A Pocket Guide to ERIC
Educational Resources Information Center

1–800–LET–ERIC
www.eric.ed.gov

National Library of Education
Institute of Education Sciences
U.S. Department of Education
What Is ERIC?

The Educational Resources Information Center (ERIC) is a national information system designed to provide ready access to an extensive body of education-related literature. Established in 1966, ERIC is supported by the U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Educational Research and Improvement and is administered by the National Library of Education.

The ERIC system, through its 16 subject-specific clearinghouses, associated adjunct clearinghouses, and support components, provides a variety of services and products that help you stay up to date on a range of education-related issues. Products and services include research summaries, bibliographies, reference and referral services, computer searches, and document delivery.

The heart of the ERIC system is the ERIC database, the world’s largest source of education information. The ERIC database contains more than 1 million abstracts of documents and journal articles on education research and practice. You can search the database online via the Internet or on CD-ROM. The database is updated monthly (quarterly on CD-ROM) to ensure that the information is timely and accurate. (See page 7 for more information about the ERIC database.)
You can access the wealth of information offered by the ERIC components (listed on pages 13–19) and other education-related organizations through ACCESS ERIC, the reference and referral component of the ERIC system. You can call ACCESS ERIC toll free at 1–800–LET–ERIC or visit the systemwide Web site at http://www.eric.ed.gov to locate education information.

Who Uses ERIC?

- Teachers
- Administrators
- School board members
- Librarians
- Students
- Journalists
- Professors
- Researchers
- Parents
- Community members

This booklet describes the resources that are available through ERIC and contains important contact information to help you access ERIC.
How To Use ERIC

You can take advantage of ERIC resources in several ways. You can access ERIC on the Web, call specific ERIC Clearinghouses or components, or visit a library.

ERIC on the Web

- Visit ERIC Web sites
- Conduct searches
- Order documents online

Through the Internet, ERIC provides a global audience with easy access to education resources, including the ERIC database, full-text ERIC Digests (short summaries of popular education topics), virtual libraries, lesson plans, parent publications, and reference directories. Internet users can access these and other resources through a system of ERIC-sponsored Web sites. The gateway to these Web sites is the ERIC systemwide Web site, which is sponsored by ACCESS ERIC and located at http://www.eric.ed.gov. You can go to this Web site to find links to all ERIC-sponsored Web sites, the ERIC database, ERIC systemwide publications, and much more. This site also features the ERIC slide show, a quick tour of ERIC products and services along with tips for searching the ERIC database.
ERIC offers various specialized Web-based services that can help you find the information you need. Some of these are listed on the following pages.

**AskERIC**

AskERIC is a free, personalized, Internet-based question-answering service for educators and others interested in education theory and practice. You can e-mail education questions to askeric@askeric.org. An AskERIC Information Specialist from one of the 16 ERIC Clearinghouses will respond to your questions with citations from the ERIC database and with information about electronic resources such as Web sites and listserv discussion groups. Their typical response time is two business days.

**Education Resource Organizations Directory (EROD)**

EROD enables Internet users to search more than 4,000 national, regional, and state organizations that provide information and assistance on a broad range of education-related topics. EROD has several searchable fields, including organization title, subject, description, and geographic location. EROD resides on the Department’s Web site at http://www.ed.gov/Programs/EROD.
ERIC Calendar of Education-Related Conferences

The ERIC Calendar includes international, national, regional, and state education-related conferences occurring on or after the first day of the current month. The Calendar is updated as new information becomes available. It can be searched by keyword, sponsor, and conference name, date, and location. To view the Calendar, visit the ERIC systemwide Web site at http://www.ERIC.ed.gov.

National Parent Information Network (NPIN)

The purpose of NPIN is to provide information to parents and those who work with parents and to foster the exchange of parenting materials. Visitors to the NPIN Web site at http://npin.org will find a variety of resources, including full-text pamphlets, brochures, ERIC Digests, guides, and other materials; reviews, summaries, and abstracts of books; and links to other online parent-related resources.

Call ERIC

- Reference and referral services
- ERIC search strategy consultation

ERIC Clearinghouse staff respond to requests for information, assist with ERIC searches, conduct workshops, and publish a variety of materials including reports, summaries, and ERIC Digests. The ERIC
Clearinghouses also collect and process materials for inclusion in the ERIC database. For information about a specific education topic, call the appropriate ERIC Clearinghouse (see the list of clearinghouses on pages 13–19) or call ACCESS ERIC at 1–800–LET–ERIC.

