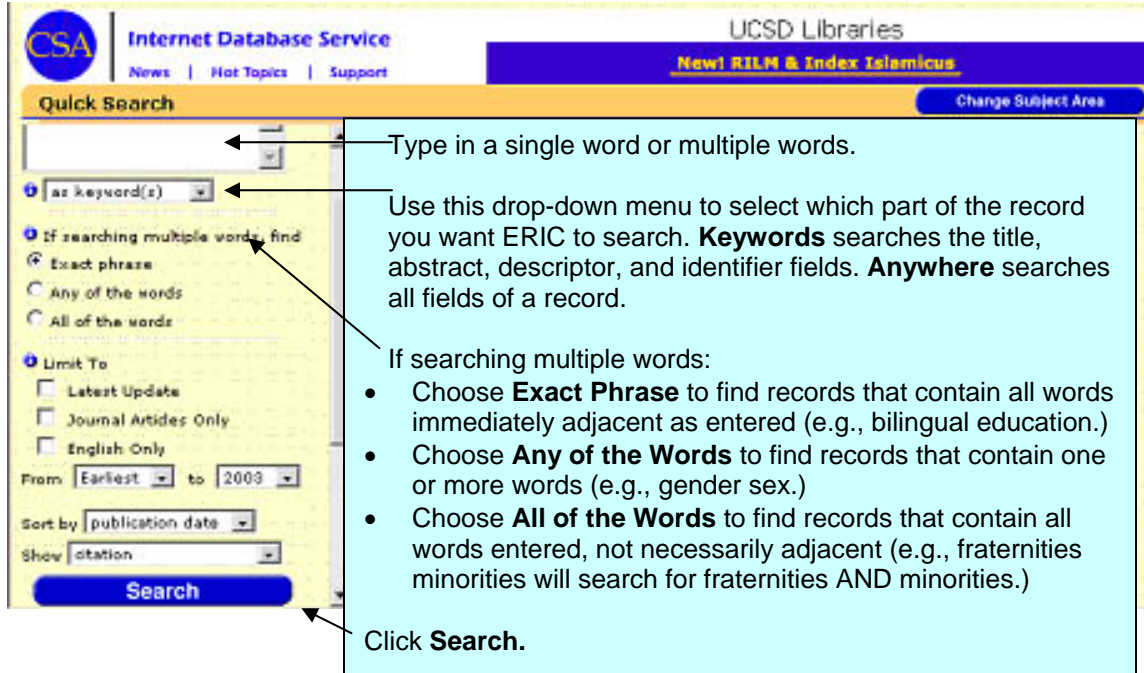


How to Search ERIC – Quick Search

ERIC (Educational Resources Information Center) is a database sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education. It provides access to all areas of education, including adult, urban, rural, vocational, elementary, early childhood, handicapped, gifted, and higher education. Coverage is from 1966-present and includes citations and abstracts to journal articles (EJ) and documents (ED) in education. The ERIC database is updated monthly.

From the Social Sciences and Humanities Library webpage (sshl.ucsd.edu), click SSHL Databases A-Z, then the letter E, then click on ERIC.

QUICK SEARCH



The screenshot shows the ERIC Quick Search interface. A light blue box with arrows points to various elements: the search input field, the search type dropdown menu, the search options (Exact phrase, Any of the words, All of the words), the search buttons, and the search type dropdown menu again. The annotations provide instructions on how to use these elements.

Type in a single word or multiple words.

Use this drop-down menu to select which part of the record you want ERIC to search. **Keywords** searches the title, abstract, descriptor, and identifier fields. **Anywhere** searches all fields of a record.

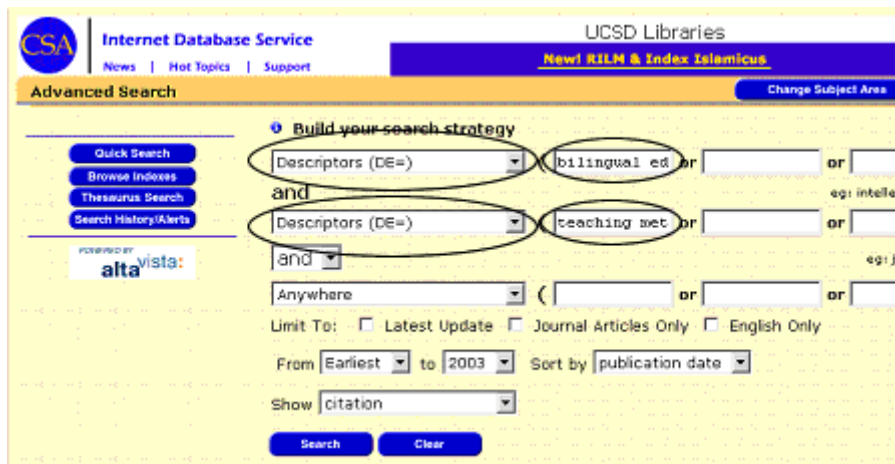
If searching multiple words:

- Choose **Exact Phrase** to find records that contain all words immediately adjacent as entered (e.g., bilingual education.)
- Choose **Any of the Words** to find records that contain one or more words (e.g., gender sex.)
- Choose **All of the Words** to find records that contain all words entered, not necessarily adjacent (e.g., fraternities minorities will search for fraternities AND minorities.)

