

USING THE ERIC DATABASE

What is ERIC ? http://www.eric.ed.gov/ERICWebPortal/resources/html/about/about_eric.html

What does ERIC contain? Currently, 1.1 million citations / abstracts for articles, conference papers, reports, and teacher developed activities and curricula.

http://www.eric.ed.gov/ERICWebPortal/resources/html/about/about_eric_resources.html

ERIC materials are either

- ERIC Documents - Unpublished papers, reports, teacher and school developed materials
 - Recognizable by their ED_____ accession numbers
- Journal articles, recognizable by
 - EJ _____ accession numbers and JN indicating the Journal Name field.

Does ERIC have full text? Yes and No

- Yes for ERIC documents from about 1993 on - free for current CSU Chico students
 - Look for a link that says "**Full text from ERIC**" (There are always exceptions.)
- No for journal articles **BUT** online full text may be available through **SFX** or the Library.
 - **Click the "Find it" button or use the Periodicals List** to see what access is possible.

Where do I access the Library (EBSCO) version of ERIC?

- From the ReSEARCH Station <http://www.csuchico.edu/library> → Articles & Databases → E → ERIC

How do I access ERIC from home?

- Library version:** Follow the path above. When prompted for a user name and password, use your wildcat mail or portal name and password. If you have not yet set up your remote access, you can do so from this page: <http://www.csuchico.edu/lcmt/newer/connect.html>.
- Official ERIC** search engine (free; no password needed) at <http://eric.ed.gov/>

Search Tips for ERIC -- The words and syntax you use affect what you find

- DON'T USE phrases or "natural language" e.g. developing creativity in children using literature
- DO USE individual, unique, important words e.g. *creativity* and *children* and *literature*
- Combine essential words with **AND**
- Combine synonyms or similar words with **OR**. (Always enclose similar words in parentheses.)

To focus your search to find fewer, more relevant items

- Add words or concepts, connected with **AND**
 - *Television and children and reading* is more focused than *television and children*
- Use more precise language: *Television and young children* OR *Television and early reading*
- Use the **Thesaurus** (button in green bar) to identify ERIC descriptors for your topic.

To expand a search and find more items

- Use an asterisk (*) to substitute for letters at the end of a word: child* finds child or children.
- Combine synonyms or related words with **OR**. (Place **OR** statements within parentheses.)
 - *Television and reading* and (**teen* or adolescent***)
- Look at the **Descriptors** for a "good" article. Click to paste into your search.

Questions??? Contact me at jsfoster@csuchico.edu; Office (MLIB 456) Hrs: Mon & Wed (1-6 pm); Tues (1-4 pm);
Phone: 898-6168; OR Ask-a-Librarian 24/7 @ <http://www.csuchico.edu/library/ask.htm>.