

Step by Step Guide to Searching the ERIC Database

Introduction

The Wolfgram Memorial Library offers several electronic resources and databases that are useful for education research including:

- ERIC
- Education Research Complete
- Proquest Direct
- Mental Measurements Yearbook/ Tests in Print

This guide will focus on how to effectively and efficiently search the ERIC database for educational research. Additional resources for educational research can be found on the following webpage: <http://widener.libguides.com/content.php?pid=162190>

Getting Started

- Begin from the Wolfgram Memorial Library homepage: <http://www.widener.edu/libraries/wolfgram>
- Click on **Databases by Title**
- Click on the letter **E** to be taken to the **E section** of the alphabetical list
- Click on **ERIC (Education)**
- Note that the ERIC database covers the years 1966 through the present. If you are looking for information from before 1966, the ERIC database is NOT the place to look!

Keyword Searching in ERIC

- In the search box type in your **keywords** (for example: **Higher Education**) and then click on the **search** button.

The image shows a search interface with the following elements:

- A search box containing the text "higher education".
- A dropdown menu next to the search box with "Default Fields" selected.
- A "Search" button and a "Clear" button.
- A "Find:" label to the left of the search box.
- Below the search box, there are three rows of "and" dropdown menus, each followed by an empty search box and a "Default Fields" dropdown menu.
- At the bottom, there is an "in" dropdown menu with "ERIC" selected and a question mark icon.

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- The keyword search for **Higher Education** should yield approximately **306,000 results**.
- These results can be narrowed by adding in another keyword (for example: **Service Learning**) and then clicking on the **search** button.

The screenshot shows the ERIC search interface. It features three search rows. The first row contains the text 'higher education' in a text box, followed by 'in' and a dropdown menu set to 'Default Fields'. To the right are 'Search' and 'Clear' buttons. The second row starts with 'and' in a dropdown, followed by 'service learning' in a text box, 'in', and another 'Default Fields' dropdown. The third row starts with 'and' in a dropdown, followed by an empty text box, 'in', and a 'Default Fields' dropdown. Below these rows is a large 'in' dropdown menu set to 'ERIC'.

- The Keyword search for **Higher Education and Service Learning** should yield approximately **1,600 results**.

Other Ways to Limit Your Search

- Use the **Full Text** limit to see only the articles that you can print out.
- Use the **Date Published** to see articles from a certain year (i.e. 2000) or a range of years (i.e. 2000 - 2010)
- Use the **Publication Type** limit to see only certain types of articles (**Reports-Research/Technical** is the most useful selection).

The screenshot shows the 'Search Options' page in the ERIC database. The page is divided into several sections. The 'Search modes' section has three radio buttons: 'Boolean/Phrase' (selected), 'Find all my search terms', and 'Find any of my search terms'. The 'Apply related words' section has an unchecked checkbox. The 'Limit your results' section contains several filters, some of which are circled in red: 'Full Text' (unchecked), 'Peer Reviewed' (unchecked), 'Date Published from' (with dropdowns for Month and Year, and a 'to' field), and 'Educational Level' (a dropdown menu with 'All' selected). The 'Available on microfiche' section has an unchecked checkbox. The 'Journal Name' section has an empty text box. The 'ERIC Number' section has an empty text box. The 'Journal or Document' section has a dropdown menu with 'All' selected. The 'Publication Type' section has a dropdown menu with 'All' selected.

The Results List

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- The Results List provides the **basic bibliographic information** for each article including:
 - Author's Name
 - Article Title
 - Journal Title, Volume/Issue Number, Page Numbers
 - Publication Date
 - ERIC Accession Number (EDxxxxxx or EJxxxxxx)

The screenshot shows a search result for the article "Becoming 'Effective' Citizens? Change-Oriented Service in a Teacher Education Program". The annotations identify the following components:

- Article Title:** "Becoming 'Effective' Citizens? Change-Oriented Service in a Teacher Education Program"
- Author(s):** "By: Iverson, Susan; James, Jennifer H." (Note: the original image has a typo "James" which has been corrected)
- Journal Title:** "Higher Education"
- Volume/Issue Number:** "v35 n1"
- Page Numbers:** "p19-35"
- Publication Date:** "Feb 2010"
- Accession Number:** "(EJ872114)"

Additional information shown includes subjects, database (ERIC), and a row of links: "Search the Widener University catalog", "ILLiad Wolfgram", "ILLiad DE Campus", "ILLiad HB Campus", and "Check LinkSource for more information".

