

Tips about searching ERIC

Accessing ERIC

- Go to the Doucette Library homepage (<http://education.ucalgary.ca/doucette>)
- Click on the Research Databases tab along the top
- Choose ERIC (via Ebsco)

ERIC contents

ERIC indexes information about education research and practice in both journals and many other kinds of documents: conference papers, reports from government, education agencies and school divisions, instructional materials, and books.

- ERIC journals are identified in the database by the prefix **EJ**
- ERIC documents are identified by the prefix **ED**

Set limits appropriate to your needs

1. Useful limits might be 'peer-reviewed' or 'journal articles'
2. DON'T limit to fulltext
3. Normally it's best to leave everything else at the default setting*
*but when you're searching for a phrase, try changing **search mode** to **Boolean/phrase**

Truncate your search terms

- To search for all variations on your term, cut it short and use an asterix * (for example *divers** to find diverse, diversity, diversification etc)

Three ways to find the 'authorized subject' terms used in ERIC (notice that ERIC uses *descriptor* to mean 'authorized subject')

1. look at the complete record for an article to find what *descriptors* have been assigned
2. in your results list, look at the left-hand side bar under *Narrow results by* – it will tell you some of the authorized subject terms related to this topic
3. Browse the thesaurus (click on either 'Term Contains' or 'Relevancy Ranked')

Once you have found out these authorized terms, you can search the '*SU – Descriptors*' field

Clearing your search can be useful if you're starting to get unexpected results.

MORE ADVANCED SEARCHING TIPS

Eliminate material about post-secondary institutions, by either:

- adding 'elementary secondary education' to your search (in the *SU-Descriptors* field) OR
- at the beginning of your search, select 'elementary secondary education' in the **Educational Level** box under **search options**.

Search history/Saving searches

- combine different searches using *search history*, although it's a little cumbersome.
- It can, however, be very useful to save your search history so that you can repeat the same search at another time.