

INTRODUCTION TO ERIC AND EDUCATION SOURCE

WHAT IS ERIC ON EBSCOHOST?

EBSCOhost is a suite of many databases,¹ including ERIC, the Educational Resource Information Center. The ERIC database is the world's largest index to journal articles and documents in education, containing over 1.6 million citations and including links to nearly 750,000 full-text documents. Coverage dates back to 1966. It contains a mix of scholarly and practical works designed to support secular education at all grade levels. It includes some, but not thorough, coverage of church and religious education. ERIC is supported by the U.S. Department of Education. (2020)

EXAMPLE SEARCH

To search for the effects of or best strategies for using a flipped classroom approach to teaching math or science, we begin with a simple search.

Searching: **ERIC** | [Choose Databases](#)

"flipped classroom"	Select a Field (optional) ▾	Search Create Alert Clear ?
AND ▾ math* OR science	Select a Field (optional) ▾	
AND ▾	Select a Field (optional) ▾	

Figure 1: Example search.

This search retrieves about 500 results. Note the subject headings in a single record. From those we can build a better search.

¹ This guide assumes you are already familiar with the generic EBSCOhost features (for which see links under EBSCO databases at <https://library.dts.edu/Pages/RM/DBM/>.) This guide describes issues that distinguish ERIC and Education Source from other databases in EBSCOhost.

Search Results: 1 - 50 of 494

Relevance ▾

Page Options ▾

Share ▾

1. Teaching Strategies Mediated by Technologies in the EduLab Model: The Case of Mathematics and Natural Sciences



By: Oliveira, Ana; Pombo, Lúcia. International Journal of Research in Education and **Science**, v3 n1 p88-106 Win 2017. (EJ1126723)

Subjects: Teaching Methods; **Mathematics** Instruction; **Mathematics**; Natural **Sciences**; Foreign Countries; Technology Integration; Case Studies; Interviews; **Science** Instruction; Computer Uses in Education; Computer Mediated Communication; Resource Units; Shared Resources and Services; Information Technology; Instructional Innovation; **Science** Teachers; **Mathematics** Teachers; Grade 5; Blended Learning; Portugal

Figure 2: Record in ERIC.

By scrolling through several results, we find that all our search terms are subject headings. We make the search more precise by choosing SU in the dropdown list of field headings. In the field headings, the subjects are called descriptors.

Searching: **ERIC** | [Choose Databases](#)

"flipped classroom"	SU Descriptors ▾
AND ▾	math* OR science*
	SU Descriptors ▾

Figure 3: More precise search.

We can add more terms that we find in titles and subjects to broaden or narrow the initial search.

RESTRICTING A SEARCH

ERIC allows users to restrict a search before executing it. An Advanced Search in ERIC includes a choice of document type (i.e., journal or document) and publication type in addition to language and publication date. So to specify that you want books, journal articles, dissertations, guides, numerical/quantitative data, opinion papers, reports, etc., make that choice under Publication Type.

ERIC also offers the option to choose Education Level and Intended Audience. These are among the most valuable assets of this database. Under Education Level, choose the education level you are interested in. You can be as specific as a single grade (e.g., Grade 5) if you wish. Intended Audience includes Administrators, Teachers, Parents, etc.

After performing a search, you may further restrict results by making appropriate choices in the left-hand menu.

THE ERIC THESAURUS

ERIC works like Atla and Academic Search, except that ERIC uses descriptors from a Thesaurus as subject headings. To use the Thesaurus, click Thesaurus on the toolbar.

The screenshot shows the ERIC search interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for "New Search", "Thesaurus", and "Indexes". On the right side of the bar are links for "Sign In", "Folder", and "Preferences". Below the navigation bar is the EBSCOhost logo and the text "Searching: ERIC | Choose Databases". The main search area consists of three rows of input fields. Each row has a dropdown menu on the left with "AND" selected, a large text input box in the middle, and a dropdown menu on the right labeled "Select a Field (optional)". To the right of these input fields are three buttons: "Search" (green), "Create Alert" (blue), and "Clear ?" (blue). At the bottom of the search area are two circular buttons, "+" and "-". Below the search area are links for "Basic Search", "Advanced Search", and "Search History".

Figure 4: The ERIC search screen.

Type your term in the Browse line of the Thesaurus and click Browse to bring up a list of descriptors.

The screenshot shows the ERIC Thesaurus browsing interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for "New Search", "Thesaurus", and "Indexes". On the right side of the bar are links for "Sign In", "Folder", and "Preferences". Below the navigation bar is the EBSCOhost logo and the text "Searching: ERIC | Choose Databases". The main search area consists of a single row of input fields. It has a dropdown menu on the left with "AND" selected, a large text input box in the middle containing the text "academic freedom", and a dropdown menu on the right labeled "Select a Field (optional)". To the right of these input fields is a green "Search" button. Below the search area are links for "Basic Search", "Advanced Search", and "Search History".

Browsing: ERIC -- Thesaurus

academic freedom |

Term Begins With
 Term Contains
 Relevancy Ranked

Figure 5: Browsing the Thesaurus.

Click a descriptor to see an explanation of it. Click the box to the left of any descriptor to select it. Then click Add to add the term to the Search box.


Select term, then add to search using:

(Click term to display details.)

- [Academic Freedom](#)
- [Student Rights](#)

Figure 6: Choosing Thesaurus terms.

