The ERIC (Education Resources Information Center) database is the world’s largest source of education information.

It contains more than 1 million abstracts of journal articles and documents on education research and practice and provides access to articles from over 1000 professional journals. The database also includes thousands of ERIC documents.

Accessing ERIC:

1. Start on the Campus Library homepage: http://library.uwb.edu/
2. Click on Databases A – Z: articles & more.
3. Select the E tab or type ERIC in the “Find Databases by Title” box.

   Note: we offer two different interfaces to search ERIC: EBSCO and ProQuest. Feel free to try both and see which you are most comfortable with. This guide will refer to the EBSCO interface.

Like most databases that appear in this list, ERIC is UW restricted. If you are off-campus or accessing ERIC on your personal computer or device, you will be prompted to enter your UW NetID and password.

If you have any trouble connecting, please ask us: http://library.uwb.edu/askus.html

You can also access ERIC via the Education guide: http://guides.lib.uw.edu/bothell/education

Searching ERIC (via the EBSCO interface):

A few notes about the database search features before you begin:

1. This database allows you to search by many terms including Author, Title, Journal, Keyword or Descriptor (Thesaurus term).
2. ERIC created a Thesaurus that can be accessed via the Thesaurus link at the top of the screen. The Thesaurus provides the words and phrases that ERIC uses as descriptors for various topics/subjects (i.e. ERIC’s own unique ‘language’). For example, if you enter ‘Teenagers’ as a search term, the Thesaurus will bring up the word ‘Adolescents’, because this is ERIC’s Thesaurus term or Descriptor for the word teenagers. The Thesaurus is a great tool for retrieving more precise and sophisticated results from your searches.
3. Also, notice that you can search and limit by material type Journal Articles (EJ) and Documents (ED). It is important to understand the differences between Journal Articles and ERIC Documents when searching ERIC. Continue reading for details.
ERIC Journal Articles (EJ)

ERIC has indexed over 900,000 journal articles from more than 1,000 journals.

➢ To identify an ERIC journal article, look for the EJ before the Accession Number (appears at the end of the author/journal/date information for each result).

ERIC Documents (ED)

ERIC has also indexed over 500,000 research papers, books, conference presentations, curriculum guides and much more.

➢ To identify an ERIC Document, look for the ED before the Accession Number (appears at the end of the author/journal/date information for each result).

Always check to see if the record you want is an ERIC Journal or ERIC Document!

ERIC Documents are not cataloged in UW Libraries Search, but you can get the full text for them by using the UW Libraries Interlibrary Loan/Document Delivery service (more information on this below).

➢ While you need to evaluate everything you read, journal articles usually go through a more vigorous editorial process. ERIC Documents are not evaluated as intensely. ERIC documents are great resources, but it will be up to you to decide their merits. As always, read critically (see http://guides.lib.uw.edu/bothell/evaluatingsources for tips or talk to your instructor about source requirements for your assignment).

A Sample ERIC Search using the Thesaurus (via the EBSCO interface):

1. In the purple bar at the top of the page, click on Thesaurus. In the Browsing: ERIC – Thesaurus search box, type in the term ‘Teenagers’ and click on Browse. You will note that ERIC recommends using the term Adolescents instead. Click on the link for Adolescents.

2. On this page notice that there is a Scope Note, which will give you a brief definition or explanation for the term so that you can be sure that it matches up with the topic you want to search. In this example, the scope note for Adolescents is: Approximately 13-17 years of age.

3. On this page you will also notice a list of Broader Terms, Narrower Terms, Related Terms and Used For terms

➢ These are useful when you are looking for synonyms or other related terms to use in your search.

Helpful Thesaurus Hints:

- To add Thesaurus terms to your search, select one or more and click Add. If combining multiple terms browse for the next term, select AND or OR from the dropdown menu and click Add.
- Select the Explode box if you wish to retrieve citations using the selected term and its related/narrower terms.
This search for journal articles and documents with the Descriptor ‘Adolescents’ returns tens of thousands of results. Obviously, this is too many to sift through. You would want to narrow this search by adding additional terminology to capture additional concepts within your research topic (e.g. Adolescents AND English Language Learners).

You can also narrow your search by using the tools provided on the left-hand side of your results list. These tools will allow you to narrow to results of a certain Source Type (e.g. Academic Journals, ERIC documents), Date Range, etc. Note: if you add one of these limiters and want to remove it and re-do your search, click on the box for that limiter at the top of the left-hand column.

Reading Your Search Results in ERIC (via the EBSCO interface):

Notice each result: It provides you with a citation (author, article/document title, and journal title, volume & issue, page and date information if it’s an article) and an abstract (summary of the article/material). Each record also has an Accession Number preceded by an EJ or ED.

Please note: You do not need the EJ number to get ERIC journal articles, but you will need the ED number to get ERIC Documents unless they are in full text online!

The title will link you a more detailed record including complete reference information, a link to check for full text and sometimes a link to Full Text from ERIC (for ERIC documents).

Getting full text ERIC Documents & Journal Articles online (via the EBSCO interface):

Getting full text journal articles online:

Some journal articles in ERIC are available in full text. To open those ones, click on the full text link below or to the left of the record for the item that you’re interested in.

Getting full text ERIC documents online:

The ERIC database does have ERIC documents from as far back as 1966 in full text. To access them, simply click on the “Full Text from ERIC” link that is part of the item that you’re interested in.

Getting ERIC Documents & Journal Articles not available online in full text (via the EBSCO interface):

Getting journal articles:

Many ERIC journal articles will not have full text available in this database, but full text may be available elsewhere in the UW Libraries. For example, the journal containing your article could be in print at the Campus Library or available full-text through another database.

To find out, follow these directions:

1. Click on the Check for Full Text button next to or below the abstract/record for the article or document you want.
2. You will be directed to a UW Libraries Search that provides a link to the article or to the journal, or provides information on its physical availability in the library. If there are no direct links provided, follow the directions below to place a document delivery request.

Getting ERIC Documents/Journal Articles:

ERIC documents and journal articles that are not available electronically via the EBSCO interface can be ordered using the UW Libraries FREE Interlibrary Loan (ILL) and Document Delivery Services (DDS). Requests take 1-3+ business days to fulfill.

You can do this one of two ways:

Option 1: From the UW Libraries Search page mentioned in #2 above, you may see a Request an article scan (about 1-2 days) link. If not, click the green Log in for all services button in the upper right corner of the page and login with your NetID and password. Then, click on the Request link. You will either be directed straight to the ILL/DDS request form (which is usually auto-filled with information about your article or document) or you will be prompted to create an account on the main ILL/DDS page.

Option 2: From the Campus Library web site at http://library.uwb.edu:

- Click on the link for Interlibrary Loan: UWB under Services
- Select one of the Interlibrary Loan (or Interlibrary Loan & Document Delivery) links on this page
- Create and/or Login to your ILL/DDS account
- To begin your request:
  - for a journal article or ERIC document (electronic items such as book chapters or conference reports):
    1. Click on the “Request a scan” link in the left sidebar
    2. Fill out the form using your article/document citation from the ERIC database
    3. You will receive an email when your article has been electronically posted to your Document Delivery account for retrieval
  - for an ERIC document (books, media and other non-electronic items):
    1. Click on the “Request a physical item” link in the left sidebar
    2. Fill out the form using your article/document citation from the ERIC database
    3. You will receive an email when your item is available.

Please contact a librarian by calling 425-352-5340 or on our Ask Us A Question page if you have any trouble figuring out how to get an article or document from the ERIC database!