

How to Find Journal Articles in Education

Welcome - How to Find Journal Articles in Education (title clip 1)

Welcome to the Teaching Resources Center's Online Tutorial Series. This segment of the series is entitled "How to Find Journal Articles in Education".

How to Find Journal Articles in Education 1

In order to find articles in magazines and journals, you need to use a tool that is commonly known as a "database". **A database is a tool** that will allow you to search for magazine and journal articles by subject, author, title, keyword, date, journal title, or some combination of the above. You can always browse through the print magazines by hand, but this is not the recommended method.

Joyner library owns thousands of print journals and has access to thousands more that are available electronically. The best way to search for articles in any subject is by conducting searches in a database. The library subscribes to many different databases, and to find articles in the area of education you need to use a database that is dedicated to the subject of education.

To access the databases available through Joyner library, go to the library's web page, and then click on the link that says "databases". This will take you to the page that says "Electronic Database List".

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On this page there are three options for accessing the databases available. The best way to maximize the amount of citations you receive in your searches for articles in Education is to select more than one Education database.

To do this, click on the middle tab that says "database name". This shows the alphabet in purple letters. Click on the letter "E". By clicking on the letter "E" you will be taken to a page that lists all of the databases that begin with the letter "E".

Now scroll down just a little bit and click on "**EBSCOhost**". At this point, click on the link that says "choose an Ebsco database". This will take you to a group of databases that are available in Ebsco, including the Education databases.

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There are over 30 databases available in Ebsco, but they are not all dedicated to education. You can scroll through the list and **click in the box** next to the title of each database you want to search in. After you have selected the databases you want to search in, at the bottom of the screen, or the top, click on the button that says "continue". This will take you to the search screen.

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If you want, you can just click on the box towards the top of the screen that says “select / deselect all”. It will not hurt anything to select all the databases to search in.

How to Find Articles in Education 5 (option 3)

If you choose to search in only one database, just **click on the title** of the database and it will take you to the search screen.

Databases Relevant to Education (title clip 2)

If you want to search in all of the databases that are **relevant to education**, the following is a list that I would personally select:

<i>Academic Search Premier</i>	2663
<i>Education Research Complete</i>	4629
<i>ERIC</i>	13,357 (jn's only = 6578)
<i>Humanities International Complete</i>	157
<i>MAS Ultra - School Edition</i>	126
<i>MasterFILE Premier</i>	1484
<i>Middle Search Plus</i>	71
<i>Primary Search</i>	19
<i>PschARTICLES</i>	165
<i>Psychology and Behavioral Sciences Collection</i>	597
<i>PsychINFO</i>	6100
<i>Research Starters - Education</i>	49
<i>SocINDEX</i>	1117
<i>Sociological Collection</i>	455
<i>Teacher Reference Center</i>	1487
<i>All Databases Combined</i>	32,289

As well as showing which databases I would select to search in, I also wanted to show you the differences in search results when I conducted a search in each individual database using “classroom environment” as my search term, and without using any search limits. There is one exception: I conducted two searches in ERIC. ERIC indexes both journals and documents, and this example shows both search results. Don’t be surprised if you see your search results change over time, because Ebsco is always adding new records to their databases.

Each database indexes different journal titles. There is usually some overlap in titles indexed, but there are many titles that are indexed exclusively by a specific database. When I searched all of these databases together, there were over 32,000 items retrieved.

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This box is where you **type in your search terms**. After you type in your search terms, click on the button that says “search”. This will perform the search and take you to the search results screen.

Below the search box is a place to **set limits on your search results**.

If you wish, you can limit your search results to **full text articles only**. Just click on the box next to “full text”.

You can also limit your search results to items that are “**Peer Reviewed**” or “**Scholarly Journals**”. Just click on the box to set the limits.

Peer reviewed and scholarly journals are also called **refereed journals**. What this means is that when an author submits an article to a journal for publication, the editor sends the article to experts in the field and the experts determine whether or not the article is worthy of publication.

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Example Searches:

For purposes of this tutorial I have selected only one database, Education Research Complete.

