ERIC

Created and maintained by the U.S. Department of Education, ERIC provides access to educational-related literature including journal articles, conferences, meetings, government documents, theses, dissertations, reports, audiovisual media, bibliographies, directories, books and monographs. With over 1 million records dating to 1966 and more being added on a monthly basis, ERIC is appropriate for anyone searching the education field.

NOTE: Because ERIC is openly accessible, there are several interfaces available for searching through database vendors like EBSCO, ProQuest, and First Search. All versions access the same journal articles and documents, but search options may be different. This guide covers the ProQuest version, which is also the default version from Briggs’ Databases A-Z List.

Searching

As with all ProQuest databases, there are a number of ways to conduct a search. The initial screen is the Basic Search screen.

You can type in the words you are looking to search in the text box. Note that the search will run over all fields, so you may get more returned articles than you are interested in. You can use Boolean operators, wildcards and exact phrase searching in the Basic Search. (These will be discussed more fully later in the document.) You can also check the Peer reviewed box below the search bar to further limit your results to those types of items.

Since there are numerous databases provided by ProQuest, you do have the option of search multiple databases at once. By clicking on the Change databases button at the top of the page, you will be taken to a list of all the ProQuest databases Briggs Library currently has access to. Check the ones you want to include and then click the Use Selected Databases button at the top or bottom of the list. Your search will now include results from across all of the databases selected.

Last updated 7/13/2016
Search Tips
You can use Boolean operators to limit your search either using the drop down choices in the Advanced Search tab or by creating a search string in the Basic Search field.

| Quotation marks ““ | Searches for words between the quote marks exactly as they appear.  
Example: “information literacy” |
|--------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| AND                | Searches for items where all of the terms appear. More inclusive with fewer results.  
Example: university AND achievement |
| OR                 | Searches for all the search terms listed. The more terms listed the more results you get.  
Example: information OR literacy OR media |
| NOT                | Removes certain words from the search. Allows you to limit result you might not want.  
Example: “information literacy” NOT K-12 |
| Nesting ()         | Groups similar terms together for better search results.  
Example: “information literacy” AND (college OR university) |
| NEAR/n             | Looks for items that contain two search terms, in any order, within a specific number (‘n’) of words apart.  
Example: “body image” NEAR/3 women |
| PRE/n              | Looks for documents that contain one search term within a specified number (‘n’) of words before a second term.  
Example: nursing PRE/4 education |

Wildcards allow you to search for multiple terms at one time.

- The asterisk (*) represents any number of characters at the end of a word. For example, searching environ* will return results containing environment and environmental.
- The question mark (?) replaces any single character inside or at the end of a word. Multiple ?s can be used to represent multiple characters. For example, ad??? will return added, adult, and adopted.
Advanced Search
ERIC also offers an **Advanced Search** option, located above the search bar, where you can combine terms using Boolean operators and limit your search to specific fields. If you are not comfortable creating search strings, using the advanced search interface is a useful alternative. You are also able to limit your search to scholarly publications and by publication type and date as well as other limiting parameters.

![Advanced Search Interface]

Thesaurus
A **thesaurus** is also available above the search bar on the Advanced Search page. A thesaurus is a controlled vocabulary created by the database provider to add continuity to searching. If you find that your search is not giving you any results (or as many as you think you should have) verify with the thesaurus that you are using the correct term(s).

A new browser window opens, and you can either search for terms in the thesaurus or browse the terms using the alphabetic links. The result of your search will be a list of terms for you to choose from to continue your search.

![Thesaurus Interface]

You can see that terms that are further subdivided have blue box next to them, allowing you to expand to find the term that best suits your search. You can then either click on the link to search that term or write it down to add to your search string. Once
you have checked all the terms you want to use, select whether you want to combine multiple terms using the Boolean Operators AND, OR, or NOT and then click Add to Search. The window will then close and your selected terms will be listed as a search string in the search bar.

```
SU.EXACT("Flexible Scheduling") OR SU.EXACT("Class Size")
```

**Command Line Search**

Command Searching, also available above the Basic Search bar, allows you to enter a search string using all of the Boolean operators available to you, as well as command search in fields. If you cannot remember the field codes, there is a drop down box from which you can choose the code and populate the search.
Search Results

Once you’ve entered your search using whatever technique you are most comfortable with, you will be taken to a results page.

As you can see, there is a lot of information provided on the results page. You can limit your search by publication type, date, subject, etc. by clicking on one of the tabs to the left of the results list.

If you see **Full Text** or **Link to ERIC Full Text** below an item’s title, you know that document is available to you in full text. Simply click on the link to the article. If a journal article is not available in full text from this database, clicking on the **UMM Find It** button by or below the article’s title links you to a page indicating where the article is available.

Clicking on the title of the article will open up the complete record for the article. This will include all the necessary items need to correctly cite the article including the article title, author(s), source (journal name), and date information. The record will also include subject headings which are terms that describe what the article is about, many of
which are hyperlinked to other articles with the same heading. An abstract (summary) of the article may also be present.

Interlibrary Loan (ILL)

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This button links you to a page indicating where the article is available. In this case, the library does not have a print subscription or availability in another database. Therefore, the article must be requested through ILL.

To continue the process, click the **Find or Request** icon. If you haven't logged into your university account yet, you'll need to do so now. Once you've logged in, click on the **Interlibrary Loan** icon below the Find or Request tab to be taken to the request form.

The request form will be autofilled in with the citation information, but it's a good idea to double-check that everything is accurate. You must also check the box at the bottom of the form indicating that you understand the copyright information. Finally, click the Request button at the bottom of the page. You will receive a confirmation that the request was submitted and an email with instructions for accessing the item.