

EDLD 520 Educational Research | Spring 2014

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Research guides: <http://www.lib.umn.edu/research/subject-guides>

Objectives

- Become familiar with key library services for graduate research.
- Understand the role and structure of subject terms in database organization, as well as strategies to narrow and broaden your search.
- Describe the process of tracking citations backwards and forwards.
- Prepare to efficiently complete research abstract analysis, article critique, and research proposal.
- Explore the functions of research management systems.

Library Services

- Interlibrary Loan <http://www.lib.umn.edu/ILL>
- Document Delivery <http://www.lib.umn.edu/DocDel>
- Study Carrels <http://www.lib.umn.edu/forms/carrel/index.php>
- Research Management Systems – EndNote Basic and RefWorks
- Workshops <http://libguides.lib.umn.edu/workshops>

Literature Reviews

In reviewing the published literature, the aim is to explain what ideas and knowledge have been gained and shared to date (i.e., hypotheses tested, scientific methods used, results and conclusions), the weakness and strengths of previous works, and to identify remaining research questions: A literature review provides the context for your research, making clear why your topic deserves further investigation. A literature review involves both the literature searching and the writing. The purpose of the literature search is to:

- reveal existing knowledge
- identify areas of consensus and debate
- identify gaps in knowledge
- identify approaches to research design and methodology
- identify other researchers with similar interests
- clarify your future directions for research

From: *Conducting a literature search*. (2003). In *Library studies 301H: Information research methods and systems*. Retrieved from <http://bit.ly/aFt1cs>

A systematic review and meta-analyses involve a number of discrete steps and often comprise an entire article (a literature review is more often one section of an article):

- question formulation;
- finding studies;
- appraisal and selection of studies (e.g., methodology, trial type, demographics, time period);
- summary and synthesis of relevant studies; and
- determining the applicability of results.

From: Glasziou, P., Irwig, L., Bain, C., & Colditz, G. (2001). *Systematic reviews in health care: A practical guide*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Research Resources

Note no one resource searches all literature; thorough research requires searching multiple resources.

Database	Coverage Dates	Content
CINAHL (Cumulative Index to Nursing & Allied Health Literature) Plus with Full Text <i>CINAHL Headings</i>	Indexes back to 1973, Most full text from the 1990s-present	Full text for more than 760 nursing and allied health journals as well as 130 Evidence-Based Care Sheets, 170 Quick Lessons (concise overviews of diseases and conditions that outline effective treatment options), and books; Indexes more than 4,900 journals.
Dissertations & Theses Full Text, ProQuest	Coverage from 1861-present; Full text from 1997-present	Over 3 million records – over 1 million in full text. <i>See also UM's e-thesis, dissertation and professional paper project</i> http://www.lib.umt.edu/etd
Education Resources Information Center (ERIC) <i>Thesaurus of ERIC Descriptors</i>	1966-present	Over 1.5 million records covering all education levels as well as tests, measurement, and evaluation; Indexes articles, conferences, meetings, government documents, theses, dissertations, reports, audiovisual media, bibliographies, directories, and books.
Educational Administration Abstracts	Coverage from 1966-present	Roughly 200,000 abstracts and citations to educational administration literature, including edu. leadership, edu. management, edu. research, and related areas.
PsycINFO <i>Thesaurus of Psychological Index Terms</i>	Coverage mostly 1890-present	Over 3.3 million records; Abstracts and citations to the scholarly literature in the psychological, social, behavioral, and health sciences.
PubMed <i>Medical Subject Headings (MESH)</i>	1950-present	Abstracts and citations to approximately 20 million biomedical literature items from MEDLINE, life science journals, and online books; approximately 5,400 journals published in more than 80 countries are included.
Web of Knowledge/ Web of Science	1898-present	Indexes over 1,950 journals from 50 social science disciplines, as well as 3,300 scientific and technical journals, and conference proceedings. This index is the online version of the Social Sciences Citation Index, Science Citation Index, and Arts & Humanities Citation Index.

Other Recommended Databases include:

- Electronic Books: eBook collection on EBSCOhost (formerly NetLibrary), ebrary, OverDrive, Springer
- Education-focused: Education Full Text, Educator's Reference Complete, JSTOR, Professional Development Collection, PsycArticles, PsycINFO, SAGE, ScienceDirect, Taylor & Francis, Tests in Print
- Health & Human Performance-focused: Health and Wellness Resource Center and Alternative Health Module, Health Reference Center Academic, Journals@Ovid, SAGE, ScienceDirect, SPORTDiscus, Wiley

Journals

If you are looking for a specific article (e.g., from a reference list) or a specific journal, the first step is to find out if the library subscribes to that journal, either online via a database or in print. Enter the name of the journal in the main search box on the library homepage, then choose Journal Titles from the Search In pull-down menu. This will show you if the library provides access to the journal in a database, in UM Print Holdings (paper copies), and or indicate that the library does not subscribe to the journal. If the library subscribes to the journal, be sure to check the dates of coverage that are available. If the library does not have a subscription to the journal you can request specific articles from the journal via Interlibrary Loan (<http://www.lib.umt.edu/ILL>). If the library only owns the journal in paper you can request that articles within it be scanned and emailed to you via Document Delivery (<http://www.lib.umt.edu/Docdel>).