Visit a Library

- Conduct searches
- View and copy full-text ERIC documents

The ERIC database is available at more than 1,000 university, public, and professional libraries and education resource centers. Most of these locations also maintain an ERIC microfiche collection that can be used to view or copy full-text ERIC documents, and many now offer access to electronic copies of ERIC documents. To locate the nearest ERIC resource collection, call ACCESS ERIC or search the Directory of ERIC Resource Collections online at http://bcol02.ed.gov/Programs/EROD/eric_search.cfm.
The ERIC database is one of the most widely used bibliographic databases in the world. It currently includes more than 1 million abstracts of education-related documents and journal articles. The ERIC database can be searched at no cost via the Internet (http://www.eric.ed.gov) and on CD-ROM at many libraries and education resource centers. To find out where you can use the ERIC database in your community, call any ERIC component, call ACCESS ERIC at 1–800–LET–ERIC, or search the Directory of ERIC Resource Collections at http://bcol02.ed.gov/Programs/EROD/eric_search.cfm. To learn how to search the database on a particular topic, contact the ERIC Clearinghouse most closely associated with your subject area. To learn how to contribute to the ERIC database, see page 24.
How To Get Copies of ERIC Database Materials

ERIC Documents (EDs)

The full text of most materials in the ERIC database with an “ED” followed by six digits is available through the ERIC Document Reproduction Service (EDRS). About 100,000 ERIC documents from 1993 to the present are available in electronic form for downloading and printing. More than 400,000 of the documents announced in ERIC since 1966 are also available in microfiche or paper copy format. To obtain copies, you can

- Go to a library convenient to you and ask if it offers access to electronic and/or microfiche copies. To locate the nearest ERIC resource collection, call ACCESS ERIC or search the Directory of ERIC Resource Collections online at http://bcol02.ed.gov/Programs/EROD/eric_search.cfm.

- Contact the ERIC Document Reproduction Service (see page 19). The EDRS Web site allows users to search the ERIC database and order electronic copies of recent, available documents. Electronic images of ERIC documents are provided in Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF). EDRS also offers paper copy delivery, including fax and express mail services.
ERIC Journal Articles (EJs)

Materials listed in the ERIC database with an “EJ” followed by six digits are journal articles. Most of them can be found in library periodical collections or obtained from article reprint services such as:

**Ingenta**
44 Brattle Street, Fourth Floor
Cambridge, MA 02138
Toll Free: (800) 296–2221 (help desk only)
Phone: (617) 395–4000
Fax: (617) 395–4099
E-mail: ushelp@ingenta.com
Web: [http://www.ingenta.com](http://www.ingenta.com)

**Institute for Scientific Information**
3501 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104
Toll Free: (800) 603–4367
Phone: (734) 549–8565
Fax: (856) 787–1679
E-mail: service@isidoc.com
Web: [http://www.isidoc.com](http://www.isidoc.com)

To obtain articles from journals that do not permit reprints and are not available from your library, write directly to the publisher of the journal. You can find addresses of journal publishers in the Source Journal Index Database on the ERIC Processing and Reference Facility Web site at [http://www.ericfacility.net/extra/pub/sjisearch.cfm](http://www.ericfacility.net/extra/pub/sjisearch.cfm). You can also call any ERIC component for this information.
ERIC produces numerous products to meet your information needs. Some of these are listed below. You can also contact the clearinghouse most closely associated with your interest area for its publication list.

**All About ERIC**

This handy reference booklet provides basic information about searching the ERIC database and more detailed descriptions of each component in the ERIC system. Free copies of this booklet are available from ACCESS ERIC at 1–800–LET–ERIC. *All About ERIC* is also available online at [http://www.eric.ed.gov](http://www.eric.ed.gov).

