Library Tips for Education Students

This tip sheet is to assist education students to locate resources using ECU Worldsearch and other key education databases and to identify useful library resources.

This tip sheet is not exhaustive and you are encouraged to look at the Education Library Guide, the Library Essentials on Blackboard, and to contact the Library when you need assistance.

Library Guides

There are a number of subject specific and generic Library Guides that have been created by the Librarians to provide students with useful information and links to valuable resources.

Education Library Guide

The Education Library Guide is available from the ECU Library Services homepage and provides an outline of the key resources available at ECU that are relevant to Education. It lists key databases, textbooks, websites and journals for your research, as well as guidance on beginning research.

To access the Library Guides page, begin at the ECU Library Services Homepage www.ecu.edu.au/centres/library-services/overview locate the heading Find books and resources, and select Library Guides.

A page will display with a listing of the ECU Library Guides arranged by school or a group.

Select the Education heading for links to the Education Library Guide and the Education Resource Guide.

Education → Education Library Guide
Education → Education Resource Guide
Useful Library Guides
From the library guides page, there are useful guides including: Academic Skills, Referencing and Library Essentials to help get you started.

This guide contains essential information about ECU Library Services with how-to videos and links to useful resources with information on how to use the library, library collections, study spaces and library services.

You can also access Library Essentials on Blackboard.

Simply login to Blackboard, select Library Essentials menu at the top of the page.

The eBooks Library Guide will help you find and access the many eBook collections available to you. Locate this guide by clicking on Library Resources → eBooks.

Referencing Library Guide (www.ecu.au.libguides.com/referencing)
This is a one stop shop for everything APA Referencing. The Referencing Library Guide contains sample references and a number of short videos to help understand the APA style of referencing. You will find a printable APA Referencing Guide as well as access to the APA Style Central Database which is the authoritative source for all things APA.

EndNote Library Guide (www.ecu.au.libguides.com/endnote)
This Library Guide contains information, help and download links for the EndNote software. You can use EndNote to create your own personal EndNote Library of references and then use these references in your assignments.

The guide has a downloadable manual for using EndNote and information on EndNote classes that the Library offers throughout the year. Before using EndNote, it is recommended that you are familiar with APA referencing.

Library Workshops Library Guide (www.ecu.au.libguides.com/library-workshops)
The Library Workshops Guide provides details of workshops and events during the academic year. The workshops will help you acquire Library Research skills so that you become a proficient user of the ECU Library. Locate this guide by selecting Library Resources → Library Workshops
ECU Worldsearch

**ECU Worldsearch** is available from the ECU Library Services homepage. It is a search engine to discover and locate information on any topic from the ECU Library’s collections.

You can use **ECU Worldsearch** to search across the Library’s print and online collection, to find information from books, journal articles, newspapers, film, music and more. You can link directly to the catalogue for finding books and other resources on the shelves, or to the full text of articles and eBooks.

**ECU Worldsearch** is a great starting point for your assignment research, but does not completely replace searching the key education databases directly. See the **ECU Worldsearch Tip Sheet** (available from the Education Library Guide) for more information on using ECU Worldsearch or visit **Library Essentials** for instructional videos.

**Searching for items in the Teaching Collection**

To restrict your search to items within the Teaching Collection add **AND (nu: T OR TQ)** to your search terms.

**Searching for items in the Curriculum Collection**

To search for items in the Curriculum collection add **AND (nu: CURRIC)** to your search terms.

**Searching for items in the Education Test Kits Collection**

To search for items in the Education Test Kits collection add **AND (au: Education Test Collection)** to your search terms.

**Search Terms and Connectors**

Search connectors are connecting words and/or symbols that affect how search terms (keywords) are processed in a database or search engine. Search connectors are helpful tools, especially when search results are too few or too many. The right connector can save you time and help you find the exact piece of information you need.