Cheung, S. S., Petersen, S. R., & McLellan, T. M. (2010). Physiological strain and countermeasures with firefighting. *Scandinavian Journal Of Medicine & Science In Sports*, 20(Sppl. 3), 103-116.

Short, C., & Martin, B. N. (2005). Case study: Attitudes of rural high school students and teachers regarding inclusion. *Rural Educator*, 27(1), 1-10.

Choose one of the articles above and answer the following questions:

- Can you access it online via the library's subscription databases?
- Can you access it in print in the library?

If you want to know what journals are highly regarded in your field of study, one measure is *impact factor*. You can locate journals with high impact factors in the database **Journal Citation Reports (JCR)**. You can search for a specific journal, or locate journals by publisher or subject in JCR. For each journal you will see how many articles were published in it, how many times articles from the journal were cited, a one-year and five-year impact factor ranking, and additional metrics. [See page 6 of this handout for a select list of high impact educational research journals and how to access them.] Note that JCR does not cover all published journals. Also note that the increased sharing of research online via blogs, faculty websites, institutional repositories, etc., has led individuals to develop alternative metrics for measuring scholarly impact (e.g., <http://altmetrics.org/manifesto/>).

Open Access Literature

Open-access (OA) literature is digital, online, free of charge, and free of most copyright and licensing restrictions. OA is a kind of access, not a kind of business model, license, or content. OA is compatible with copyright, peer review, revenue (even profit), print, preservation, prestige, quality, career-advancement, indexing, and other features and supportive services associated with conventional scholarly literature. The primary difference is that the bills are not paid by readers and hence do not function as access barriers. The legal basis of OA is the consent of the copyright holder (for newer literature) or the expiration of copyright (for older literature). Because OA uses copyright-holder consent or the expiration of copyright, it does not require the reform, abolition, or infringement of copyright law. The campaign for OA focuses on literature that authors give to the world without expectation of payment. Many OA initiatives focus on publicly-funded research. OA is compatible with peer review, and all the major OA initiatives for scientific and scholarly literature insist on its importance. The chief difference between them is that OA journals conduct peer review and OA repositories do not. This difference explains many of the other differences between them, especially the costs of launching and operating them.

From: *Open Access Overview*, Peter Suber, <http://www.earlham.edu/~peters/fos/overview.htm>

Recommended web resources:

- **DOAJ (Directory of Open Access Journals)** <http://www.doaj.org/>
- School system sites (e.g., Missoula County Public Schools)
- State Office of Public Instruction sites (e.g., Montana Office of Public Instruction)
- Department of Education sites (e.g., What Works Clearinghouse) *Note that it is more efficient and will save you a lot of time to search ERIC through the library website rather than via the free web.*
- Faculty web pages
- Focused-blogs (e.g., American Indians in Children's Literature)
- Professional association sites (e.g., National Education Association)
- Research center and organization sites (e.g., Rural Institute)
- Google Scholar

Research Strategies

Before you begin entering terms in a database, it can be helpful to follow the first five steps below:

1. Understand your research question.
2. Identify the major concepts in your question.
3. Identify potential terms that correspond to those concepts.*
4. Select alternative terms (narrower, broader, or related) to use if your initial search is unsuccessful.
 - In ERIC use the *Thesaurus of ERIC Descriptors*; in PsycINFO use the *Thesaurus of Psychological Index Terms*; in PubMed use *MeSH* (Medical Subject Headings).
5. Determine logical (Boolean) relationships between terms.**
6. Begin the search.
7. Look at a few documents.
8. Revise and refine search based on initial results.***

From: Walker, G., & Janes, J. (1999). *Online retrieval: A dialogue of theory and practice* (2nd ed.). Englewood, CO: Libraries Unlimited.

* Identify the potential terms that represent the concepts of your research question.

concept & synonyms	concept & synonyms	concept & synonyms
achievement	motivation determination ambition drive	

** Determine logical (Boolean) relationships between terms. Boolean operators include: *and*, *or* and *not*.

achievement AND (motivation OR determination OR ambition OR drive)

*** Revise and refine search based on initial results.

too many sources	not enough sources	sources not available at Mansfield Library
		Use Interlibrary Loan or ask your professor or librarian for assistance in locating locally available materials.