**ERIC Digests**

These popular, two-page research summaries provide overviews of current education issues. Digests often address the questions most frequently asked of the 16 subject-specific ERIC Clearinghouses and always include a list of additional resources. The complete text of approximately 2,500 Digests is available online at [http://www.ericfacility.net/ericdigests/index/](http://www.ericfacility.net/ericdigests/index/) and on CD-ROM versions of the ERIC database. To order paper copies, call ACCESS ERIC at 1–800–LET–ERIC.
ERICNews

ERICNews is the ERIC system’s electronic newsletter. Published by ACCESS ERIC at the beginning of each month, ERICNews includes information about new ERIC document delivery services, new ERIC publications and products, ERIC Web site enhancements and updates, systemwide administrative announcements, and more. You can view ERICNews on the ERIC systemwide Web site at http://www.eric.ed.gov.

The ERIC Slide Show

This comprehensive online introduction to ERIC includes information about searching the ERIC database; obtaining ERIC documents, journal articles, and Digests; and accessing the popular AskERIC Q&A Service, ERIC listservs, and ERIC Clearinghouse Web sites. The slide show can be downloaded on the ERIC systemwide Web site (http://www.eric.ed.gov) in HTML and PowerPoint formats, making it a great resource for teaching others about ERIC.

Thesaurus of ERIC Descriptors

This publication is helpful in developing a strategy to search the ERIC database and contains a complete list of descriptive terms used by ERIC to index and search the database, with a cross-reference structure and rotated and hierarchical displays. The Thesaurus is generally available at libraries and other sites that provide access to the ERIC database, or you can call Greenwood Publishing Group at 1–800–225–5800 to...
purchase a copy. An online version is available through the ERIC Processing and Reference Facility at http://www.ericfacility.net/extra/pub/thessearch.cfm.
Federal Sponsor

Educational Resources Information Center (ERIC)
National Library of Education
Institute of Education Sciences
U.S. Department of Education
Toll Free: (800) 424–1616
TTY/TDD: (800) 437–0833
Web: http://www.ed.gov/NLE

Clearinghouses

Adult, Career, and Vocational Education
Ohio State University
Toll Free: (800) 848–4815, ext. 2–7069
Phone: (614) 292–7069
TTY/TDD: (614) 688–8734
E-mail: ericacve@osu.edu
Web: http://ericacve.org

Assessment and Evaluation
University of Maryland at College Park
Toll Free: (800) GO4–ERIC (464–3742)
Phone: (301) 405–7449
E-mail: ericae@ericae.net
Web: http://ericae.net

Community Colleges
University of California at Los Angeles
Toll Free: (800) 832–8256
Phone: (310) 825–3931
E-mail: ericcc@ucla.edu
Web: http://www.gseis.ucla.edu/ERIC/eric.html
Counseling and Student Services  
University of North Carolina at Greensboro  
Toll Free: (800) 414–9769  
Phone: (336) 334–4114  
E-mail: ericcass@uncg.edu  
Web: http://ericcass.uncg.edu

Disabilities and Gifted Education  
Council for Exceptional Children  
Toll Free: (800) 328–0272  
Phone: (703) 264–9474  
TTY/TDD: (800) 328–0272  
E-mail: ericec@cec.sped.org  
Web: http://ericec.org

Educational Management  
University of Oregon  
Toll Free: (800) 438–8841  
Phone: (541) 346–5043  
E-mail: eric@eric.uoregon.edu  
Web: http://eric.uoregon.edu

Elementary and Early Childhood Education  
University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign  
Toll Free: (800) 583–4135  
Phone: (217) 333–1386  
TTY/TDD: (800) 583–4135  
E-mail: ericeece@uiuc.edu  
Web: http://ericeece.org  
National Parent Information Network Web:  
http://npin.org

Higher Education  
George Washington University  
Toll Free: (800) 773–ERIC (3742)  
Phone: (202) 296–2597  
E-mail: eric-he@eric-he.edu  
Web: http://www.eriche.org
Information & Technology
Syracuse University
Toll Free: (800) 464–9107
Phone: (315) 443–3640
E-mail: eric@ericit.org; askeric@askeric.org
Web: http://www.ericit.org
AskERIC Web: http://www.askeric.org

Languages and Linguistics
Center for Applied Linguistics
Toll Free: (800) 276–9834
Phone: (202) 362–0700
E-mail: eric@cal.org
Web: http://www.cal.org/ericcll

Reading, English, and Communication
Indiana University
Toll Free: (800) 759–4723
Phone: (812) 855–5847
E-mail: ericcs@indiana.edu
Web: http://eric.indiana.edu

