

The Educational Resources Information Clearinghouse – ERIC – Database.

About ERIC

ERIC is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education and so is available in many iterations. This guide covers using the database version provided by Ebsco, which is linked from the Hamersly Library home page. We recommend using this particular version as it provides links to full-text articles when available in Ebsco.

ERIC Journal Articles vs ERIC Documents

ERIC divides its records into two main types – ERIC Journal Articles (designated with EJ at the beginning of the record number); and ERIC Documents (designated with ED at the beginning of the record number). Some journal articles are available in full-text through Ebsco (look for the “full-text” link at the bottom of the record). Other articles may be found by tracking down the journal copy in the Hamersly Library. For those journals to which the Hamersly Library does not subscribe, the articles will have to be ordered through Interlibrary Loan (ILL). A request link is available within the citation.

ERIC Documents may be books, pamphlets, government reports; in short, anything but journal and magazine articles. Most of these documents are available in microfiche format in the Hamersly Library. Some are available in .pdf format through the Ebsco database (look for the “Full text from EDRS” link). Longer books and documents, however, may generally not be available in full-text. You may try ordering these materials via Interlibrary Loan. (NOTE: as of October 1, the free version of ERIC located at: <http://www.eric.ed.gov/> will be making ERIC Documents published between 1993 and 2004 available for free.)

Searching ERIC

ERIC can be searched with keywords, like other library databases and search engines. You may find, however, more records than you could possibly review. Or, you may not find anything at all with the keywords you choose to enter. For best results, you may wish to try searching with subject headings, also known in ERIC as “descriptors.”

For this course, the “descriptors” which might best apply are:

Writing instruction
Spelling instruction
Speech Instruction
Elementary (refers to grades k-5)
Secondary (generally grades from 6-12)
Middle School (focuses on grades 6-8)
Lesson Plans

Try it out!

EBSCO Research Databases

Basic Search Advanced Search Choose Databases

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Database: ERIC

[Database Help](#)

Find: in

and in

and in

[Search Tips](#)

1. In the first window, enter **writing instruction**
2. In the second window, enter **middle school**
3. In the third window, enter **lesson plans**

4. Locate a record that is a journal article available in full-text through Ebsco. Answer the following:
 - What is the name of the journal?
 - What is the title of the article?
 - Who is the author/s?
 - How long is the article?
5. Locate a record that is an ERIC Document (look for a number beginning with **ED** at the end of the citation). Click on the “Full text from EDRS” link.
 - What is the title of the document?
 - Who is the author or sponsoring institution?
6. Try searching ERIC again, using **spelling instruction** instead of **writing instruction** and keeping the other search terms the same.