

Wellehan Library
Saint Joseph's College
Using *ERIC* and *Academic Search Premier* Databases

The purpose of this document is to provide various approaches for using *ERIC* and *Academic Search Premier* databases and to offer sample searches that can be adapted to other search queries.

ERIC, the Educational Resource Information Center, provides access to education literature and resources through more than 1,194,000 records and links to more than 100,000 full-text documents.

Academic Search Premier (*ASP*) provides full text for more than 4,500 journals, including full text for more than 3,700 peer-reviewed titles. PDF backfiles to 1975 or further are available for well over one hundred journals, and searchable cited references are provided for 1,000 titles.

Because *ERIC* and *ASP* are both provided by EBSCO, a company that creates and sells information resources like databases, they can be searched simultaneously. To do this from the EBSCOHost page, select both databases by clicking in the box beside the title and clicking "Continue."

Basic Search combining *ERIC* and *ASP*

A basic keyword search is a good way to begin using these databases; however, in most instances this type of search will yield too many results if limiters are not used. Try this approach with any basic search.

- In the search field, enter your search term.
- If search options are not displayed, click the "Search Options" link just below the search field. Select appropriate options in "Search modes" and "Limit your results."

For example:

- Select "Title Owned by Wellehan" to be prompted when Wellehan Library owns a journal that is not available in full text in a database.
- Select "Full Text" to retrieve only full text results.
- Select "Scholarly (Peer Reviewed) Journals" to limit results to those publications.
- If currency is important, assign a date range using "Published Date from."

Since you are searching both databases simultaneously, you will also see special limiters specific to each database. Use any of these that are appropriate to your search.

Advanced Search combining *ERIC* and *ASP*

Select the "Advanced Search" option provides an expanded list of limiters found in "Limit your results." Also, it allows for joining words and phrases using and or or or not, which are referred to as Boolean operators. The drop-down options available from "Select a Field (optional)" allow for searching within specific fields.

Advanced Search looking for article by a particular author:

- Enter the author's name in the first search field.
- Select "AU Author" from the "Select a Field" menu.
- Click "Search."

Contact the Reference Librarian for more assistance.

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Advanced Search using Boolean Operators:

My tentative research question focuses on how teaching methods and class activities affect active learning.

- Enter each of the search terms in separate search fields joined by and.
- Select appropriate limiters, such as “Full Text” and “Scholarly (Peer Reviewed) Journals.”
- Click “Search.”

Publications Search in Academic Search Premier

Many EBSCO databases will allow you to search within a specific journal. ERIC, however, does not offer this feature. Use the “Publications” tab at the top left of the screen when you know the title of a journal in which you wish to search.

For example:

- Click on the “Publications” link.
- Enter Educational Leadership in the Browse field.
- Click on the title from the results list.
- Record includes thorough journal information and a date listing.
- Click on the “2007” date link.
- Click on the “Vol. 65 Issue 2” link.
- Results list includes 21 entries found in that volume and issue of the journal.

Thesaurus Search in ERIC

Many databases rely on controlled vocabulary to ensure consistency of subject terms. ERIC provides a Thesaurus option in order to search subject terms. This is one of the most effective ways to use ERIC because it allows you to use exact ERIC subject headings.

For example:

- Click on the “Thesaurus” tab.
- In the search field, enter school consolidation and Click “Browse.”
- Results list identifies “Consolidated Schools” as the subject heading used by ERIC to identify “school consolidation.”
- Click on the “Consolidated Schools” link.
- Click on the link again to see the broader and related terms along with other terms that “Consolidated Schools” is used for.
- From this page, you can actually build a search by clicking in the box beside any hyperlinked term, selecting the appropriate Boolean operator, and clicking “Search.”

Understanding the Results List

Right-hand column (“Narrow Results by”):

“Subjects” list the top 10 subjects found in your results. By clicking on any of these, you can limit your results. “Publication Type” allows you to limit results. Use the drop-down arrow to see and select specific pub. types. “Database” will be included in this listing if you have selected more than one database to be searched. This feature allows you to see results by selected database.

Left-hand column (“Limit your results”):

Date slide allows you to limit results to a date range by years. After adjusting the slide, click “Update Results.” “<<Search Options” link allows you to modify any selected options. Click “Search” after changing options.

Citing Results

EBSCO2.0 offers APA and MLA citation information. Click on any title from the results list. Click on the “Cite” icon, which is the fourth icon on the top right-hand side of the citation screen.

Note: Citation suggestions follow changes made to APA format, which went into effect in June 2007.