Rural Education and Small Schools
AEL
Toll Free: (800) 624–9120
Phone: (304) 347–0400
TTY/TDD: (304) 347–0448
E-mail: ericrc@ael.org
Web: http://www.ael.org/eric

Science, Mathematics, and Environmental Education
Ohio State University
Toll Free: (800) 276–0462
Phone: (614) 292–6717
E-mail: ericse@osu.edu
Web: http://www.ericse.org
Social Studies/Social Science Education
Indiana University
Toll Free: (800) 266–3815
Phone: (812) 855–3838
E-mail: ericso@indiana.edu
Web: http://ericso.indiana.edu

Teaching and Teacher Education
American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education
Toll Free: (800) 822–9229
Phone: (202) 293–2450
E-mail: query@aacte.org
Web: http://www.ericsp.org

Urban Education
Teachers College, Columbia University
Toll Free: (800) 601–4868
Phone: (212) 678–3433
E-mail: eric-cue@columbia.edu
Web: http://eric-web.tc.columbia.edu

Adjunct Clearinghouses

Child Care
National Child Care Information Center
Toll Free: (800) 616–2242
TTY/TDD: (800) 516–2242
E-mail: info@nccic.org
Web: http://nccic.org

Clinical Schools
American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education
Toll Free: (800) 822–9229
Phone: (202) 293–2450
Fax: (202) 457–8095
Web: http://www.aacte.org/eric/pro_dev_schools.htm
Early Intervention and Early Childhood
Special Education
National Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center
Phone: (919) 962–2001
TTY/TDD: (919) 843–3269
E-mail: eric_nectac@unc.edu
Web: http://www.nectac.org/eric

Educational Opportunity
National TRIO Clearinghouse
Council for Opportunity in Education
Phone: (202) 638–2887
E-mail: ch@pellinstitute.org
Web: http://www.trioprograms.org/clearinghouse

Entrepreneurship Education
Kauffman Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership
Toll Free: (888) 4–CELCEE (423–5233)
Phone: (310) 206–9549
E-mail: celcee@ucla.edu
Web: http://www.celcee.edu

ESL Literacy Education
National Clearinghouse for ESL Literacy Education
Center for Applied Linguistics
Phone: (202) 362–0700, ext. 200
E-mail: ncle@cal.org
Web: http://www.cal.org/ncle

Homeless Education
National Center for Homeless Education
Toll Free: (800) 308–2145
Phone: (336) 315–7452
Fax: (336) 315–7457
E-mail: homeless@serve.org
Web: http://www.serve.org/nche/adjunct.htm
International Civic Education
Indiana University
Toll Free: (800) 266–3815
Phone: (812) 855–3838
E-mail: patrick@indiana.edu

Rural Mathematics Education
Ohio University
Phone: (740) 593–9869
E-mail: howleyc@ohio.edu
Web: http://kant.citl.ohiou.edu/ACCLAIM/rc/rc.htm

U.S.-Japan Studies
Indiana University
Toll Free: (800) 266–3815
Phone: (812) 855–3838
E-mail: japan@indiana.edu
Web: http://www.indiana.edu/~japan

Affiliate Clearinghouse
National Clearinghouse for Educational Facilities
National Institute of Building Sciences
Toll Free: (888) 552–0624
Phone: (202) 289–7800
E-mail: ncef@nibs.org
Web: http://www.edfacilities.org

Support Components
ACCESS ERIC
Toll Free: (800) LET–ERIC (538–3742)
Phone: (301) 519–5157
E-mail: accesseric@accesseric.org
Web: http://www.eric.ed.gov
libraries and other resource centers can make ERIC available on even a modest budget. The ERIC database is available on CD-ROM and online. Full-text copies can be ordered in electronic, paper, and microfiche formats.

Electronic Document Subscription Service

In response to the growing need that research institutions and their patrons have for immediate access to ERIC materials, EDRS created E*Subscribe, an electronic document subscription service. The service features access to the ERIC database via three levels of searching, links to electronic document images for downloading in Adobe PDF format, and provides ordering capability for documents not available electronically. Links to full-text documents can be found through various search services including ERIC-sponsored sites on the Web, SilverPlatter WebSPIRS, Ovid Online, EBSCO Host, OCLC FirstSearch, Cambridge Scientific Abstracts IDS, and ProQuest Education Full Text. For more information, call EDRS or visit its Web site at http://www.edrs.com.
ERIC Microfiche

More than 400,000 of the documents listed in the ERIC database are available on microfiche from EDRS. About 700 organizations subscribe to the complete ERIC microfiche collection, and others subscribe to partial or subject-specific collections.

