

What is ERIC?

ERIC (Educational Resources Information Center) is the most important database for locating education journal articles. The Library provides access to ERIC on two different software platforms:

ERIC (Online: EBSCO) is recommended for students enrolled in Bachelor of Teaching and Learning.

ERIC (Online: CSA) uses the same software as PsycINFO. PsycINFO is the main database for psychology and is useful for child development and child psychology.

Date Coverage: 1966 – current

There are two types of records on ERIC:

ERIC Journals. These records are references to articles published in journals.

ERIC Documents. These are unpublished resources and include digests (short overviews of current education topics), conference papers, teacher guides and curriculum handbooks.

How to access ERIC

From the Library's home-page:

- Click Databases
- Select the link to E
- Click on the link to ERIC (EBSCO)

From the Education Portal:

- Select ERIC via EBSCO from the list of databases.

Search Steps

1. Brainstorm your topic

Write down the key concepts in your topic and list any synonyms, e.g. methods to improve attitude toward maths.

maths – math, mathematics
attitude – interest, behaviour, opinion

Use U.S. terminology (behavior)
Use the **truncation symbol (*)** to pick up variant endings to a word, e.g. math* will find math, maths, mathematics etc.

2. Combine your concepts

If you have more than one concept, use Boolean Operators (And, OR, Not) to join terms, e.g.

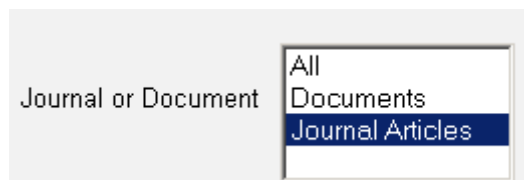
math* and attitude* – both terms must occur in the record.
attitude* or opinion – either term must occur in the record.

If you use AND and OR in the same search, you must put brackets around the OR part of the search, e.g. math* and (attitude* or opinion)

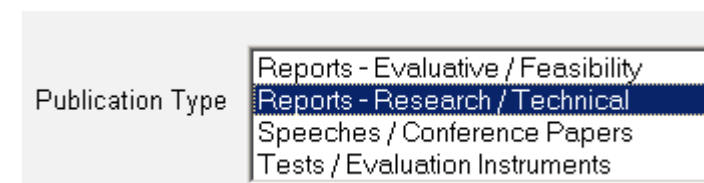
3. Enter your search

Enter your search into the Find box.

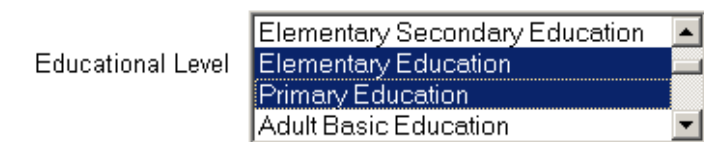
To limit results to journal articles:
Click Journal Articles in the Journal or Document window.



To limit results to journal articles reporting research:
Scroll down the Publication Type window and click on Reports – Research / Technical.



To limit results to an educational level:
Select appropriate educational levels from the Educational Level window. Hold down the cnrl key to select multiples (e.g. for primary education select both primary and elementary education)



4. Print, Save or Email results

- First add selected records to your ERIC folder by clicking on the folder icon on the right hand side of each record.
- Click **Folder Has Items** at the top right hand side of the screen to list your selected items.
- Click on your preferred delivery option (print, email or save) and complete the online form.



5. Find the full text of the article

Click **Linked Fulltext** to link directly to the fulltext online. If this option is not available, click **Search for Fulltext** to find out whether the library holds the journal in either print or electronic format. The Library does not hold all journals on ERIC.

Other Search Features

Search History

The search history/alerts tab can be used can rerun, revise or combine previous searches. You can also print your search history.

Thesaurus

The Thesaurus lists all of the subject terms (or descriptors) used by ERIC. These are terms assigned by the database producers to describe the subject of the article. Use the descriptor terms to help you refine your search. To search the Thesaurus:

- Click Thesaurus in the green menu bar.
- Type a term into the Brown for box and click Browse.
- Select an appropriate term from the list to view broader, narrower and related terms.

Search Alerts

By setting up a search alert, any new records added to the database which match your search will be sent to you by email.

- Click Search History/Alerts
- Click Save Searches/Alerts
- Click I'm a new user to register with EBSCO.

Refining your search

Found too few records?

You need to broaden your search. Try these methods:

- Have you made a spelling mistake?
- Use North American spelling and terminology.
- Think of alternate terms or synonyms.
- Consult the thesaurus or descriptor terms.
- Truncate your search, e.g. cognit* will find cognitive, cognition etc.
- Reduce the number of concepts you are using.

Found too many records?

Your search is too general. Try these methods to make it more specific:

- Add another concept to your search and use the connector AND.
- Apply a limit to your search.
- Consult the thesaurus or the subject field of records to find more specific terms.
- If you know the preferred format for your term, you could remove truncation from your search.

Further help ... ☺

Click Help & Support on the Database screen for online help. Ask at the Central Library Help Desk or contact the Education Information Librarian, Kerry Gilmour (ext.4986).