Finding peer-reviewed articles
- Education Research Complete
- Education Full Text
- ERIC
- Quest

Finding legal information
- Nexis Uni
- Virginia Code: law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode

Database searching tips
- Use quotation marks to search for an exact phrase
  - Ex. “Merit pay”
- Use AND, OR, & NOT to narrow or broaden your search
  - 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.
    - “Teacher salaries” AND “Collective bargaining”
  - Using OR makes your search broader. You are asking the database for either / any of the words or phrases.
    - “Merit pay” OR “Performance pay” OR “Pay for performance”
    - “Teachers’ unions” OR “Collective bargaining”
  - Using NOT narrows your search by removing some of your search results.
    - Compensation NOT psychology
    - Compensation (remuneration) vs Compensation (psychology)
- Use truncation (*) to search for words with multiple endings
  - Salar* = salary OR salaries OR salaried
- 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:
  - Limit by publication date (see only articles published in, for example, the last 5 years)
  - Limit to only peer-reviewed publications
  - Limit by geography (Ex. United States)
  - Limit by document type (Ex. Article. This is especially important in ERIC)
  - 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:
  - Click the “Check for full text” button to search for the article in other UMW Libraries databases
  - 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
540-654-1742
eheitsch@umw.edu

Simpson Reference Desk
540-654-1148
refdesk@umw.edu

Online Research Guides
http://libguides.umw.edu/educ420

http://libguides.umw.edu/educ