ED5030 RESEARCH DESIGN

A Library Research Guide for Education and Special Education

Note: The titles of the sources listed below are hyperlinked to the online library catalog. Click on any title to get the full catalog record, then click on “Description” to see any contents notes or summaries. Some of these Reference sources are also available as eBooks. This is noted after each entry. To get the link to the electronic version, search the online library catalog by title and look for the online link. See more information on searching for eBooks in section V. DATABASE OF E-BOOKS, below. (The format of the citations is not in APA style, but rather a modified version of MLA, to indicate full author names, edition number, and number of volumes.)

I. REFERENCE SOURCES

A. DICTIONARIES OF EDUCATION
   Use these books to define educational terms and concepts.


B. HANDBOOKS OF EDUCATION
   These books attempt to give a one-volume overview of generally accepted fact and procedure.


C. ENCYCLOPEDIAS OF EDUCATION

More in-depth information than in dictionaries or handbooks; more extensive bibliographies.


Marlow-Ferguson, Rebecca (ed.). *World Education Encyclopedia: A Survey of Educational Systems Worldwide*. 2nd ed. 3 vols. Detroit: Gale Group, 2001.  REF LB15 .W87 2001  Note: The above title is also available in full text electronically via the Gale Virtual Reference Library database; connect from the Library Home Page under “Databases by Title”. A link to the electronic version is also available from the library online catalog; search by Title.


D. SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH METHODS


E. STATISTICAL INFORMATION SOURCES


New Hampshire Department of Education. *Statistical information on NH schools (for recent years) may be found on the Data Collection & Reports page of the New Hampshire Department of Education website: https://www.education.nh.gov/data/index.htm*

New Hampshire. State Dept. of Education. [*Statistics*]. Annual. Concord, NH: New Hampshire Dept. of Education. **Oversize LA328 .A2** – *A compilation of various NH K-12 school statistics, by district and state-wide, such as: enrollments, student/teacher ratios, salaries, district calendars, and expenditures per pupil. Years available run from 1960-61 to 2005-06 (with some years missing). For current data, see web link above.*


U.S. Department of Education. National Center for Education Statistics. *Digest of Education Statistics*. Annual. Washington, DC: G.P.O. **REF L111 .A35** – *Covers American education from kindergarten through graduate school. This is a compilation of data gathered mostly by the National Center for Education Statistics, but there is also information from private sources. Use this along with *The Statistical Abstract of the United States*. Most recent edition in Reference; earlier in circulating. Also accessible online; see link on online catalog.*


### II. SEARCHING THE LIBRARY CATALOG

Although it is now possible to use the online library catalog to search for both books and articles, **it is strongly recommended that you use the online library catalog ONLY to search for BOOKS (print or eBooks) and DVDs. For ARTICLES, it is recommended that you search one of the recommended databases (see the next section).** For a precise search of the library catalog, click on the “Advanced Search” link, just above the basic search box. Then, to search by SUBJECT, change the field name at left to “Subject” and type your term in the box on the right. Then, below the search boxes, you may also want to click “Limit your search” and, under “Format”, choose “Book” (which will include both print and eBooks), then click the Search button.

**NOTE:** Lamson Library now subscribes to a database of over 180,000 eBooks.  
See section V. DATABASE OF E-BOOKS, below.

### III. DATABASES OF JOURNAL ARTICLES

**Academic Search Premier**

- *Academic Search Premier* is Lamson Library’s primary electronic periodical index. It provides indexing and abstracts of articles from nearly 13,600 scholarly and popular publications covering all academic subjects. Nearly 12,000 of these are peer-reviewed journals. Full text articles are provided from over 4,700 periodicals. **This database is the recommended starting point for most searches for periodical articles.**
• Connect from the Library Home Page http://library.plymouth.edu; from first screen, click on “Library Databases”, then click on Academic Search Premier. Use the “Subject Terms” button at top to verify subject terms. This resource is also available off campus to PSU students, faculty, and staff; connect via the Plymouth portal: my.plymouth.edu – then go to the Library Home Page and follow the steps above.

**ERIC**

- A database from the Educational Resources Information Center, the most specialized and comprehensive research system covering all aspects of educational theory and practice at all levels. Provides references to articles and studies from over 1000 education journals, and from over 400,000 documents (such as papers presented at professional conferences, but also including such materials as lesson plans, curriculum guides, and annotated bibliographies). Coverage from 1966 to present.

- While there are free Web links available to ERIC, the most efficient way to search ERIC is via EBSCOhost – links to any full text articles or documents will appear under the citations. Lamson Library has all ERIC documents (ED numbers) from 1966 to present on microfiche; those published from 1993 to present may also be available in full text online; ask for assistance at the Reference Desk.

- Connect to ERIC from the Library’s Home Page; follow instructions above regarding connecting to Academic Search Premier; from the list of databases available, select ERIC. Use the “Thesaurus” button at top to verify subject terms. This resource is also available off campus to PSU students, faculty, and staff; connect via the Plymouth portal: my.plymouth.edu – then go to the Library Home Page and follow the steps indicated under Academic Search Premier above.