- There are two types of articles in the ERIC database, **ERIC Documents** and **ERIC Journals Articles**. You can tell the difference by looking at the Accession Number. **ED = ERIC Document** and **EJ = ERIC Journal Article**.
- On the Results List you will also see links under each citation. The links you should be aware of are:
 - Search the Widener University Catalog - this links to WebPAC so you can check to see if Widener owns the journal you are interested in.
 - ILLiad Wolfgram - This links to the Widener Interlibrary Loan system, so that you can order items that Widener does not own.
 - PDF Full Text - The full article is available for downloading/printing in PDF format.
 - HTML Full Text -- The full article is available for downloading/printing in HTML format.
 - Linked Full Text - The full article is available for downloading/printing from one of the other online databases.
 - Check LinkSource for More Information -- Click here to see if the full text for this article is available from another Widener database.

The Full Record

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- If you click on the title of the article you are interested in you will be taken to the **Full Record** for the item.
- Select article #2 from the Results list, "Becoming 'Effective' Citizens? Change-Oriented Service in a Teacher Education Program."
- The **Full Record** contains the bibliographic information for the article as well as additional information such as:
 - **Descriptors** -- Broad terms from the ERIC thesaurus describing the item's content. Major headings are preceded by an asterisk (*) in the ERIC record.
 - **Abstract** -- A brief summary of the item's content.


Descriptors:	Preservice Teacher Education , Citizenship , Democracy , Service Learning , Preservice Teachers , Citizenship Education , Activism , Social Justice , Higher Education , College Role , Role of Education , Teacher Attitudes , Teacher Role , Instructional Effectiveness , Higher Education , Postsecondary Education
Abstract:	The authors investigated the impact of 22 pre- service teachers' participation in a change-oriented service-learning project on their conceptions of citizenship as civic actors and civic educators . The goal of this project was to push students toward adopting more critically conscious and activist conceptions of citizenship as aligned with the needs of a democratic society. Using Eyler and Giles' (1999) typology of effective citizenship as an analytic framework, we describe how students' participation in this project led to demonstrated growth along all five dimensions of effective citizenship. Yet, analysis revealed that, despite the project's change-orientation, students' conceptions of citizenship failed to move beyond personal responsibility to include enhanced social consciousness and the importance of collective action . Thus, we raise critical questions about what constitutes "effective citizenship" in a democratic society and the role of higher education in preparing teachers to embody and enact such a vision.

- Note that the Keywords you were searching for are **bold** and *italicized* to show you why this particular article was added to your results list.

ERIC Thesaurus of Descriptors

ERIC has a "controlled vocabulary" of education-related terms called Descriptors that are maintained in the *ERIC Thesaurus*. Descriptors are used to organize database materials by subject. Using Descriptors in your search can help you locate materials of greater relevance to your topic.

Note: Descriptors are not the same as keywords. Keywords match words found in a bibliographic record and may or may not fully represent the subject of an article or document. Descriptors, also known as indexing terms or subject headings, help you locate subject-related materials that may not contain the keyword in the indexed record. (http://www.eric.ed.gov/ERICWebPortal/resources/html/help/help_popup_thesaurus.html)


- At the top of your screen, click on the  button.

