Finding peer-reviewed articles

- Education Research Complete
- Education Full Text
- ERIC
- Quest

Database searching tips

- Use quotation marks to search for an exact phrase  
  o Ex. “Response to intervention”
- Use truncation (*) to search for words with multiple endings  
  o Autis* = both “autistic” and “autism”
  o Disab* = “disabled” “disability” “disabilities”
- Use AND, OR, & NOT to narrow or broaden your search  
  o Searching with AND narrows your search with each word or phrase you add. It asks the database for only those results with both / all of the entered words or phrases.  
    ▪ “Literacy” AND “Adolescents”
  o Using OR makes your search broader. You are asking the database for either / any of the words or phrases.  
    ▪ ESL OR ELL
    ▪ Teens OR Adolescents
  o Using NOT narrows your search by removing some of your search results.  
    ▪ ELL NOT Spanish
- Use the database thesaurus (or a standard thesaurus) to find synonyms to your keyword
- Use the subject headings (these may differ by database) to find related articles
- You can also:
  o Limit to only peer-reviewed publications
  o Limit by publication date (see only articles published in, for example, the last 5 years)
  o Limit by geography (Ex. United States)
  o Limit by document type (Ex. Article. This is especially important in ERIC)
  o Limit to only those articles available in full text in that particular database
- If an article isn’t available in full text in one database don’t give up! You can:
  o Click the “Find full text” button to search for the article in other UMW Libraries databases
  o Use ILL (Inter-library Loan) to have a copy of the article sent from another library. (You can do the same thing with books!) http://libraries.umw.edu/interlibrary-loan-ill/

Need help? Contact your librarian, the Reference Desk, or find more information online!

Elizabeth Heitsch  Simpson Reference Desk  Online Research Guide

540-654-1742  540-654-1148  eheitsch@umw.edu  refdesk@umw.edu  http://libguides.umw.edu/educ