

Search the ERIC Database

In this tutorial I will show you how to perform a basic keyword search in the Education Resources Information Center, or ERIC, database. I will be searching ERIC through the ProQuest interface.

Continue watching this tutorial after the search for more details on both ERIC and ProQuest.

In the ProQuest interface I will enter my search terms in the boxes located at the top of the page. Different concepts should be entered on different rows, while synonyms, should be entered on the same row. So if I am looking for articles on, "technology infusion," and "teacher training" I will enter the first concept, "technology infusion," in the top search box, this is the first row. The drop down menu to the right of the search box should be set to "Anywhere." This allows me to do a keyword search in the database.

Because my concept is a phrase (more than one word) I surround it with quotation marks so the database searches for technology and infusion together and not each word separately.

I enter the second concept, "teacher training" on the second row along with any synonyms for that concept, such as, "teacher education." The "OR" between the synonyms means that the database will bring back items that include at least one of those phrases ("teacher training" OR "teacher education"). The word "AND" between rows will combine the concepts. That means that "technology infusion" and at least one of the teacher training terms will appear in the results.

I am only interested in scholarly journals, so I will limit my results to, "Scholarly Journals" by checking off the box lower down the page.

I am now going to click the "Search" button.

When the results appear, I take some time to scroll through and examine the list.

Continue this tutorial for more details on ERIC and ProQuest.

There are many ways to refine or narrow down my search results using the filters on the right. For example, I am only interested in items published between 2000 to present. I can limit the date range by dragging the scale and clicking, "Update." And, if I want to see the most recent material listed first, I can sort results by selecting, "Publication Date (most recent first)" and clicking the, "Sort" button. I can also select items on my list by clicking on the box to the left of the item to do things like email the citations to myself or export them to RefWorks.

If, for example, I am interested in the second article on the list, I can view more information about the item, such as the abstract and subject terms, by mousing over the "Preview" link or by clicking on the title. If the article is available in full text online, I can click on the, "Full Text," or "Full Text – PDF" link. If that isn't available, I can click the "GET IT UTL" button to find a copy at the University of Toronto.

ERIC, produced by the U.S. Department of Education, is the largest source of education information available and a great place to start your research. The database contains education journals, reports, conference papers, bibliographies, curricula, and theses and dissertations from 1966 to present.

You are always welcome to email, phone, or visit in person the OISE Library for personal research assistance.