For this **first example search**, I will use the search term “classroom environment”, and I will not use any limiting features.

As you can see, this search retrieved 4629 items.

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Before I go any further, I would like to point out that search results are influenced by several factors.

Basically, the more you add, the less you get.

Each limiting feature selected will generate smaller search results. The same is true for adding search terms. The more you add, the less you get.

In the above search, there were 4629 items retrieved. I will now go back and re do the search, only this time I will limit the search by selecting full text articles. (*show this on the screen*)

As you can see, by conducting the same search, and **limiting the search to full text** items, the search results decreased from 4629 items down to 2129 items that are full text. This means that out of the 4629 items originally retrieved, 2500 were NOT full text. I will discuss how to find items that are not full text later in the tutorial.

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Now I will demonstrate what happens to the search results by limiting the original search to **peer reviewed** journals instead of full text items. (*show this on the screen*)

By limiting the search to articles that are peer reviewed, the search results decreased from 4629 down to 3286 items that are peer reviewed, but not necessarily full text. This means that out of the 4629 items originally retrieved, 1343 are not peer reviewed.

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Now I will demonstrate what will happen to the search results by using **both limiting features**; full text and peer reviewed.

By limiting the search to articles that are **peer reviewed and full text**, the search results decreased from 4629 items down to 1637 items that are both **peer reviewed and full text**.

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Now I want to show you what happens to search results **when additional terms are added** to the search. You can conduct searches with more than one term by using the word “and” to connect the terms.

I will now perform a search for “**classroom environment and behavior**”, and I will not use any limiting features.

As you can see, this search retrieved **690** items. Out of the 4629 items originally retrieved for “classroom environment”, 690 of these items were about “behavior” **and** “classroom environment”. Some of these items are full text, and some are peer reviewed.

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After you conduct a search in Ebsco, a list of citations will appear. Ebsco shows ten citations per page.

These **citations show** the title of the article, the author, the name of the journal, volume, issue, page numbers, and date.

If you **click on the title of the article**, it will take you to another screen that shows the same information, plus an abstract, and some subject terms that were used to index the article. Or if you wish, you can just hold the cursor over the magnifying glass icon and a short citation will pop up.

The **abstract provides** additional information that can help you decide if you want the article. Titles alone are not necessarily a good way to determine if the article is about what you want. Titles can often be misleading.

Some of the articles are available full text electronically IN EBSCO

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As you already know, some of the articles in EBSCO are electronically available in full text.

For example, if we look at item number 31, we can see that it has two different ways of pulling up the article. One way is labeled as “**HTML Full Text**”, and the other is labeled as “**PDF Full Text**”.

They are both the same article, but with minor differences in appearances. HTML is straight text, and the PDF means that the article was photocopied and turned into a computer file.

By clicking on the HTML link, you can see that the article is straight text. There are options for printing the article, emailing the article, and saving the article. Articles in PDF have the same options for printing, emailing, and saving.

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Regardless of which article type of article you select, you have the following **options on what you do with the article**.

You can **print the article**, but keep in mind that the library charges \$.10 cents per page to print or photocopy.

You can **email the article** to yourself. This way you can go somewhere else, such as home or another building on campus and print the article for free. Most people use this option.

You can also **save the article** on a flash drive or floppy drive, or if you wish, you can just read it and take notes.

Some articles are available full text electronically in OTHER DATABASES

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Now I will describe the process of getting the article **when it is not available electronically in Ebsco**.

At the bottom of each citation you will see a hotlink that says “Find It!”.

If the article you want is not available in Ebsco, click on the “Find It” link. This will open another window, and **with any luck**, it will take you to the article in another database.

For this example, I will click on the “**Find It**” link on item **number 27**.

As you can see, this opened another window and **went straight to the article** in another database called “Science Direct”.

How to Find Journal Articles in Education Conclusion

This tutorial was not designed to cover every aspect of searching for journal articles, or using the Ebsco databases. The goal is to provide you with some of the basic information needed to help guide you through the search process. Please keep in mind that if you ever need any help with searching for information, feel free to visit or call the TRC service desk. We will be glad to help.