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
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Simpson Reference Desk
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refdesk@umw.edu

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