

# Education databases: Step-by-step

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## Howdy

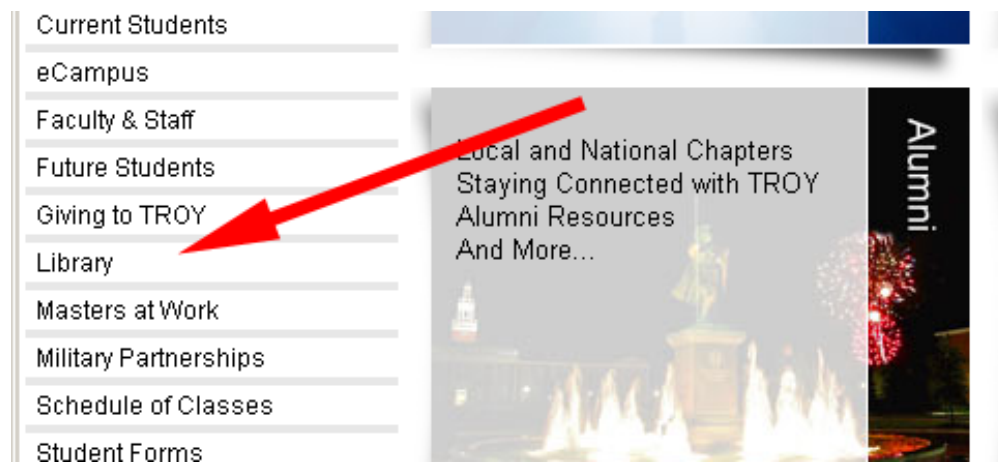
The following presentation presents some step-by-step examples on how to search the TROY Library databases.

This is a casual look at a limited selection of resources.



## Where

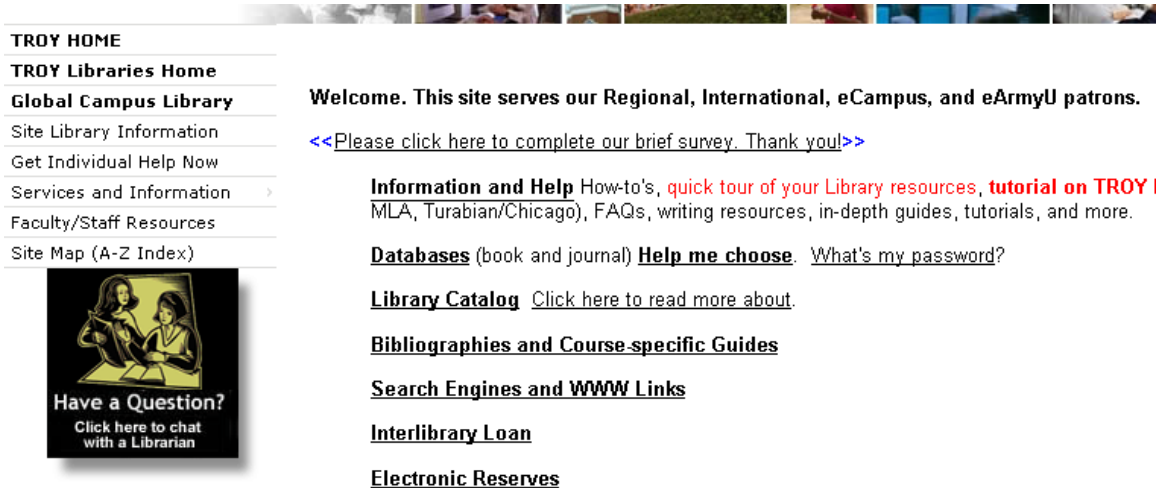
Start at the TROY Global Campus Library site. You can go there directly <http://uclibrary.troy.edu>. Or, from the University home page, [troy.edu](http://troy.edu), select *Library* (from the left-side menu) and then choose *Global Campus Library*. For those taking eCampus classes, the Library is linked from Blackboard. For those in Troy University's Southeast Region, from your local TROY site, just click the Library link on the left side of the screen (pictured below).



