Searching ERIC

What is ERIC?
ERIC (Educational Resources Information Center): ERIC is the world’s largest index to journal articles and research reports in the field of education. It includes material written from 1966 to the present. ERIC provides citations to a wide variety of information, including journal articles, curriculum and teaching guides, conference reports, and dissertations.

ERIC Documents (ED) vs. Journal Articles (EJ)
When you search ERIC, you need to be aware of two abbreviations you will see in the search results records. Each document or article indexed by ERIC is assigned a six digit ERIC Number that is preceded by either:
· ED (ERIC Document): These are non-journal items, such as project reports, lesson plans, curriculum guides, and conference papers. These are referred to as ERIC microfiche documents, because they were originally only available in microfiche format.
OR
· EJ (ERIC Journal article): ERIC indexes articles that have been published in over 800 professional journals. The EBSCOhost version contains some full-text articles (as either Full Text from ERIC or Linked Full Text).

Keyword Searching
In all versions of ERIC, you can search by combining your concepts with and or or. Remember to put quotes around phrases and use an * to truncate a word: "eating disorders" and teen*

Descriptor Searching: Using the ERIC Thesaurus
The ERIC Thesaurus is an alphabetical listing of the descriptors, (or controlled vocabulary or subject headings), that are assigned to each article and document indexed by ERIC. An indexer reads each article and determines its subject content. S/he then assigns a number of descriptors to the article. In a well designed thesaurus, the same term is always used for the same concept. Although various authors discussing the holding back of students may talk about "retention", "repeating a grade" or "holding back", any article which discusses this topic will be assigned the ERIC Descriptor "grade repetition".

Rather than guessing at what to type in, look up terms you're thinking of using in the Thesaurus. It will either confirm that your term or phrase is an official descriptor, or it will give you the preferred ERIC descriptor.

Two versions of the ERIC Thesaurus are available:
1. An online version is available from the ERIC website (http://www.eric.ed.gov/).
2. In the EBSCOhost version of ERIC available click on the Thesaurus link at the top of the screen.

Searching for Research Reports
Original research, technical research, reports, studies, empirical results, experimental statistical studies, surveys, case studies, theory testing, systematic scientific investigations, seeking facts and/or generalizable principles. Emphasis on materials utilizing a formal research design, but may include informal reports and verbal presentations of such efforts. Includes proposals for needed research.

ERIC Website:
1. Click on the ERIC Search button.
2. Click on the Advanced Search tab.
3. From the Publication Type(s): select the Reports Research option.

EBSCOhost version of ERIC:
1. Click on the Advanced Search link in the green bar at the top of the screen.
2. Type your search statement into the first search box.
3. Scroll down to the section titled Refine Search
4. From the menu next to Publication Type, choose Reports Research.
Getting Your Hands on ERIC Documents & ERIC Journal Articles

ERIC Documents published since 1993 are available fulltext from the ERIC website, as well as in the EBSCOhost version of ERIC.

To get ERIC Journal Articles;
1. Look first for link to a pdf or full-text and click on it
2. If there isn’t a link to the full-text, look for the get it button. Click on this and it will search all of the other databases for full-text.
3. If you get a screen that tells you that there are no electronic copies you may find the item in print – click on the “check in GLOCAT” link
4. If we don’t have it in print, click on the IDS link to order from another library

Publication Type*
The type of document or publication medium. In 1974, ERIC began to assign publication types (Pub Types) to each record. A maximum of 3 Pub Types are assigned per record.