Libraries and other resource centers with substantial budgets will want to invest in the entire ERIC microfiche collection, but you can purchase specialized collections that suit your budget and your specific areas of interest. Subject-specific collections are available in each of the 16 areas covered by the ERIC Clearinghouses. For example, you can purchase a microfiche collection on elementary and early childhood education or on reading and communication skills.

To learn more about ERIC microfiche collections, call EDRS at 1–800–443–ERIC or see the EDRS listing on page 19.

Vendors

Some libraries and resource centers offer access to the ERIC database via CD-ROM or online commercial services. Most commercial vendors offer sophisticated search capabilities and the ability to access the entire ERIC database (1966 to the present).
Online Vendors

Cambridge Scientific Abstracts (CSA)
7200 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 601
Bethesda, MD 20814
Phone: (301) 961–6700
Fax: (301) 961–6720
E-mail: service@csa.com
Web: http://www.csa.com

The Dialog Corporation
Toll Free: (800) 3–DIALOG (334–2564)
Phone: (919) 462–8600
Fax: (919) 468–9890
E-mail: customer@dialog.com
Web: http://www.dialog.com

EBSCO Publishers
Toll Free: (800) 653–2726
Phone: (978) 356–6500
Fax: (978) 356–6565
E-mail: ultra@epnet.com
Web: http://www.epnet.com

National Information Services Corporation (NISC)
Phone: (410) 243–0797
Fax: (410) 243–0982
E-mail: sales@nisc.com
Web: http://www.nisc.com

Online Computer Library Center (OCLC)
Toll Free: (800) 848–5878
Phone: (614) 764–6000
Fax: (614) 764–6096
E-mail: oclc@oclc.org
Web: http://www.oclc.org/home
Pro Quest Company
300 North Zeeb Road
Ann Arbor, MI 48103
Toll Free: (800) 521–0600
Phone: (734) 761–4700
Fax: (734) 975–6450
E-mail: info@il.proquest.com
Web: http://www.proquest.com

Ovid Technologies
Toll Free: (800) 950–2035, ext. 249
Phone: (646) 674–6300
Fax: (212) 563–3784
E-mail: sales@ovid.com
Web: http://www.ovid.com

Silver Platter Information, Inc.
See Ovid Technologies

**CD-ROM Vendors**

**The Dialog Corporation**
Toll Free: (800) 3–DIALOG (334–2564)
Phone: (919) 462–8600
Fax: (919) 468–9890
E-mail: customer@dialog.com
Web: http://www.dialog.com

**ERIC Processing and Reference Facility**
Toll Free: (800) 799–ERIC (3742)
Phone: (301) 552–4200
Fax: (301) 552–4700
E-mail: info@ericfac.piccard.csc.com
Web: http://ericfacility.org

**National Information Services Corporation (NISC)**
Phone: (410) 243–0797
Fax: (410) 243–0982
E-mail: sales@nisc.com
Web: http://www.nisc.com
Ovid Technologies
Toll Free: (800) 343–0064-
Phone: (781) 769–2599-
Fax: (781) 769–8763-
E-mail: us_customerrelations@ovid.com-
Web: http://www.ovid.com
ERIC collects a variety of materials on a range of education-related topics. Examples of materials in the database include:

- Books
- Research reports
- Monographs
- Speeches and conference papers
- Studies
- Instructional materials (for students)
- Lesson plans
- Manuals and handbooks
- Bibliographies
- Tests

To have your material considered for inclusion in the ERIC database, please send one legible copy along with a Reproduction Release Form (available from any ERIC component or online at [http://ericfacility.org/submitting.html#errp](http://ericfacility.org/submitting.html#errp)) to the Acquisitions Department of the ERIC Clearinghouse most closely related to the subject matter. You may submit documents to the ERIC Processing and Reference Facility (see page 19) if you are unsure which clearinghouse is appropriate. (For clearinghouse address information, visit [http://www.eric.ed.gov](http://www.eric.ed.gov) or call the clearinghouses listed on pages 13–19.)