## What

The Library offers a myriad of resources...

SNAPSHOT of the TROY Global Campus Library site:



**TROY HOME**  
**TROY Libraries Home**  
**Global Campus Library**  
Site Library Information  
Get Individual Help Now  
Services and Information >  
Faculty/Staff Resources  
Site Map (A-Z Index)

**Welcome. This site serves our Regional, International, eCampus, and eArmyU patrons.**  
<<[Please click here to complete our brief survey. Thank you!](#)>>

**Information and Help** How-to's, [quick tour of your Library resources](#), [tutorial on TROY I](#) MLA, Turabian/Chicago), FAQs, writing resources, in-depth guides, tutorials, and more.

**Databases** (book and journal) [Help me choose](#). [What's my password?](#)

**Library Catalog** [Click here to read more about](#).

**Bibliographies and Course-specific Guides**

**Search Engines and WWW Links**

**Interlibrary Loan**

**Electronic Reserves**

**Have a Question?**  
Click here to chat with a Librarian

...but today we want to focus on **databases**—storehouses of books, journal articles, and other documents.

The databases are linked from the Library site.

PICTURE (close up of the snapshot above):

**Information and Help** How-to's, [quick tour of your Library resources](#), [tutor](#) MLA, Turabian/Chicago), FAQs, writing resources, in-depth guides, tutorials

**Databases** (book and journal) [Help me choose](#). [What's my password?](#)

**Library Catalog** [Click here to read more about](#)

**Bibliographies and Course-specific Guides**

## Help me choose

Clicking the *Help me choose* link will tell you things such as:

ARTICLES: Your first choices should be the following databases: **ERIC**, **Professional Collection**, **Professional Development Collection**, and **ProQuest Education Journals**.

BOOKS: For broad coverage of all subject areas: **NetLibrary**. A secondary choice is **Ebook Library**. For reference books on all disciplines, **Credo Reference**.

## Password

To get into the Library databases, the username and password are your TROY e-mail username and password.

## And ... go!

To get in, start at the Library...



## The plan

We are going to look at three databases.

- An article database, *ProQuest Education Journals*
- A book database, *NetLibrary*
- Two version of the *ERIC* database—a database for journals and documents

## Pardon the interruption... A word from our sponsors

As you use the databases, it is a good idea to note (in writing) **where you went**, **what terms you searched on**, and what materials you read/printed/saved for use in your research. Besides just being a good practice, you will need the name of the database when you write your references. For example:

Tedford, J. (2008). When remedial means what it says: How teachers use data to reform instructional interventions. *High School Journal*, 92(2), 28-37. Retrieved from ProQuest Education Journals database.

If you need help with documentation style, look in the *Information and Help* section of the Library site. Goodies await you there.



## ROUND ONE—ProQuest Education Journals

We are looking for articles from journals.

On the Library site, click on the link that says *Databases*.

Scroll down until you see *ProQuest Education Journals*.

Click on its name and sign in using your TROY e-mail username and password.


You should be here...



Library\_journals\_stack.jpg (JPEG image...)

Basic Search

# ProQuest

**Basic** Advanced Topics Publications  My Research  
[0 marked items](#)


[Databases selected:](#) ProQuest Education Journals


## Basic Search

Tools: [Search Tips](#) [Browse Topics](#)

Database:

Date range:

Limit results to:  Full text documents only 

Scholarly journals, including peer-reviewed  [About](#)

To keep things simple, let's check the checkboxes for "Full text documents only," and "Scholarly journals, including peer-reviewed."

The search words for our sample search are: *charter schools*

PICTURE:

Basic Advanced Topics Publications My Research  
0 marked items

Databases selected: ProQuest Education Journals

Basic Search Tools: Search Tips Browse

charter schools Search

Database: Education - Education Journals Select multiple da

Date range: All dates

Limit results to:  Full text documents only  Scholarly journals, including peer-reviewed About

PICTURE (right) is the result of the search. Snoop around on the results page. Investigate how things are labeled. Try out the various links.

