ERIC is the Educational Resources Information Center (ERIC), a federally-funded national information system that provides 16 subject-specific clearinghouses. ERIC is the world's largest source of education information, with more than 1 million abstracts of documents and journal articles on education research and practice. The Database, updated monthly with the latest citations available, provides access to ERIC DOCUMENT CITATIONS from 1966 through January 2002 and ERIC JOURNAL CITATIONS from 1966 through January 2002.

ERIC Clearinghouses

- Adult, Career, and Vocational Education
- Assessment and Evaluation
- Community Colleges
- Counseling and Student Services
- Disabilities and Gifted Education
- Educational Management
- Elementary and Early Childhood Education
- Higher Education
- Information & Technology

- Languages and Linguistics
- Reading, English, and Communication
- Rural Education and Small Schools
- SCIENCE, MATHEMATICS, AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION
- Social Studies/Social Science Education
- Teaching and Teacher Education
- Urban Education

Just a little lesson in governmental information policy – ERIC is a government-sponsored database and is, therefore, free to the public (Government in the sunshine policy). Syracuse University has long provided a free user-interface to the database.

THESE ARE NOT FULL TEXT DOCUMENTS!! Green Mountain College has a limited selection of educational journals available. GMC also has a few ERIC documents available on microfiche, #ED309831-379112, plus access to other ERIC documents through the University of Vermont. Area colleges like Castleton State College and the College of St. Joseph have extensive collections as well. If you have time to wait for a document, you can order journal articles through interlibrary loan.

ERIC Documents (Designated by an ED number) can be a conference presentation, a cartoon booklet on how to brush your teeth developed by a 3rd grade teacher, or it could be a good research report. READ THE ABSTRACT to find out!

ERIC Journal articles (designated by an EJ number) have been peer reviewed, based on some level of scholarly research, and published in an education journal. Check the GMC
holding’s lists located in the library. The articles may be in ‘hard’ copy on the shelf or in microform. The microform cabinets are in the reference area of the library.

1) SAMPLE SEARCH

Go to the Green Mountain College Homepage at http://www.greenmtn.edu

Click on the Griswold Library Homepage (left hand column)

Scroll down and click on the Internet Research Guides Alphabetical list

Click on the E in the index

Scroll down to the ERIC database links

ERIC  http://ericir.syr.edu/Eric/

Enter the terms ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE CURRICULUM and click on “Journal Articles”

[Note: I didn’t use the word education in my search, because it would have included almost all the documents in the database since this is an education database.]

The next page puts your search into a Boolean expression

(environmental science) AND (curriculum) AND (080) publication_type SUBMIT

In the resulting list of journal articles, click on one to see the abstract.

Choose an article, check the library’s holdings list and fill in an Interlibrary Request

EXAMPLE CITATION and ABSTRACT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ERIC_NO: EJ258481</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TITLE: Assessment of Subjective Usefulness of an Environmental Science Curriculum.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUTHOR: Blum, Abraham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUBLICATION_DATE: 1982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JOURNAL_CITATION: Science Education; v66 n1 p25-34 Jan 1982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABSTRACT: If students are expected to become interested in science as a career or hobby, they must perceive their science courses as being useful. Student perceptions of usefulness of curricula were investigated relative to two agricultural programs taught in Israeli elementary and junior high schools. (PB)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DESCRIPTORS: *Agriculture; Attitudes; *Curriculum Evaluation; Educational Research; Elementary School Students; *Elementary Secondary Education; *Environmental Education; *Inquiry; Junior High School Students; *Program Evaluation; Science Curriculum; Science Education; Surveys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDENTIFIERS: Agriculture as Environmental Science; Israel; *Science Education Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUBLICATION_TYPE: 080; 055; 143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLEARINGHOUSE_NO: SE530799</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LANGUAGE: English</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[The above citation and abstract includes: The ERIC number, the title, author, year, name of the journal and its date, pages, etc for locating the article; plus a brief abstract.]

Descriptors are search terms used to Tag documents so machines can find them within a database. Every field of knowledge (education, chemistry, environmental science, cosmetology, even quilting) have published sets of search terms called thesauri and librarians have to use the terms
listed in these thesauri to ‘Tag’ documents. Computers look for these tags when they compute your query. SO – if you find a good article in your results that JUST FITS your quest – write down the descriptors that are used to Tag that document and use those descriptors in subsequent searching – you’ll be more successful. Descriptors are used in EVERY search engine even those on the Internet.

COST OF ERIC DOCUMENTS ORDERED ONLINE: Electronic Format (PDF) - $6.00 Per title; Microfiche - $2.25 per title; Reproduced Paper - $7.25 for each 25-pages

MORE ERIC FEATURES: Topics A-Z tab at the Syracuse site http://ericir.syr.edu/ gives you a directory of appropriate materials on a selected group of topics. Look in this category for ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION or EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING or A TOPIC OF INTEREST TO YOU.

Check out http://ericir.syr.edu/About/ for more features.
In the RESOURCE COLLECTION, choose a topic and explore the information there.

Citing ERIC Documents and journal articles in APA style (5th ed)”


SEARCH tips:
? Wildcard operator for a single character; matches any one character.
Wom?n = women and woman
*
Wildcard operator for strings; matches any string.
 micro* matches microscope, microcomputer
AND Boolean AND logic operator.
Searches for records containing both of the words it separates.
OR Boolean OR logic operator.
Searches for records containing either of the words it separates.
NOT Boolean NOT logic operator.
Eliminates records containing the word following it.
NEAR Functions as a bi-directional proximity operator if word range (e.g. deficit near/3 spending) is specified. If no word range is specified, NEAR limit the search to ‘next to’.

2) SAMPLE SEARCH

If your instructor assigned you to investigate the concept of information literacy you could use the ERIC DIGESTS [short reports that synthesize research and ideas about emerging issues in education; designed to help the educational community monitor trends and new developments]. Digests are also useful because they have good bibliographies.

Go to the Green Mountain College Homepage at http://www.greenmtn.edu
Click on the Griswold Library Homepage (left hand column)
Scroll down and click on the Internet Research Guides Alphabetical list
Click on the E in the index
This time let’s look at ERIC clearinghouse at http://ericae.net
Click on the LIBRARY tab on the top of the page
Click on DIGESTS
Put in the search terms: “INFORMATION LITERACY” and click on LOOKUP
   [Parentheses bind the words into a single term]
Scroll down to the end of the article and peruse the bibliography – (check the dates of the articles).

3) SAMPLE SEARCH:
Art, music, industrial arts, home and career skills, and library and information skills are often taught in small rural schools and in home study situations as discipline-based activities. If you were asked to incorporate art into one of the discipline, where would you find examples of this practice? Let’s try ERIC.

Go to the Green Mountain College Homepage at http://www.greenmtn.edu
Click on the Griswold Library Homepage (left hand column)
Scroll down and click on the Internet Research Guides Alphabetical list
Click on the E in the index
This time let’s look at ERIC clearinghouse at http://ericae.net
Click on the Search ERIC tab on the top of the page
The Search ERIC Wizard will help you select terms from the ERIC Thesaurus.
Put in the search terms: ART EDUCATION DISCIPLINE BASED and click on LOOKUP
The thesaurus tells you the appropriate tag should be: DISCIPLINE BASED ART EDUCATION Click on that term and add it to your search. Then, click on SEARCH