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- In the **Browse for:**
- In the box, type in your keywords (e.g. Higher Education) and then click on the Browse button.
- You will see that the Thesaurus has provided a list of descriptors that come closest to or best match your keywords.
- Click on the first term, [Higher Education](#)
- You will then see more information about the ERIC Descriptor Higher Education:
 - **Scope Note** - How ERIC defines "Higher Education" [For Example: *All education beyond the secondary level leading to a formal degree (Note: Also appears in the list of mandatory educational level Descriptors)*]
 - **Broader Terms** - Descriptors that are **Less Specific** than what you typed in [For Example: *Postsecondary Education*]
 - **Narrower Terms** - Descriptors that are **More Specific** than what you typed in [For Example: *Undergraduate Study*]
 - **Related Terms** - Descriptors that are **Conceptually Linked** to what you typed in [For Example: *Academic Advising*]
 - **Used For—What other terms "Higher Education" is used In Place Of** [For Example: *Advanced Education*]

Finding the Full Text

- Many articles are available in full text format from the ERIC database.
- If you see any of the following listed under the citation for your article, click on one of them to get the full text:
 - **PDF Full Text** - The full article is available for downloading/printing in PDF format.
 - **HTML Full Text** -- The full article is available for downloading/printing in HTML format.
 - **Linked Full Text** - The full article is available for downloading/printing from one of the other online databases.
- If you do not see a PDF, HTML, or Linked Full Text link, you will want to click on the "Check LinkSource for More Information" Link

2. [Becoming "Effective" Citizens? Change-Oriented Service in a Teacher Education Program](#) 
- . By: Iverson, Susan V.; James, Jennifer H.. Innovative *Higher Education*, v35 n1 p19-35 Feb 2010. (EJ872114)
- Subjects: Preservice Teacher Education; Citizenship; Democracy; Service Learning; Preservice Teachers; Citizenship Education; Activism; Social Justice; Higher Education; College Role; Role of Education; Teacher Attitudes; Teacher Role; Instructional Effectiveness
- Database: ERIC

 Add to folder

 [Search the Widener University catalog](#) [ILLiad Wolfram](#) [ILLiad DE Campus](#) [ILLiad HB Campus](#)  [Check LinkSource for more information](#)

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- LinkSource is a way to find out if the article you are interested in is full text in one of the library's other databases.
- When you click on the LinkSource link, you will be taken to a screen that looks like this

The screenshot shows the LinkSource interface. At the top left is the LinkSource logo. At the top right is the text "Widener University Hel". Below this is a blue-bordered box containing the following information:
Title: The Relationships Between Service-Learning, Social Justice, Multicultural Competence, and Civic Engagement
Source: Collins, Denise. *Journal Of College Student Development* Volume: 49 Issue: 2 (2008-01-01) p. 95-109. ISSN: 0897-5264
Below the source information is a link labeled "Revise Request".
A blue header bar reads "Resources Located for this Citation". Below it, a green icon is followed by the text "Find this article in full text from ProQuest 1997-03-01 to present".
An arrow points from a text box on the right to the ProQuest link.

This result indicates that the full text of this article is available from ProQuest. Click here to obtain the article.

- When you click on the ProQuest Link in the LinkSource another browser window will open up and the full text of the journal article in ProQuest will be displayed. Click on the PDF link to view the article.

The screenshot shows the ProQuest document view page. At the top left is the ProQuest logo. At the top right is the text "Interface language" with a dropdown menu set to "English". Below this are tabs for "Basic", "Advanced", "Topics", "Publications", and "My Research & marked items". Below the tabs is the text "Databases selected: Multiple databases...".
A yellow header bar reads "Document View". Below it are links for "Print", "Email", "Copy link", "Cite this", and "Mark Document". To the right of these links is the text "This article cannot be translated due to".
The main content area has the title "The Relationships Between Service-Learning, Social Justice, Multicultural Competence, and Civic Engagement" and the citation "Aaron Einfeld, Denise Collins. *Journal of College Student Development*. Washington: Mar/Apr 2008. Vol. 49, Iss. 2; pg. 95, 15 pgs".
Below the citation is the "Abstract (Summary)" section, which contains a paragraph of text.
On the right side, there is a section titled "Other available formats:" with two options: "Abstract" and "Full Text - PDF (1 MB)". The "Full Text - PDF (1 MB)" option is circled in red.
Below this is a section titled "Find more documents like" with a "Subjects:" list containing five items: "Higher education", "College students", "Learning", "Social change", and "Research", each with an unchecked checkbox.

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Questions or Problems?

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Reference Desk

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