ERIC (Educational Resources Information Center), sponsored by the U.S. Dept. of Education, is a bibliographic database covering the literature of education. You will find annotated references to documents, to digests and to journal articles. This database contains some full text and is enabled with software which links to full text outside the database. Coverage for the database is from 1966 forward.

**Note:** OvidSP sessions have a default time limit known as the *idle time limit*. If you do not interact with the OvidSP interface and exceed the idle time limit, OvidSP logs you off automatically, and returns to the login page.

The database is not case sensitive.

**To Access**

From U of S Library home page ([http://library.usask.ca](http://library.usask.ca)):
- Select the tab Articles and Databases
- Select Education as the subject area
- Select ERIC (OvidSP) from the databases listed under ‘Best Bets’

**To Search**

**Multiple search modes** – Users can choose their preferred search style, from command line syntax searching using the Advanced Ovid Search to the Basic Search which supports the use of natural language.

1. The Advanced Search screen offers enhanced search capabilities. It is the default screen.
2. Search by:
   - keyword or phrase
   - author – enter the author’s last name followed by a space and the first initial
   - article title or document – enter a word or phrase to be searched in the title
   - journal title – enter the first few words of a full journal name; do not use abbreviations
3. Filter your search by selecting from common limits. This will reduce the number of records in your results set.
   - DO NOT limit to ERIC Full Text, as other full text options may be available. (See the Journal Linking section.)
4. Map Term to Subject Headings to make use of ERIC’s indexed terms
The Basic Search allows Natural Language Processing. Type a question or phrase stated in natural language. Basic Search will take the search criteria and filter out words that are deemed to be irrelevant, or “noise” words. Nouns are the natural home for concepts. Try to use more nouns than verbs.

Include Related Terms allows the researcher to expand upon the original search term(s) with word variations, strong synonyms, and acronyms.

RESULTS DISPLAY

The left-hand column, the Results Tools, shows terms used to retrieve results for the most recent search statement. With the basic search, they are highlighted in the Record titles display. You may filter the results by adding subjects, authors, journals, or publication type to the search. Search Information and Filtering also accompany the Advanced Search display.

The default display for the results list is ‘citation’. You may change the display to include other fields.

The records in a results list for a basic search include ‘Relevancy Ranking’. Relevancy Ranking is based on: how many search concepts appear in the result; how rare the terms are in the database; where terms appear in a result.

You may display, print, email, save, or export records. (Direct export allows record export to a bibliographic manager, e.g. RefWorks.)
**SEARCH HISTORY**

Each completed search is assigned a number and entered into the Search History for your session. This tracking enables you to refine and focus your results.

You may Combine selections with “and” or “or”. You may also enter the numbers of your searches directly, e.g. 2 and 3

Select display to view any current or previous search.

**JOURNAL LINKING**

[Find it!] connects the user to full text for journal articles identified in a search. This linking software is called SFX. The SFX window opens and lists separate options for accessing full text. It also lists options such as Interlibrary Loan if full text is not available. In the SFX window below, full text is available through a website called Informaworld Journals (Taylor & Francis Group). Continue by selecting the [Go] button and navigate to the full text for the article. The article will appear in a separate window, and this window can be closed to return to your ERIC results list.
**FULL RECORD DISPLAY**

Details of the journal article listed in the citation display are available in the full record (complete reference) display. Most importantly, the complete reference includes a list of ERIC subject headings which have been assigned to the article. Any of the headings in the list may be selected and a new subject search can be executed from within the record, or, by returning to the Main Search page.

Please contact the **Information Desk** in the **Education & Music Library** for assistance in making use of ERIC OvidSP, or for help with your search strategy. You may also submit a query at [http://library.usask.ca/uask/](http://library.usask.ca/uask/)

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Edguide/EricOvidSP

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