Click Search.



Searching: **ERIC** | [Choose Databases](#)


[Basic Search](#) | [Advanced Search](#) | [Search History](#)

Figure 7: Thesaurus term added to Search box.

This search brings up over 3000 records.

Search Results: 1 - 50 of 3,244 Rel


- ### 1. Chinese Higher Education and the Quest for Autonomy: One Step Backward



By: Wilson, Jeffery L.. Journal of Comparative and International Higher Education, v13 n2 p145-151 May 2021

Subjects: Foreign Countries; Higher Education; Administrative Organization; Social Systems; **Academic Freedom**; Administration; Institutional Autonomy; Governance; Foreign Nationals; Professional Autonomy; Government Change; Educational History; Teacher Attitudes; China

[Full Text from ERIC](#) [Check WorldCat for Print Journal](#)
- ### 2. 'Academic Freedom' in Indian Higher Education Setting



By: Sethy, Satya Sundar. Asian Journal of University Education, v17 n2 p39-49 Apr 2021. (EJ1304406)

Subjects: **Academic Freedom**; Higher Education; Institutional Autonomy; Social Responsibility; College Role; Foreign Countries; Universities; India

Figure 8: Search results.

WHAT IS EDUCATION SOURCE ON EBSCOHOST?

Education Source (ES), another EBSCOhost database, indexes over 2000 active periodicals, as well as many older defunct titles. About 2000 active titles are peer-reviewed journals. Many are available full text online. It covers all aspects and grade levels of American education, including some coverage of private and Christian schools.

RESTRICTING A SEARCH

ES allows users to restrict a search before they execute it. An Advanced Search in ES includes a choice of document type and publication type in addition to language and publication date. So to specify an article, biography, book review, case study, conference paper, lesson plan, speech, symposium, working paper, etc., make that choice under Document Type. Publication Type includes academic journal, conference paper, government document, newspaper, trade publication, etc.

After performing a search, you may further restrict results by making appropriate choices in the left-hand menu.

THE EDUCATION SOURCE THESAURUS

The ES Thesaurus works the same way the ERIC Thesaurus works, but the two databases do not always use the same descriptors.

SEARCHING ERIC AND ES SIMULTANEOUSLY

Because many descriptors in the two databases are similar, it is worthwhile to search them simultaneously. If you find an important descriptor in one database, try it in the Thesaurus of the other to be sure that you don't miss an important term, however. It may also be worthwhile to search Academic Search Complete (ASC) with the education databases because it contains much full text. Check it for additional terms in ASC to include in a search string.

To search across multiple EBSCOhost databases, go to any one of them. Click the link, Choose Databases, to the right of the database name.

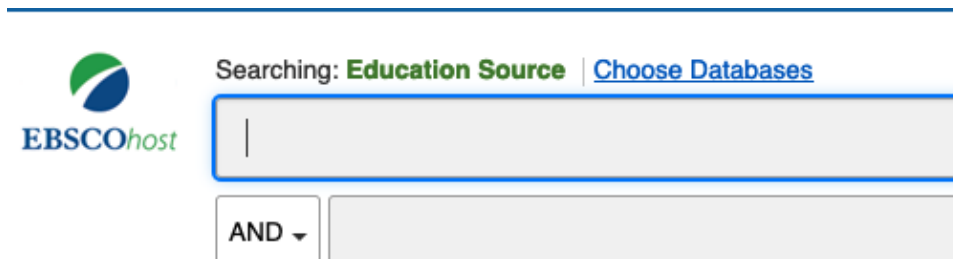


Figure 9: Choose Databases.

A list of databases comes up. Click the box to the left of each that you want to include. Click OK.

Choose Databases ?

Detailed View (Title lists included)

Select / deselect all

<input type="checkbox"/> Academic Search Complete	>	<input type="checkbox"/> Legal Collection	>
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricola	>	<input type="checkbox"/> Legal Information Reference Center	>
<input type="checkbox"/> AHFS Consumer Medication Information	>	<input type="checkbox"/> Library, Information Science & Technology Abstracts	>
<input type="checkbox"/> Alt HealthWatch	>	<input type="checkbox"/> Literary Reference Center	>
<input type="checkbox"/> Alternative Faith and Philosophy Periodicals, 1789-1878	>	<input type="checkbox"/> Literary Reference eBook Collection	>

Figure 10: The database list.

If you wish to see the databases you chose after you return to the search screen, click Show all.

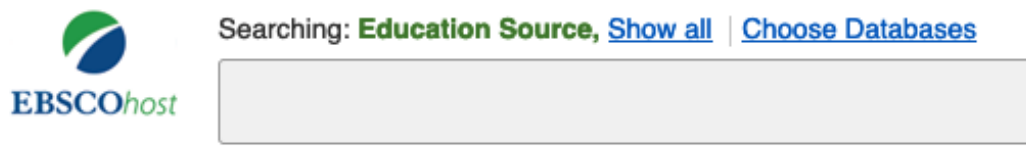


Figure 11: Show all.

Type your search in the search box(es) and click Search. The search is performed across the databases you chose.

Searching: **ERIC, Education Source** [Show Less](#) | [Choose Databases](#)

"early childhood education"	Select a
AND ▾	Select a
AND ▾	Select a

Figure 12: Search and results.