**NOTE:** When searching the ERIC database for research studies, the following step might be useful:
*On the initial screen, below the search boxes, see the section “Limit your results”, then find “Publication Type”, and, under this, choose “Reports – Research”*

 Combine any ERIC DESCRIPTOR (Subject) with any of the following DESCRIPTORS to focus on a level:

- elementary education
- elementary school students
- secondary education
- high school students
- middle school students
- junior high school students
- grade 6 [or any other grade number]
- elementary secondary education [used for K-12]  

**Other useful ERIC DESCRIPTORS:**
- lesson plans
- units of study
- curriculum guides
- class activities
- teaching methods
- academic achievement

**PsycINFO**

- PsycINFO contains over 3.2 million citations and summaries of journal articles, book chapters, books, dissertations, and technical reports, all in the field of psychology and the psychological aspects of related disciplines, such as education, medicine, psychiatry, nursing, sociology, pharmacology, physiology, linguistics, anthropology, technology, business, and law. Coverage is from 1597 – present, with comprehensive coverage from the 1880s. Nearly 2,500 journals are covered, written in dozens of languages. This database is updated weekly on EBSCOhost. The database is indexed with the controlled vocabulary from APA’s Thesaurus of Psychological Index Terms, available online by clicking the “Thesaurus” button above the search boxes. **Note:** A link will indicate whether the full text of the article is available in another EBSCO database, and the link will take you to this full text.

- Connect from Library Home Page following instructions above for connecting to databases; select PsycINFO. This resource is also available off campus to PSU students, faculty, and staff; connect via the Plymouth portal: my.plymouth.edu – then go to the Library Home Page and follow the steps above.

**IV. DATABASE OF REFERENCE E-BOOKS**

*Gale Virtual Reference Library* (GVRL) provides 24/7 electronic access to the full text of a selected group of reference sources. Lamson librarians have selected a number of key authoritative and useful reference sources for this electronic collection. We have print copies of most of these. Sources cover 15 general subject areas. Most
are multi-volume sets. As of February, 2018, the collection selected by Lamson Library includes over 120 titles and nearly 900 volumes. With the search capabilities of GVRL, users may search this entire collection, just a group of titles within one or more of these four subject areas, or an individual title. Users have many options in searching, including by keyword, document title, author, or in the full text. Full text is delivered in HTML, with the option of seeing the full page image in PDF format as well. There is also the option to mark or e-mail documents for later use. Connect from the Library Home Page as described under Academic Search Premier, above.

V. DATABASE OF E-BOOKS
We now have over 180,000 eBooks from the database titled eBook Academic Collection. However, since these are all included in our library catalog, and since the catalog also includes other eBooks, the best strategy is to search the catalog. Click “Advanced Search” and enter your topic in the Subject field. Scroll down to “Format” and choose “eBook”. Click “Search”. From the results page, you can change the “Sort by” box to Date (Newest First). For info on how to view and download eBooks, look in the right frame of the Library Home Page for “Quick Links for Students”, and use the drop-down menu to select “Accessing Library eBooks”. Here is the direct link to this: http://library.plymouth.edu/ebooks

VI. LOCATING PERIODICALS IN THE LIBRARY
All periodicals that the Library owns are listed on the online library catalog, with inclusive dates, formats, and locations. Search by TITLE, and type in full title of the journal.

All paper copies of periodical issues are now located on the new compact shelving on the Lower Level (beginning just outside the entrance to the Writing Center). All microfiche or microfilm back issues are also located on the Lower Level. Periodical microfiche is located across from entrance to Writing Center. Microfiche for ERIC documents, Kraus K-12 Curriculum Guides, and all microfilm is located along the wall at the back of the K-12 Curriculum Collection on the Lower Level. Free paper copies may be made from microfiche or microfilm. Ask for assistance at the main Information Desk on the Main Level. In all formats, periodicals are filed in alphabetical order by title of the journal.

“I’ve got a citation to a journal article. How do I quickly find the full text of this article?”
If you already have a citation to a specific periodical article you are looking for, or you want to browse articles in a specific journal, here are the steps to determine whether we have electronic access to the full text of articles from a given journal OR whether we have a physical copy in the library:

1. From the Library Website, click the “Journals” tab above the basic catalog search box.
2. Type the title of the journal in the search box, and hit Enter.
3. The next screen will be from our library catalog. Click on the title of the journal you were seeking.
4. If we have electronic access to the full text of this journal, look for “Access journal” links under “Access Full Text Online”.
5. Click on “Access journal” for online access from either a database or the publisher. (You will have an opportunity to select a specific issue, or to browse multiple issues.)
6. If the journal is not available in full text electronically, the physical library holdings information will be on the library catalog page under “Plymouth State University”.

(Please feel free to ask for assistance with this at the Reference Desk.)

VII. OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES (OER)
Open Educational Resources are teaching, learning, and research resources that reside in the public domain or have been released under a copyright license that allows anyone to freely use and repurpose them.

See this LibGuide on Open Educational Resources (and Copyright information), compiled by PSU Librarian Christin Wixson: http://library.plymouth.edu/copyright/oer. (The link to this LibGuide is on the library website, under “Quick Links for Faculty”, bottom right.)