Click **Search**.

ADVANCED SEARCH

To do complex searches such as combining terms, click on **Thesaurus Search** to see if your terms are listed as descriptors (subject headings.) *Note: Descriptor searching is more precise than Keyword searching, but if your term is not listed as a Descriptor, search your term as a Keyword.* You can also conduct searches using both **Descriptors** and **Keywords**.



The screenshot shows the ERIC Advanced Search interface. It features a search strategy builder with two search terms, 'bilingual ed' and 'teaching met', each preceded by a 'Descriptors (DE=)' dropdown menu. The terms are connected by 'and' and 'or' operators. There are also search type dropdown menus, limit options, date range, sort order, and show options.

For assistance with **Advanced Search**, ask for help at the Social Sciences and Humanities Library Reference Desk.

INTERPRETING THE RESULTS

The ERIC Database contains citations and abstracts of educational materials. These materials are either **ERIC journal articles (EJ)** or **ERIC documents (ED)**. Look at the last line of record #1; this field is called **AN** (Accession number.)

VIEW RECORD

Click on **View Record** to see the full record which includes the **abstract (summary)**, **publication type**, **descriptors** which were assigned to this record, etc.



UC-eLINKS

ERIC Journal article (EJ)

- If the journal article is available online (full-text) you will be linked to the article.
- If the journal article is not available online you can check the Roger Catalog to see if the UCSD libraries own the journal.
- If the library does not own the journal, request the journal article through Interlibrary Loan.

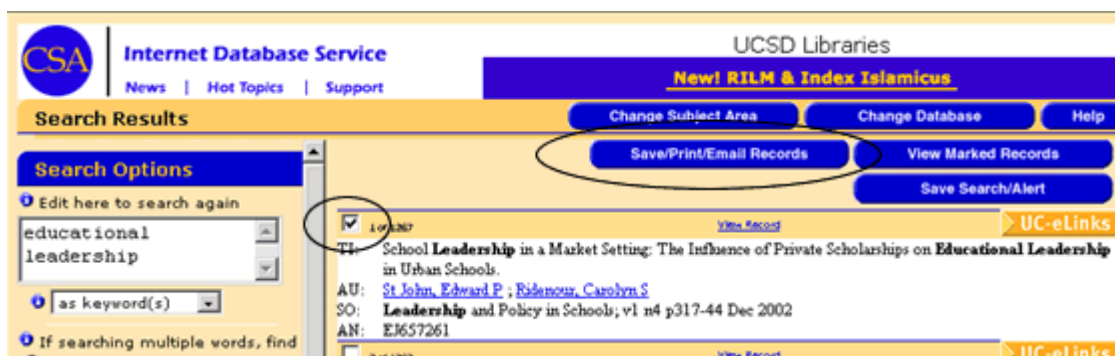
ERIC Document (ED)

Click on the link "Full-text or abstract available from ERIC" to find out if the document is available online.

- If the ERIC document is available online it will appear on the screen with the header "Document Resume."
- If a window opens indicating that you contact ERIC, the ERIC Document is not available online. Write down the ED number and bring it to the Social Sciences & Humanities Library Reference Area. The ERIC Documents are on microfiche in ED numerical order.
- A small number of ERIC documents are not available online or in microfiche, but check the Melvyl Catalog to find out if a UC library owns the document in print. You can then request it through Interlibrary Loan.
- DO NOT ORDER/PURCHASE ERIC DOCUMENTS. See bullets above.
- **Note:** See online guide "How to Get ERIC Documents" at <http://sshl.ucsd.edu/instruction/guides/getericdoc.html>



SAVE/PRINT/EMAIL RECORDS

Save records in a list for printing or emailing by marking the box next to the record numbers. Then click on **Save/Print/Email Records**. *Note:* This function does not apply to full-text online journal articles or full-text online ERIC documents; email or print those directly from their websites.



- To **Save**: Select Show (how you want your records displayed), select File Format. Insert disk, save in 3½ Floppy (A:) type a file name (e.g., **eric.doc**). Click **Save**.
- To **Email**: Select Show, type in email addresses in **To:** and **From:**, and click **Email**.
- To **Print**: Select Show and click Print/Preview. Click **Print** on your web browser to print the page.

HELP

For general help with ERIC, click on the small  button next to the database name **ERIC**. For help with a specific function, click on  next to that function.