USING ERIC TO FIND EDUCATION JOURNAL ARTICLES & DOCUMENTS

ERIC stands for the Educational Resources Information Center. It contains more than a million citations to education materials dating from 1966 to the present, so it is one of the best indexes for locating education journal articles and other documents by subject.

Get into ERIC:
Although ERIC is available for free on the www, we recommend our students use the library's subscription via EBSCOhost because it provides smart-links into most of our online journal collections...

1. To use Doherty library’s ERIC subscription, go to our home page @ http://library.stthom.edu
2. Click on the Choose a Library Database button.
3. Find the ERIC (Ebsco) link under the “E” section and click it.
4. Note: If you’re accessing the library from off-campus you will be prompted to enter your UST Webmail username & password.

What’s in ERIC?:
There are two “types” of records listed in ERIC:

EJ#s = Education journal articles. You are provided with a full citation and abstract. Sometimes you will be provided with a link to the full-text of the journal article.

ED#s = Education documents. These are a variety of non-journal sources - books, case studies, papers presented at conferences, dissertations, etc. More than 107,000 full-text non-journal documents are available online.

ERIC search tips:

- Of great use are the controlled language subject terms called “descriptors”. Make use of the Thesaurus to find the proper terminology for searching for items on your particular topic(s).
- Notice that descriptor terms within citations are hyper-linked. Click on one to retrieve other items on that same subject.
- If you only want journal articles, use the “Limit your results” feature and select journal articles.
- For research (experimental) & studies, try using the “Publication type” feature under the “Limit Your Results” part of the search screen.
- It’s a good idea in any database to try the Advanced Search screen, if one is offered. The “advanced” search mode will almost always offer more search options than the “basic” search screen.
What if I'm not linked into the full-text?

**Tracking down Journal Articles:**
You found the citation/abstract for the article, but no full-text? Check our Journal Holdings A-Z list to see if the library has the item in some other format...

1. At the library homepage, click on **Browse a List of Journal Holdings**
2. Use the **find:** function to search for the **journal's title**
3. This is the master-list of all the periodicals we subscribe to, regardless of format – paper, microform or digital.

Remember that Doherty owns many journals that are not available online. We have over 600 print journal subscriptions & extensive back files on microfilm and microfiche....

**Tracking down ERIC Documents:**
If you're not linked to the full-text of an ERIC document, you can often get the item through Doherty library.

1. Check the citation carefully and determine what kind of document it is, and if/how it is available. Hint: look towards the bottom of the record at “**Availability**.”
2. If the document citation is for a **book**, check the library catalog by title or author.
3. For non-books, make note of the ED # listed on the citation (Example: **Accession Number:** ED321490). Doherty library has thousands of ERIC documents located in filing cabinets in the library’s Silent Reading Room. They are filed in order by their ED#, so you’ll need that!
4. Come to the library to find the item in the ERIC filing cabinets
5. Want to verify we have the document before trekking all the way to the library? Just call us at 713-525-2188 or email **reference@stthom.edu**, give us the ED#'s and we'll be happy to check our holdings for you!

What about getting a journal article or a book that Doherty library does not own?

1. You may request articles via **Interlibrary Loan**. Make your requests early, as it may take from one to three weeks to acquire materials. The request form is online at our website (make your selection under “Interlibrary Loan” on our **home page**).

2. If you need your materials right away, try checking area libraries for the book or journal you need. Rice’s catalog: [http://www.rice.edu/fondren/](http://www.rice.edu/fondren/). The University of Houston’s online catalog is at [http://library.uh.edu/](http://library.uh.edu/).

Contact the Reference desk if you have any questions: 713-525-2188 or **reference@stthom.edu**