ERIC Search Strategies

ERIC (Educational Research Information Center) is a database containing journal articles and reports (documents) in education written from 1966 to the present.

You may wish to refer to other education-related library databases for your research, if so, see the Education research guide: http://knox.libguides.com/education (Find Articles tab).

ERIC – Searching Tips

Place multiple concepts in multiple search boxes

Search “Boolean/Phrase” (default)
Remember, if this option is used, words in proximity will be searched as a phrase.
  e.g. harry potter (will be searched as a phrase)

Use * to truncate and find multiple word forms
  e.g. politic* (finds political, politics, politic)

Use OR to combine synonyms
  e.g. cold war or politic*      e.g. teaching or instruction      e.g. teen* or adolescen*

Use W or N to indicate proximity
The proximity operators (the letter W or N) and a number are placed between works that are to be searched:

Near Operator (N) – finds words regardless of the order in which they appear.
  e.g. tax N5 reform – would find tax reform as well as reform of Illinois income tax

Within Operator (W) – finds words in the order entered
  e.g. tax w2 reform – would find tax reform, tax in reform, but not reform of income tax

Limit to Journal or Document
Journal articles in ERIC are indexed from both scholarly and popular journal sources.
Documents may be books, unpublished papers and government/association documents.

Limit your journal article search to “Peer Reviewed” if you are interested in scholarly journals.
## ERIC - Sample Record

**Indicates Full Text**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title:</th>
<th>Latin Revived: Source-Based Vocabulary Lessons Courtesy of Harry Potter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Author(s):</td>
<td>Nelson, Alice; Nolen, Don L. F.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISSN:</td>
<td>1081-3004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Descriptors:</td>
<td>Teaching Methods, Familiarity, Latin, Vocabulary Development, Etymology, Literature, Associate Learning, Lesson Plans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abstract:</td>
<td>Teachers can build on students' familiarity with and respect for the Harry Potter books to create source-based vocabulary lessons. The idea is to work with the Latin roots that J.K. Rowling used to create original names for places, people, and magical creatures and then to extend students' knowledge through exploration of additional English words based on the same roots. Besides being an efficient way to teach vocabulary words in a meaningful context, the approach helps students see that when new words are needed, they are often based on old, familiar words. It also trains students to look for metaphorical and other associations while developing confidence in their ability to make &quot;intelligent guesses&quot; about words they do not know. Various Latin roots are discussed, along with many words derived from them. Teachers can focus on a day's lesson on one root and several derivatives whose meanings will reinforce one another. (Contains 1 figure and 2 tables.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Descriptors (i.e. Subjects)
- Look for other terms to explore your topic

### Source
- Includes the journal title, volume, issue number, pages, month & year. Notice that "peer reviewed" is also indicated here.

### Abstract
- Summary of the article

### Publication Type
- Useful to identify type of source when considering how you can use the information (e.g. Reports—Research, Book, Classroom Guide, Opinion Paper).

### Obtain the Article
1. Full text may be in the database (as in example above).
2. If the full text is NOT available in the current database, click the **Find It! button** to see if full text is available in other databases.
3. If full text is NOT found in the **Find It!** window, click "Go" to find if the library has a print copy of the journal.
4. The final choice is to request the article via interlibrary loan (ILLiad).

### Mark Citations and Export to RefWorks
- Export using this icon and select “Direct Export to RefWorks”
Subjects and Descriptors = Words that describe the main focus of an article/report

There are many ways to search Subjects in ERIC.

1. **Use the Thesaurus**
   ERIC has a thesaurus of terms, useful for finding the appropriate language (the controlled vocabulary) of the database. This method can help you identify other terms, especially if your keyword searching is not successful. Type in your keyword to find:
   - Synonyms
   - Broader/Narrower Terms
   - Definitions

2. **Subject Searching**
   Try out your term in a Descriptor (subject) search if Keyword searching is retrieving too many results. If you locate a term in the Thesaurus, try it as a Subject search.

3. **Subjects (and “More” Subjects)**
   Once you have conducted your search, and you are viewing the results list, notice the column on the left. This contains the most common subjects found in your search results, listed in order of frequency. Click on “Show More” to reveal other subject terms.

   If you find a useful subject heading, click on it to add it to your current search. Or go back and revise your search using the words you located.