

ERIC

The ERIC database gives access to thousands of journal articles and documents on education. It is one of the oldest and most comprehensive databases available anywhere. ERIC displays abstracts with a complete bibliographic citation for each article or document.

Directions for using ERIC


1. Go to the Library's homepage (www.loyola.edu/library).
2. Click on the **Education** subject heading listed under **Resources by Subject** on the left-hand side of the homepage. Then click on **ERIC**.
3. Click on **Advanced Search** tab at the top of the ERIC search screen. This will give you search boxes that allow several different kinds of searches at once as well as limit options at the bottom of the page. **When entering a search term(s), always indicate the type of search you are doing;** the program defaults to keyword. However, keyword searching in a database as large as ERIC can yield many irrelevant items.

Using more than one term helps to limit your search. You can limit your search by using **AND** between terms, or expand your search by putting **OR** between your terms. NOTE: if you use OR, put the "OR-ed" terms within parentheses. For example:

(inclusion OR mainstreaming) AND special education

4. If you need help choosing a search term, click on the **Thesaurus** button at the top of the page. The Thesaurus will give you appropriate terms to use when doing a **Subject** search.
5. You can limit the number of retrieved items or limit your search by setting a date range, using the **Date Published** drop-down boxes.
6. Each ERIC citation displays a number. **All ERIC numbers begin with either the letters ED or EJ.**

ED numbers indicate an **ERIC document**. Documents include **books, transcripts, conference papers, government publications, dissertations and theses**. The library has microfiche for most of the ERIC documents. They are kept in the Microforms room, located on the lower level of the library, filed in numerical order by the ED number. If the document was published in 1993 or later, you may be able to access the Full-Text of the Document by clicking the **Full text from EDRS** link. Once opened, you can either print or download the document. Cautionary note: if your Document is large (i.e. a dissertation) it will take a LONG TIME to open and print it.

EJ numbers indicate a **journal article**. ERIC links to SOME full-text articles. Click on the linked article title, and look for a link to **Full-text** in the full record. If there is no link to full text, click on the  button at the bottom of the full record. Using this button allows you to search all of our databases to see if the full text is available in another database (you can also use it to see if the library has the article in print). If the article is available in another database, the Article Linker results page will have an **Article** link, and it will tell you which database the article is in.

If the full text is not available in any of our databases, you may be able to get the journal from the library. To check if the library owns the journal, go to **Step 2** on your Article Linker results page, which allows you to search SHARC, the library catalog. You can **search by journal title** (recommended) or by International Standard Serial Number (ISSN), which is the unique identifier for each journal (the results should be the same for both searches, but mistakes do happen).

You may also ask at the Reference Desk for help in figuring out whether the journal can be found full-text online in a different database. If the library does not own the periodical you need, you can request a copy of the article using Interlibrary Loan.

Note: In order to print or make copies in the library, you will need a print account. You can set one up at circulation; you can add a little or as much as you wish, but we can only accept cash. Photocopiers are available on the first floor; black-and-white copies are \$.08, color copies are \$.50 each.

For help with ERIC, or with a specific topic or research question, please contact the Reference Desk (410-617-6802).