

# Using ERIC

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DILS

## ERIC — Education Resources Information Center

A primary database for identifying educational literature...

*You'll find most education literature in ERIC from a variety of sources, 1966 to the present.*

The ERIC database is made available through Nova Southeastern University's Sherman Library online through different vendors (companies).

They look different and search somewhat differently.

No matter which ERIC you search, the database searches the same content contained in ERIC:

### Journal Articles

(indicated by EJ#, refers to "Education Journals")

**ERIC Documents** (indicated by ED#)

### WHAT ARE EJ & ED NUMBERS?

*Databases use unique numbers to identify records and differentiate between items. Only the ERIC database has EJ and ED Accession Numbers—you can use them to tell whether something is an article or a document.*

### EDUCATION JOURNALS:

*EJs are articles from journals, trade publications, magazines, etc. They cover a variety of topics.*

### ERIC DOCUMENTS:

*EDs are not journal articles. They are everything else: books, chapters, conference papers, digests, theses, etc. There are many types of documents.*

## :: Accessing the ERIC database ::

1. Start at Nova Southeastern University's Alvin Sherman Library web page:  
**<http://www.nova.edu/library/main/>**
2. Click on **Electronic Resources**, then click on the word, **Databases**.  
**OR**, go through your **Patron Portal** to the **Doing Research** section, then click on the word **Databases**.  
**If** forwarded to another page that asks who you are, click on the link for what type of patron you are
3. The next page requires you to **login**. Type in lower case letters your last name and then in the next box, your university/student ID number using no dashes. Click the Submit button.
4. The **Database List** page will load. Use the first option, **Browse by Subject** : and click on the menu box to see the list of Subjects. Click on Education. Then click the Get List button to see the list of databases.
5. A list of databases will load. Click on the name of the database you want to search. Use either the CSA or FirstSearch versions. [ **Do not** go into the P (public) version. ]

**When you contact the librarians for help, make sure you tell them which version of ERIC you are using!**

## Obtaining full text journal articles and documents

### EDUCATION JOURNALS (EJ)

**Search ERIC to identify literature.**

**Do not limit to the Full Text only option!!**

There are only a few articles in ERIC with links that lead to the full text of the article.

For most articles you'll find just the abstract, and you must use the **NSU Full Text Journal Title Search** to find out which database (if any) has the needed journal volume/issue online. This tool is accessed through Electronic Resources via the Sherman Library web site.

If you are not able to find the article online, request it using the **Document Delivery**, linked from the Library Services section of the Alvin Sherman Library website.

### ERIC DOCUMENTS (ED)

You'll find only selected recent (1993-) ERIC Documents in ERIC in full text.

*All versions of the ERIC database link to them as PDFs. You must have the most current Adobe Acrobat Reader software on your computer to open them.*

These documents are made up of scanned pages and often take several minutes to open. Use the options that load with the document to save and print.

Older ERIC Documents not online and those that did not gain copyright must be ordered using **Document Delivery**, which often sends them in microfiche format. This means you must have access to a reader machine to view and print them!

*Some documents are not available from the library and have to be obtained from the original publisher. This is often true for books. In this case, check to see if the library owns the original book.*

The EJ number can only be used in ERIC to re-find articles. You do not need it to cite articles in APA Style, but you need the other citation information. You must include a retrieval statement if you download the full text article from another database!

Watkins, R., & Schlosser, C. (2000). Capabilities-based educational equivalency units: Beginning a professional dialogue. *American Journal of Distance Education*, 24 (3), 34-47. Retrieved January 2, 2002, from Wilson Education Full Text database.

The ED number can only be used in ERIC to re-find ERIC Documents. According to APA Style, this number is needed for citing any documents you use. Include all citation details. When you retrieve the document online from ERIC this must be indicated! (Example below is one of many types of documents.)

General Accounting Office. (2003). Student loan programs: Report to Congressional requestors (GAO-04-01). Washington, DC: Author. (ERIC Document Reproduction Service No. 483003). Retrieved October 12, 2004, from ERIC database.

**USING APA STYLE!** Need help with APA Style from the library? Look at your Library Handbook and read through the APA Style guides linked to from: <http://www.nova.edu/library/help/azhelp.html>