You can use these terms and connectors for searching **ECU Worldsearch** and specific databases. Please note, that not all databases use exactly the same symbol and it is worth visiting the Help section in the database. A table of Search connectors for the key education databases is available in the **Education Library Guide**.
Phrase Searching
Placing quotation marks “” around two or more words will result in them being searched as a phrase instead of as individual words. This search will yield fewer, but more relevant results.
For instance, searching education resources in ECU Worldsearch returns 1,313,247 results and searching “education resources” returns 20,745 – much more manageable than millions!

Truncation Symbols
A truncation symbol (* or !) is used to search for words that might begin with the same letters but have different endings. Use these symbols to speed up your search process and retrieve relevant results. For example, where * is the truncation symbol: Searching educat* will retrieve results including, education, educating, educate, educated, educator, educators, etc.

Wildcard Symbols
Wildcard symbols (also * or ?) operate in a similar way to truncation symbols, except within a word and not at the end. These symbols can be very useful when searching international databases where the American and English spellings differ.
For example, where ? is the wildcard symbol: Searching behav?r will retrieve results including, Behaviour and Behavior. Wildcard symbols can also be useful when search for the singular as well as the plural, i.e. woman and women.

Boolean Operators
These are the most common connectors used in databases. The Boolean Operators are AND, OR, and NOT (or BUT NOT), and represent a relationship between two search terms. They refine your search to either reduce or expand the number of search results you retrieve. Many databases place these within their advanced search forms.

AND – use AND when you want both search terms to appear in a document.

“learning theories” AND education
“student engagement” AND motivation
“child development” AND play
“educational theory” AND pedagogy

OR – use OR when you want one term or another, or both, to appear within the document.

primary OR elementary
“child centered classrooms” OR “learner centered classrooms”
“information processing” OR “encoding information
“physical education” OR “sports education”

NOT – use NOT when you want one search term to appear within the document but the other not to appear

“early childhood” NOT kindergarten
writing NOT handwriting
media NOT social
visual arts NOT sculpture
Education Databases

You can search multidisciplinary databases and key education databases to find quality journal articles and other literature for your research. The three key education databases are:

- **A+ Education**: An Australian education database, mostly full text with access to journal articles from published material on all aspects of education. Based on the Australian Education Index, an indexing and abstracting database produced by the Cunningham Library at the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER).

- **ERIC (Educational Resource Information Centre)**: An international education database with indexing journals and ERIC documents. Limit a search to Journal Articles, then click on Findit@ECU to link to available full text.

- **Education Source**: International education database. Includes some full text. Click on Findit@ecu to link to other available full text outside of the database.

Each of these databases provides access to some full text materials. Others are citation databases, which are an index of citation information and an abstract about the article, without the full text.

Check the **Education Library Guide** for a list of databases including multidisciplinary and citation databases. Links to all Library Databases can be found on the A-Z Listing available from the Library homepage. Select **Databases** from under the **Library Resources** heading.

Locating the Full Text of a Journal Article

When database searching, you may find a journal article that is useful for your assignment, but the full text is not available. Select **Findit@ECU** to search across all databases in the library to locate a copy of the full text.

In the case that the Findit@ECU link does not link to the article, locate the article by accessing the journal directly.

From the **Library Homepage**:

- Access the **Journal search** link from under the **Library Resources** heading on the library homepage
- Enter the Journal title in the search box and click **Search**
• Locate the journal in the results list and look under the link. Here you will see a listing of the places where full text access is available.
• Look at the Coverage information under each to see which option best suits the article you are looking for. Once you have identified the best one, click the hyperlinked Journal title.
• The journal in the database will display. Search or browse to locate the full text of the article you need. Use the year, issue and volume to navigate your way to the journal article.

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles
For your assignments, you may need to find Peer-reviewed journal articles. Not all scholarly articles are peer-reviewed and whilst most databases allow you to restrict your search to peer-reviewed articles, is it important to know how to check if a journal is peer reviewed or not.

To confirm if a particular journal article is peer-reviewed, look up the journal title on the Ulrichsweb database and locate the refereed icon.


Contact the Library
Email us: library@ecu.edu.au
Ring us: (61) 8 6304 5525
Tweet us: @ECU_Library
Ask us: click here for frequently asked questions