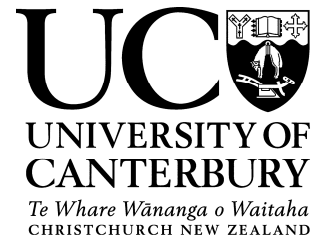


# Finding articles

## Education Library Guide



### Finding databases

<http://library.canterbury.ac.nz/> → Databases → Education

### Planning your search

Before you start, spend five minutes making a mind-map or list to nut out all of the words and concepts around your chosen topic, including synonyms and related concepts. This process will help you:

1. Clarify your topic
2. Break it into component parts or themes (and allow you to focus your topic and discard elements)
3. Identify key words to use in your searches.

**Rule of thumb:** Start with a general search and narrow it down. Add one element of your search in at a time so you can see what effect each change has on the results.

**Spelling:** Correct spelling is vital. Capitalization doesn't matter. Remember that U.S. spellings are sometimes different, e.g. behaviour, behavior.

**Different Terminology:** Other countries may use different terminology. You will need to search on all variations, e.g., search for “elementary” as well as “primary”.

**Truncation:** Use an asterisk \* in most databases for truncation, e.g. educat\* will search for: Educate, educator, educated, education, educational, educators, educationalist...etc.

### Combining search terms

Build your search using Boolean Logic:

Apples **AND** Pears      find all articles that have **BOTH** words.

Apples **OR** Pears      find articles that have **EITHER** the word Apples **OR** the word Pears **OR** both.

If you are including both the **AND** operator and the **OR** operator in your search statement, put brackets around the part of the statement being **Ored**: (Apples **or** Bananas) **and** pears.

This ensures that the **OR** statement is processed first. You will get a vastly different and unintended result if you do not use brackets.

## Limiting your search

As a rule of thumb: get your results down to about 100. This is a comfortable number to look through. You will strike many useless articles – this is the peril of keyword searching.

- You can build as big a search stream as you like. Using ‘and’ will decrease the results. Using ‘or’ will increase the results.

Keep adding on terms as you refine the search:

1. Behav\*
  2. Behav\* and manag\*
  3. Behav\* and (manag\* or modif\*)
  4. Behav\* and (manag\* or modif\*) and educat\*
- Most databases have “Limit” functions. These enable you to cut down large results by screening out information by date, language, document type, or level of the information.

## Broadening your search

If you initially find only one or two items that look interesting, do not despair!

- Look at the records and at the subject headings / descriptors that are listed. See what terms they have used to describe the content, and add these to your list of keywords to search
- Check other articles written by the same author(s)
- When you find a good article, see if the database has a “find more like this” link to click
- When you find a good article, check the bibliography for other articles that may be relevant. Keep in mind that the articles in the bibliography will be older than the article you have found.

## Education databases

<http://library.canterbury.ac.nz/> → Search@Library → Indexing database → Education

The following are the most used Education Databases.

- Education Research Complete
- ERIC - via EBSCO or via CSA: these are the same but look different
- Proquest Education Journals
- Web of Science
- Science Direct
- PsycInfo
- Index New Zealand - click the link ‘Education Databases – New Zealand’ to locate.

**For more detailed help, check out the distance tutorial on the library webpage:**

<http://library.canterbury.ac.nz/distance>

**Or contact us in the Education Library by email or phone:**

[education@libr.canterbury.ac.nz](mailto:education@libr.canterbury.ac.nz) Ph: 0800 763 676