

ERIC

(Education Resources Information Center)

What is it?

ERIC is the largest education database in the world. The majority of resources within ERIC are citations only, although some fulltext material is available. Coverage spans from 1966 to the present.

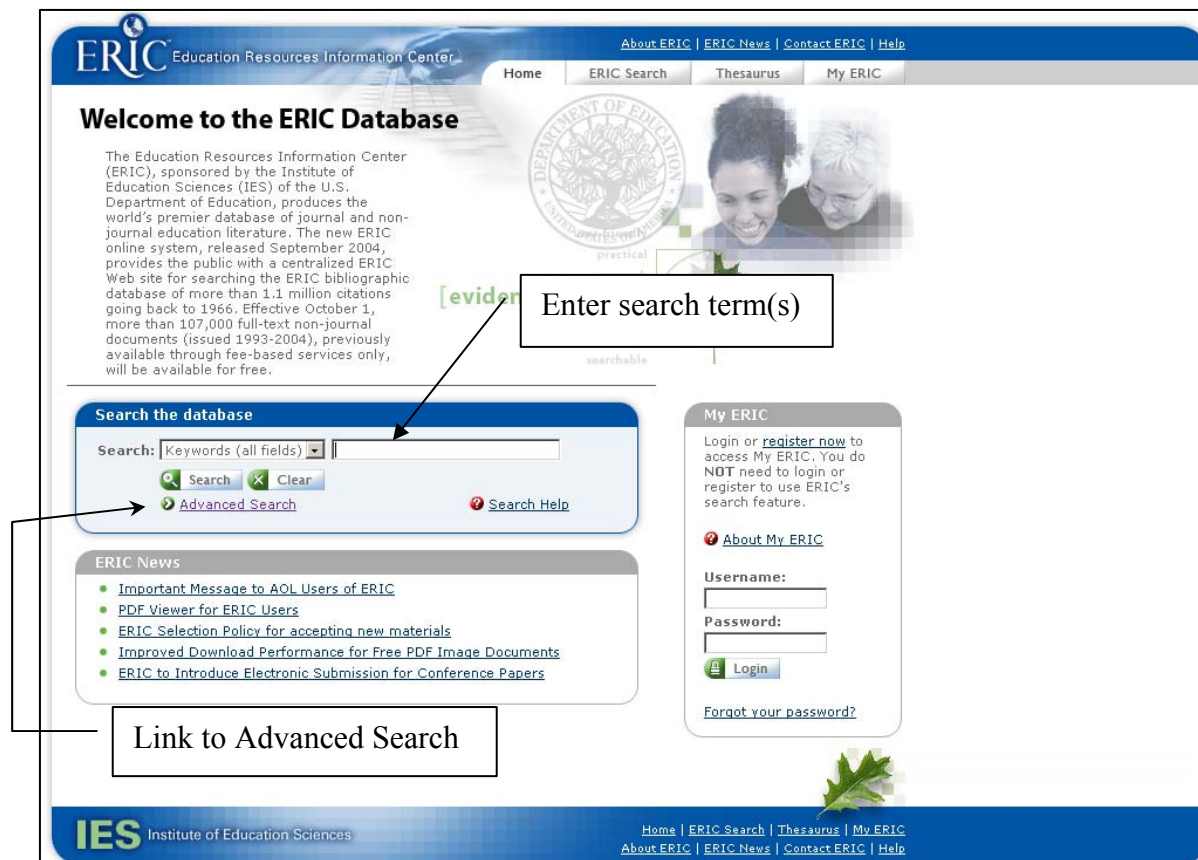


Figure 1

ERIC consists of the following materials:

- ERIC Digests – Two-page overviews of popular topics.
- ERIC Documents – About 40% of ERIC consists of documents (e.g. research reports, teaching guides) of which many are fulltext. Also, ERIC Documents provide abstracts to about 18,000 books.
- ERIC Journal Articles – Indexing to about 600,000 articles from 1,000 educational periodicals. Makes up about 60% of the ERIC database. Majority of articles are citations only, *not* fulltext.

How do I search?

The ERIC database is freely available through several Internet websites. You can access ERIC through the library's homepage at <<http://www.everettcc.edu/library>>. The Basic Search screen [Figure 1] provides keyword searching in all fields, title, author, or ERIC number.

What do I get?

The Search Results screen [Figure 2] provides the total number of references (also called citations), ERIC number, author, title, date, and other information. Results are ranked by relevancy based on factors such as the number of times a search term appears in a citation.

The screenshot shows two search results. The first entry is titled "17. The Nutritional Status of Preschool Children in a Memphis Inncity Area. Report." and has a callout box pointing to the "Full-Text" field which says "Citation only". The second entry is titled "18. Summer Yummers: A Bibliography of Books in Recorded and Braille Formats for Young Readers from Preschool through Junior High School Summer Scrapbook--Summer Library Program, 1993." and has a callout box pointing to the "View Full-Text" link which says "Fulltext available". A callout box at the bottom left points to the title of the second entry, saying "Title of document".

Figure 2

Advanced Searching

For more experienced users, the Advanced Search screen permits the user to enter in more sophisticated search statements [Figure 3].

The screenshot shows the "Advanced Search" interface. Callouts include: "Choose from AND, NOT, and OR to expand or limit search" pointing to the logical operator dropdowns; "Limit by descriptor (subject heading)" pointing to the "Thesaurus Descriptor(s)" field; and "Search for" options include: Keyword (all fields), Identifiers, Author, ISBN, Title, ISSN, ERIC #, Journal Name, Sponsoring Agency, Source Institution. The "Publication Type(s)" list includes: All (checked), Book/Product Reviews, Books, Collected Works - General, Collected Works - Proceedings, and Collected Works - Serials.

Figure 3