



# The ERIC Database

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More than 110,000 full text *non-journal* documents issued from 1993 to present are now available for free. Hundreds of new records are added 2/week. This collection includes conference reports, technical reports, educational material from scholarly organizations, research papers, dissertations, etc.

You have three options at WSC for searching the ERIC database:

1. *EBSCO Host* – familiar searching interface
2. *Cambridge Scientific Abstracts* - you can also search other related social science databases at the same time
3. *Free ERIC* – <http://www.eric.ed.gov>

You will come across two types of information in ERIC:  
*journals* (EJ numbers) and ERIC *documents* (ED numbers)

ERIC Journals (EJ)	ERIC Documents (ED)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Journal articles are designated with the letters EJ and a six-digit accession number Example: EJ123456</li> <li>• EJ materials are all articles published in magazines or scholarly journals</li> <li>• Journal articles are a good choice for research information, and especially for <i>refereed or peer-reviewed</i> articles.</li> <li>• Because journals are published fairly often, at least a few times a year, they are a great way to find recent information</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Document materials fall into the category of non-journal literature (books, chapters, theses, dissertations, reports, surveys, teaching guides)</li> <li>• They are designated with the letters ED and a six-digit accession number (ex. ED401256)</li> <li>• ERIC documents generally are <b>not</b> <i>refereed</i> or <i>peer-reviewed</i></li> <li>• You may choose to search the documents if you are looking for conference proceedings and papers, which are sometimes presented before they're published in a journal</li> </ul>

### Obtaining ERIC Documents:

- Many older ED materials are available on *microfiche*. Fitchburg State and Bridgewater State both have extensive collections. However, they can no longer make copies of individual fiche so you must view them at their library, as they no longer can be obtained through Interlibrary Loan
- Most ERIC documents published after 1993 (ED 385 695 and higher) are available free online through the government's ERIC website. You will need Adobe Acrobat Reader® as the full text is in PDF format.
- *ERIC Digests* – These are 1,000-1,500 word reports on a variety of educational topics and are considered ERIC documents and carry ED numbers. They are not primary sources as they usually contain only a summary of the topic. The back files of *ERIC Digests* produced 1980 - 1992 have been converted from html format to PDF. The entire file of *ERIC Digests* is now available online at no charge.

### Finding Full Text of Journal Articles:

- Many of the journal titles indexed in ERIC may be found in the WSC library periodical collection. ***They are all listed in the online catalog*** along with the holdings information for volumes/years we own. All print, electronic and microfilm formats are included.
- Also check our suite of full text databases in EbscoHost, ProQuest Education, or Gale's InfoTrac.
- In addition to searching the databases directly, you can locate specific journal titles by searching the *Journal Finder*.
- Lastly, if you have time, copies of articles can be obtained through the Interlibrary Loan service (at the Circulation Desk; average 4-10 day wait for delivery). 95% of what we receive is obtained at no charge.

For more information try this research guide:

<http://www.worcester.edu/Library/Shared%20Documents/DatabasesSubjectEducation.aspx?PageView=Shared>

