

## Exploring the Education Resources web page

The best place to begin the research for your literature review is at the library's Education Resources page. To get there click the Library panel on the Chico State homepage, the Library Research link in your portal account, or go there directly by typing in the Chico State URL: [www.csuchico.edu](http://www.csuchico.edu) followed by a forward slash 'library'.

This will take you to the Library's homepage (otherwise known as 'the ReSEARCH Station'). From here the quickest way to get to the Education Resources is to use the lower left menu titled 'Find Information About'. Scroll to the bottom and click 'more'. This opens the complete list of subjects for which we have developed research guides. Clicking on the Education link located at the top of the middle column opens the Education Resources page.

### Articles & Databases

It opens by default to a list of recommended databases. The library has approximately 120 different databases, but the 9 listed here are recommended as the best for finding articles in the field of Education.

But ...the *important thing to remember* about this page (and one that is often overlooked by students)... is that it does have tabs. These tabs lead you to further Education Resources.

### Books

... the '**Books**' tab has links to the Meriam Library catalog for searching for books in our library, as well as links to the CSU and UC libraries catalogs, the Butte County Public Library, California Libraries, E-Book collections, and the Library of Congress. There's an Interlibrary Loan link should you wish to order books from these other libraries.

### Reference

The '**reference**' tab contains a list of encyclopedias, dictionaries and handbooks for looking up quick facts and brief overviews on topics in Education. Most are print books shelved in the Reference Collection on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Meriam Library, but some are online sources such as WebPages, webpage directories and electronic books such as The Encyclopedia of Education and The World Education Encyclopedia. Our e-books are password protected, so if you're off-campus you'll be prompted to enter your CSUC Portal acct login to gain access when attempting to open one of our online books. If on-campus you're already on our network and will not need a password. Very briefly, when opening an e-Book in the NetLibrary collection you'll need to click 'view this book' to remove the book from its virtual shelf and open it. Once opened, as with print books you'll use the table of contents and index links located on the left side of the screen to 'jump' into the book and begin reading a selection. Once you've begun a chapter or selection, you'll use the links at the top right of the page to page forward or back. You can also do keyword searching of the contents of the book, create a free account in which to bookmark pages, make notes, and create your own customized virtual reference shelf. I'll discuss all of this later in our e-Books video clip.

## Websites

The **'websites'** tab contains the links to a number of recommended Education websites. You'll be able to get free ERIC lesson plans from the Educator's Reference Desk. Note: there's a Special Education link under "special populations." Education Statistics offers a variety of sites from which to find education statistics. This list was created by my predecessor, Barbara Pease, and will be a real life-saver when you're up against the wall trying to find those often hard-to-locate statistics. Also don't forget most websites, such as the California Department of Education, allow you to keyword search within the site. Often they also offer an advanced search option to help further refine your search to extract the exact bit of information you are seeking.

## Guides

Finally the **'Guides'** tab offers both course specific and general research guides. It is under this tab that your course guide is located.

Now that we've covered all the tabs, lets go back to the **'Articles & Databases'** tab for a moment. As I mentioned 9 databases are recommended here as good ones for finding articles on your topic. The first four (Academic Search, ERIC, Ingenta, and PsycINFO) are particularly good. Academic Search is the most popular of our databases. It is fairly generic, covering nearly every area of academic study. But, while you can find scholarly articles on almost any topic ... it usually doesn't cover them in depth. ERIC is the opposite, it is a specialized Education database and cover's its topics in considerable depth. ERIC is considered to be the 'Cadillac' of Education databases and as teachers I presume most of you are already very familiar with it and probably many of you use the free web-version of ERIC. I recommend you use our expanded version of ERIC, however, as it has offers many benefits that the free web version does not. More full-text is available with our expanded version, and 'FIND IT' links will locate full-text in the library's other databases that is only a click away whenever the full-text isn't available in ERIC. Plus, you'll be able to create a free account in which to save your articles and searches. We'll discuss ERIC and all the databases a bit later (see individual database video clips).

Sage, Springer and Blackwell Synergy are three databases recently added to the Education Resources page and they are particularly good resources for teachers of science & technology.

JSTOR contains a wealth of full-text Education articles, but it has a 5-yr moratorium on what it may include. Consequently, you won't find current information here ... all articles will be at least 5 years old. But if currency is not a problem, JSTOR is a treasure trove of education information.

CSUC recently partnered with Google Scholar and you're now able to link directly from Scholar's results to full-text articles in CSU Chico's databases. You'll want to be sure to enter Scholar from our webpage links to pull up these links. More on this later.

I highly recommend bookmarking this Resources page, and/or saving it to your desktop so you'll be able to access it readily ... and use it often.