Cited Reference Searching

If you want to know who has cited a specific article search *Web of Knowledge/ Web of Science* or Google Scholar.

Cairney, T. H. (2000). Beyond the classroom walls: The rediscovery of the family and community as partners in education. *Educational Review*, 52(2), 163-174. doi:10.1080/00131910050077051

Hillman, C. H., Castelli, D. M., & Buck, S. M. (2005). Aerobic fitness and neurocognitive function in healthy preadolescent children. *Medicine & Science in Sports & Exercise*, 37(11), 1967-1974. doi: 10.1249/01.mss.0000176680.79702.ce

Answer the following questions:

- How many times has it been cited according to Web of Science?
- How many times has it been cited according to Google Scholar?

Research Management Systems

Research management systems can help you manage your research and format citations. You can use the web-based tool to: create your own personal database to keep track of your research articles, documents, websites, etc.; import citation information from a variety of resources into your database; automatically generate a bibliography in a variety of styles (e.g., APA, ASA, Chicago, MLA); and add in-text citations to a paper in a variety of styles. The two web-based tools the library currently subscribes to are **EndNote Basic** and **RefWorks**. The library may soon be changing to **RefWorks Flow**, which has a different interface and enables reading, annotating, and collaborating in new ways. The table below provides basic information to get you started using RefWorks. Find out more at: <http://libguides.lib.umt.edu/endnoteweb> and <http://libguides.lib.umt.edu/refworks>.

All of these tools have recently been made available for free to individuals affiliated with academic institutions. Institutional subscriptions offer additional capabilities such as more storage or sharing with more individuals.

Select High Impact Educational Research Journals

Descriptions from publisher web sites.

Journal and Access	Description
<i>American Educational Research Journal</i> Full Text. 1964-present SAGE; 1964-2010 JSTOR Index. 1964-present PsycINFO; 1965-present Educational Admin. Abstracts; 1969-present ERIC	The <i>American Educational Research Journal</i> publishes original empirical and theoretical studies and analyses in education that constitute significant contributions to the understanding and/or improvement of educational processes and outcomes. The Social and Institutional Analysis section focuses on significant political, cultural, social, economic, and organizational issues in education, and the Teaching, Learning, and Human Development section explores the processes and outcomes of teaching, learning, and human development at all educational levels and in both formal and informal settings. Both sections publish research representing a wide range of academic disciplines and using a wide range of research methods.
<i>Educational Researcher</i> Full Text. 1972-present SAGE; 1972-2010 JSTOR; 2001-present Open Access Index. 1972-present ERIC; 1975-present Educational Admin. Abstracts; 2007-present PsycINFO	<i>Educational Researcher</i> publishes scholarly articles that are of general significance to the education research community and that come from a wide range of areas of education research and related disciplines. Published nine times a year, <i>ER</i> aims to make major programmatic research and new findings of broad importance widely accessible.
<i>Journal of Educational Research</i> Full Text. 1997-present Taylor & Francis; 1996-2012 Education Full Text; 1920-2006 JSTOR Index. 1924-present PsycINFO; 1967-present Educational Admin. Abstracts; 1969-present ERIC	The <i>Journal of Educational Research</i> publishes manuscripts that describe or synthesize research of direct relevance to educational practice in elementary and secondary schools. Special consideration is given to articles that focus on variables that can be manipulated in educational settings. Although the <i>JER</i> does not publish validation studies, the Editors welcome many varieties of research--experiments, evaluations, ethnographies, narrative research, replications, and so forth.
<i>Learning and Instruction</i> Full Text. 1991-present ScienceDirect Index. 1991-present ERIC; 1991-present PsycINFO	As an international, multi-disciplinary, peer-refereed journal, <i>Learning and Instruction</i> provides a platform for the publication of the most advanced scientific research in the areas of learning, development, instruction and teaching.
<i>Review of Educational Research</i> Full Text. 1931-present SAGE; 1931-2010 JSTOR Index. 1932-present PsycINFO; 1971-present ERIC; 1973-present Educational Admin. Abstracts	The <i>Review of Educational Research</i> (RER) publishes critical, integrative reviews of research literature bearing on education, including conceptualizations, interpretations, and syntheses of literature and scholarly work in a field broadly relevant to education and educational research.
<i>Review of Research in Education</i> Full Text. 1973-present SAGE; 1973-2010 JSTOR Index. 2004-present ERIC	The <i>Review of Research in Education</i> provides an annual overview and descriptive analysis of selected topics of relevant research literature through critical and synthesizing essays. <i>RRE</i> promotes discussion and controversy about research problems, in addition to pulling together and summarizing the work in a field.