ProQuest

Basic Advanced Topics Publications My Research  
0 marked items

Databases selected: ProQuest Education Journals

Results – powered by ProQuest® Smart Search

Suggested Topics About

Charter schools  
Charter schools AND Public schools  
Charter schools AND Education reform  
Charter schools AND Education policy

Charter schools AND Education  
Charter schools AND Academic achievement  
Charter schools AND Students  
Charter schools AND School districts

< Previous | Next >

266 documents found for: *charter schools* » Refine Search | Set Up Alert | Create RSS Feed

Scholarly Journals

Mark all 0 marked items: Email / Cite / Export Show all documents Sort res

1. **When Remedial Means What It Says: How Teachers Use Data to Reform Instructional Interventions**  
Jennifer Tedford. **The High School Journal**. Chapel Hill: Dec 2008/Jan 2009. Vol. 92, Iss. 2; p. 28 (9 pages)  
> 15 references  
Abstract | Full text | Full Text - PDF (601 K)

2. **Captivate MenuBuilder: Creating an Online Tutorial for Teaching Software**  
Kathryn Yelinek, Lynn Tamowski, Patricia Hannon, Susan Oliver. **The Clearing House**. Washington: Now/Dec 2008. Vol. 8.  
> 3 references  
Abstract | Full text | Full Text - PDF (1 MB)

3. **Americans Speak Out - Are Educators And Policy Makers Listening?**  
William J. Bushaw, Alec M. Galbin, Chester F. Finn, Jr., Linda Darling-Hammond, et al. **Phi Delta Kappan**. Bloomington: Sep

## ROUND TWO—*NetLibrary*

We are looking for books.

From the Library site, choose *Databases*, and log in to *NetLibrary*.

On the Basic Search page, the best search options (from a drop-down menu) are Keyword, Subject, Author, or Title—NOT Full-Text. All the books have the complete text available. In this case, what they mean by Full-Text is, "Do you want the databases to search every word of 50,000 books for these terms?" That is probably not the way to go. Keyword should search by the Author, Title, and Subject(s) of a book and is a good way to go. The Advanced Search page offers other ways to search as well.



Try a Subject search for: *charter schools*

A screenshot of the NetLibrary search interface. At the top, the NetLibrary logo is displayed next to the text "Welcome to the Troy University eContent Collection". Below this is a search bar with a dropdown menu set to "Subject" and the text "charter schools" entered. To the right of the search bar is a dropdown menu set to "English" and a "Search" button. Below the search bar, there is a link for "Advanced Search" and a section for "Recent Searches".

**NetLibrary**  
Welcome to the Troy University eContent Collection

» Basic Search ?

Subject [v] charter schools English [v] Search

[Advanced Search](#)

Recent Searches

You should be able to figure out how to get into the books (read them), so let's answer a question or two and ask one as well.

**ANSWER:**

Depending on the individual book, you may (or may not) be able to print or save some (but, never all) of the text. Mostly, you will need to read them online. In the *PsycBooks* database, a database that may also interest you, **all** of the text can be saved and printed. It can be confusing, that is why you have librarians—information professionals—to help you.

**QUESTION:**

Can you find the Reference Center in *NetLibrary*? If so, look at the education area.

**ANOTHER ANSWER:**

Yes, we have regular (print) books. To find those, you use the *Library Catalog* and then request the material be sent to you via *Interlibrary Loan*. We are concentrating on the databases today, but we wanted to reassure you that we do have other books for you, which will be sent to you quickly and at no charge.

**Help ... don't be afraid to ask**

From the TROY Global Campus Library home page, click on the link for *Get Individual Help* now to learn how to contact your Library staff.

Help is available by phone, e-mail, and 24/7 Live Chat ... make that Live **Chat**.



### **ROUND THREE—A tale of two ERICs**

ERIC. Education Resources Information Center.

