

ERIC (ProQuest)

The ERIC (Educational Resources Information Center) database is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education to provide access to educational-related literature. ERIC provides coverage of journal articles, conferences, meetings, government documents, theses, dissertations, reports, audiovisual media, bibliographies, directories, books and monographs. The database is updated monthly.

Access

- Access ERIC from the [GOS-ICH Library website](#);
- Click on Eric (Educational Resources Information Center);
- Click on the **UCL logo**.

Basic Search

- Type a word or phrase into the search box, e.g. inclusive education;
- Click on the **search** icon;
- You may need to think about different ways of describing your topic in order to retrieve all relevant material from the database. You can link your keywords using **AND** or **OR**.

Boolean operators:

AND searches for records containing **all** search terms used – this will reduce the number of hits, but those found will be more relevant e.g. mainstreaming and autism

OR searches for records that contain **any** of the terms e.g. children or infants or adolescents – best used for synonyms

- There are other search tips that can help you to find all the relevant documents that are indexed in the ERIC:

Truncation To retrieve variations of a free text search term, use the truncation symbol *, e.g. educ* would retrieve educate, educates, educators, education etc.

Wild Card To find alternative prefixes to a word, or to find variant letters within a word, use the wild card symbol ?. The number of wild card symbols specifies the number of letters, e.g. wom?n finds women or woman. Ad??? finds added, adult, adopt, etc.

Phrase searching To specify a phrase within a search, surround it with double quotation marks e.g. “inclusive education”

Advanced Search

If you wish to use more than a couple of keywords, select **Advanced Search**. Enter your keywords, or phrases, into one of more of the search boxes.

The screenshot shows the ERIC Advanced Search interface. It features two search boxes: the first contains the phrase ""inclusive education" OR "inclusive schools"" and the second contains "child* OR adolescen*". Below the search boxes is a dropdown menu for combining terms, currently set to "AND". There are also options for search limits: "ERIC linked full text", "ERIC documents only", "ERIC journals only", and "Peer reviewed" (which is selected). A "Publication date" dropdown is set to "All dates". A "Search" button and a "Clear form" link are at the bottom right. A blue box highlights the search boxes and the search button.

- To make your search more specific, you can choose the fields you would like to search (e.g. author, title, etc.)
- Choose to combine your terms with **AND, OR** or **NOT**
- Beneath the search boxes, select any **limits** you wish to apply (e.g. publication date range, English language only)
- Click on **Search**

Thesaurus Search

The thesaurus is a list of descriptors that are used to index materials in ERIC. These descriptors are used to organise ERIC by subject.

If you find a descriptor for your topic, you shouldn't need to search for variant terminology, or variant spellings. (E.g. a search for the descriptor "inclusive education" will also find material that mentions "inclusive schools".)

- Click on **Thesaurus**, above the search boxes on the Advanced Search screen;
- Type in a key word or phrase, e.g. inclusive education, and click on **Find**.

A list of keywords that match your topic will appear.

- Click in the check box next to the descriptor that matches your topic (If you have searched for 'inclusive education', you will need to click on the link to find the relevant subject heading, which is 'inclusion'.);
- Make sure the checkbox to the right of the descriptor (in the **Explode** column) is also ticked, This will ensure all narrower terms are included in the search
- Click on **Add to search**.

The descriptor that you selected will appear in the top search box on the **Advanced Search** screen. Click on **Thesaurus** again to add additional descriptors to your search.

Recent Searches

Each search you conduct is listed on the **Recent Searches** page. From this screen you can combine your searches:

- Click on **Recent Searches** below the search box;

- To combine your searches, type the set numbers of the searches you wish to combine into the search box, linked with AND or OR.

The combined set numbers

1 and 2 Search

Search tips

Examples: 1 AND 3 or "6"
(1 AND 3) OR (1 AND 2)
3 NOT treatment

Items selected: 0 Delete Save | Show all details | Export all searches

	Set	Search	Databases	Results	Actions
3	S3	SU.EXACT.EXPLODE("Teacher Attitudes") AND SU.EXACT.EXPLODE("Inclusion")	ERIC	543*	Actions
2	S2	SU.EXACT.EXPLODE("Inclusion")	ERIC	2,860*	Actions
1	S1	SU.EXACT.EXPLODE("Teacher Attitudes")	ERIC	54,561*	Actions

The results of the combined searches

Displaying Results

Your search can be refined further from the **Results** screen. To the left of the screen, there are options to narrow the search by publication year, language, document type, etc. Once you make a selection, your results will be adjusted automatically.

To view articles that are similar in topic to any one of the results:

- Click on the title of the result you are interested in

- From the options to the right of the screen, you can view **Related items**. You can also click on **Cited** by to view other articles in the database that have included this article in their reference lists.

Save or Export Your Results

Select the results you wish to save or export by clicking in the check boxes next to each result (or use the checkbox at the top of the list to select all results on the screen), then select from the options: **cite**; **email**, **print** or **save** the results list:



To save results within ERIC, click on **Save** and select **Save to My Research** - You will be prompted to create a **My Research** account. The results will be saved permanently within your account. To access these results from ERIC at a later date, click on the folder (in the top right corner of the screen) and sign in.

Email - Send your results to one or more people. You can select a citation style.

Print - You can select a citation style.

Cite – Use this to copy the references, in your selected style, so that they can be pasted into a Word document.

Save – Use this option to export references to bibliographic management software, for example, choose RIS to export to Endnote, Mendeley, etc.

Save Search Strategies and Create Alerts

- Click on **Recent Searches** below the search box;
- Click on **Actions** to the right of the search you wish to save and select Save Search.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Set ▾	Search	Databases	Results !	Actions
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	S3	SU.EXACT.EXPLODE("Inclusion") AND SU.EXACT.EXPLODE("Teacher Attitudes")	ERIC	193*	Actions ▾ <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Save search <input type="checkbox"/> Delete <input type="checkbox"/> Create alert <input type="checkbox"/> Create RSS feed <input type="checkbox"/> Get link </div>
<input type="checkbox"/>	S2	SU.EXACT.EXPLODE("Teacher Attitudes")	ERIC	45848*	
<input type="checkbox"/>	S1	SU.EXACT.EXPLODE("Inclusion")	ERIC	1152*	

* Approximate result count without duplicates

You will be asked to sign in, if you have not already done so, and create a name for your search. Click on **Recent Searches** and then **Saved searches** to access the saved search.

If you wish to receive e-mails listing any new publications that are added to ERIC and that match your search criteria, click on **Save search/alert** from the drop-down menu above the search results. Click on **Create alert** and complete the form.

Further Information

For further information or support in using ERIC, please contact the Library by e-mail: ich.library@ucl.ac.uk.

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www.ucl.ac.uk/child-health/support-services/library