 2800 Sangren. *Liaisons: Human Performance and Health Education (formerly Health, Physical Education & Recreation) and Special Education and Literacy Studies, and Teaching, Learning and Educational Studies*

Mr. Dennis Strasser, Associate Professor of Libraries, 269-387-5230, Education Library, 2800 Sangren Hall. *Liaisons: Counselor Education/Counseling Psychology, Educational Leadership, Research and Technology, and Family and Consumer Sciences.*