Searching ERIC for Journal Articles

This guide shows how to use ERIC to perform a basic search for articles on a particular topic.

The example topic will be: *Discuss and review the characteristics of effective teaching. Use journal articles to support your discussion.* We will used the keywords *effective teaching* and *characteristics*.

**Step One:**
From the Library homepage click on **Databases** located under **Library resources**. You will be taken to the alphabetical A-Z Listing of ECU Databases. Locate ERIC and click on it to be taken to the database.

**Note:** If you are off campus, you will be asked to log in using your ECU login and password at this point.

**Step Two:**
When in ERIC, you will automatically be taken to the **Advanced Search** form.

**Step Three:**
Complete the Advanced Search form, and then click **Search**.

To ensure we retrieve *effective teaching* as a phrase and not individual words, we have placed quotation marks around the phrase.
To search for both **characteristics** and **characteristic** we have included the truncation symbol* to search for both words at once.

Once your have retrieved your search results you can use the filters located on the left hand side of the screen to limit your search by date, language, format type, educational level, target audience, and even peer-reviewed journals.

**Note:** Do not restrict your search to Full Text Only. You may miss a valuable result that you can find the full text of in another database available at ECU.

**Step Four:**
On the results screen you will be shown a number of results. Scroll through your results and read the abstracts to decide if you want to access the full text of the article.

To access the abstract and for more information on a particular item, click on the document title or the **Abstract/Details** link. This will also provide you with subject headings that may be useful for additional searches.

To access the full text select the **Link to ERIC full text, Full text, Full text - PDF** link or select **Findit@ECU** to see if ECU has full text access.

If **Findit@ECU** doesn’t retrieve a result, you can complete a **Journal Search** from the Library homepage. Make sure to make note of the information you need for a reference as this will help you locate the article.