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<th>Publication Type</th>
<th>Scope</th>
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<tr>
<td>Creative Works</td>
<td>Poetry, literary works, essays, novels, short stories, children's books, satire and humor, anecdotes, fairy tales, children's stories, fiction, proverbs, facetiae, quotations, maxims, belles lettres, correspondence, etc. Performing arts materials, dramas, plays, scenarios (movies, TV), scripts, theatre pieces, musical scores, ballets.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dissertations/Theses</td>
<td>Used when unable to determine more specific type, e.g., doctoral dissertation</td>
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<tr>
<td>ERIC Publications</td>
<td>Documents published by any component of the ERIC system 1971-2004. Materials intended for direct instruction of the learner; materials presenting the substantive information that forms the content of instruction, e.g., instructional materials, readings, programmed texts, manuals, laboratory manuals, outlines, texts, workbooks, syllabi, study guides, orientation materials, textbooks, handbooks, exercises, learning modules, problems, resource guides.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guides - Classroom - Learners</td>
<td>Materials intended as guides for the teacher, e.g. curriculum guides, course outlines, units of study, lesson plans, teaching guides, leader guides, statements of behavioral objectives. May contain instructional materials, sample examinations, suggested learning activities, etc. Includes teaching tips, teaching techniques, &quot;How to Teach&quot; materials.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guides - Classroom - Teacher</td>
<td>Materials designed for immediate and practical use by students, teachers, or administrative or support personnel. &quot;General&quot; is used only when material does not fit a more specific sub-category. Techniques for support and administration, e.g., how to conduct a teacher evaluation; how to conduct inservice programs, guides for research methodology, etc. Manuals, guides/guidelines, handbooks - intended to provide substantive information on &quot;What exists&quot; or &quot;How to do it&quot; for the educational support population. Booklets, pamphlets, brochures, circulars, notices treating or explaining various factual matters within the educational community, e.g., types of jobs available. Guides intended for teachers but not directly related to instruction, e.g., tips for better parent conferences.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guides - General</td>
<td>Histories, historical reviews, historical accounts, oral history transcripts, primary historical source materials and documentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guides - Non-Classroom</td>
<td>State-of-the-art summaries (comprehensive treatments, overviews), trend analyses. Information analyses and syntheses, focusing on findings and not simply on bibliographic citations, summarizing the substance of the literature and drawing conclusions from it. Does not include annotated bibliographies.</td>
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Publication Type | Scope
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Journal Articles | Indicates individual journal article. Journals covered under an indexing agreement with a publisher are assigned an EJ-prefixed accession number; otherwise articles are indexed as documents, with an ED-prefixed accession number. For entire journal issues, see Collected Works - Serials.

Legislation, legislative hearings and testimony, legislative reports, congressional documents, state legislature documents, laws, summaries of legislative action, lobbying position papers. Court cases, courtroom testimony, court decisions, legal decisions, legal interpretations. Regulations, regulatory agency materials. Codes, administrative codes, codes of student behavior, agreements, rules, policy statements, master plans, contracts (model), collective bargaining agreements, and other materials governing the behavior of various groups. Standards (e.g., ANSI, ISO, FIPS), specifications, accreditation standards, professional standards. Executive orders, Federal Register pronouncements. Does not include documents merely "about" specific court cases or legal issues.

Legal/Legislative/Regulatory Materials | Audiovisual aids, films tapes, recordings, cassettes, phonodiscs, videotapes, slides, illustrations, portraits, caricatures, cartoons, photographs, posters, models, flip charts, engineering drawings, flow charts, designs, plans, etc. Graphic/pictorial and other non-print representations, conveying meaning primarily through symbols other than words. Non-print items usually appear in ERIC only as supporting or collateral material to a printed document.

Non-Print Media | Numerical data, quantitative data, statistics, statistical compilations, data aggregations, tables. Used only when quantitative data is present in large aggregations, e.g., as in NCES documents.

Numerical/Quantitative Data | Bibliographies, filmographies, discographies, annotated bibliographies, book catalogs, book lists, collections of abstracts, indexes (locators) to bibliographic materials, topical listings of various media materials. Includes bibliographic essays, literature searches (output of), guides to or descriptions of the literature in a field.

Reference Materials - Bibliographies
Reference Materials - Geographic

Reports - Descriptive (i.e., Project Descriptions) | Project descriptions, program descriptions, reports of organizational activities. Descriptions of systems, procedures, or practices in actual cases. Descriptions of significant events, personal narratives/experiences, journalistic accounts of actual activities and occurrences. Descriptive works of various types. Includes annual reports (of organizations), yearbooks.

Reports - Evaluative | Studies evaluating research, alternative courses of action, or the merits of a particular process or program. Studies of feasibility of a given course of action. Evaluations of programs. Studies oriented toward decision-making and concerned with judgments rather than generalizations.

Reports - General | "General" is used only when material does not fit a more specific sub-category. Original research, technical research, reports, studies, empirical results, experimental statistical studies, surveys, case studies, theory testing, systematic scientific investigations, seeking facts and/or generalizable principles. Emphasis on materials utilizing a formal research design, but may include informal reports and verbal presentations of such efforts. Includes proposals for needed research.

Reports - Research | Questionnaires, tests, examinations, evaluation and measurement devices, test specifications, compilations of tests, opinion polls (instruments), assessment tools, reporting booklets, rating scales, test manuals, etc.

Tests/Questionnaires