A database, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, containing more than a million bibliographic records of journal articles and other education-related materials. These resources are divided into two groups, articles and documents. The first, journal articles, are identified by the abbreviation EJ preceding the numerals. The second, documents (reports, studies, etc.) are identified by the letters ED preceding the numerals.

To repeat a portion of that description, ERIC indexes journal articles, but it also indexes documents. The documents indexed by ERIC are things such as conference papers, technical reports, and policy papers. The text of most, but not all, documents (but not journal articles) is provided within the database.

ERIC is your tax dollars at work, i.e., it is freely available online at <http://www.eric.ed.gov>. This is a public version of ERIC.

The two versions of the ERIC database **linked from the Library** are value added. They are your tuition dollars at work. The primary value that is added by the vendors from which TROY contracts these services, is the full text of journal articles. Each version looks and works slightly differently. On the Library's databases page, one version is labeled simply *ERIC*, the other as *ERIC Plus Text*. They both have text; the second one just has a better name (marketing-wise). Try them both.

Again, to keep this simple, I will point out only one special thing to look for ... **the thesaurus**. The thesaurus helps you with controlled vocabulary (it helps you translate your topic into ERIC-speak). I will not walk you through the thesaurus, but you **must try it out**. You can look through it to find search terms and it also provides functionality to let you build a search in the search box, straight from the thesaurus. The thesaurus in each version of ERIC works slightly differently, but the same functionality is present in both.

When you hear the word *thesaurus*, you probably think synonyms—words that mean the same as another, e.g., plan, design, plot, scheme. That is one definition of a thesaurus, but there is another ... one of controlled vocabulary.

what did you do while i was at work today?

oh, i've just been agreeably perusing a volume bearing the appellation of "the thesaurus"








<http://www.matthewktabor.com>

The *Thesaurus of ERIC Descriptors* is a carefully selected list of education-related words and phrases assigned to ERIC records to organize them by subject and make them easier to retrieve through a search.

While you can search by words of your choosing, doing so requires matching the exact words found in a record, while searching by Descriptors from the thesaurus allows you to locate records, regardless of the terminology the author may have used.

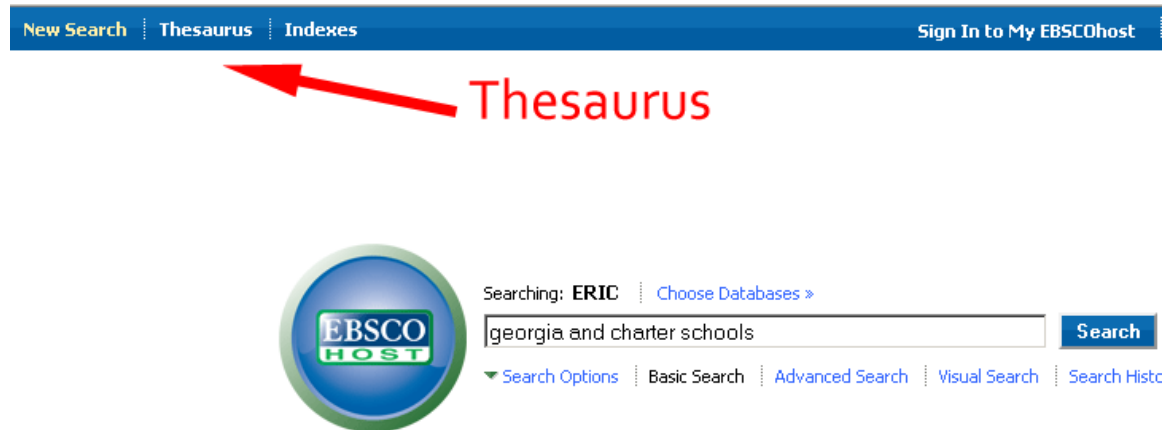
When you search ERIC, it looks for the terms you enter in sections of the record such as author, title, and abstract, but it also looks in the list of **DESCRIPTORS**.

on  [PDF Full Text](#)    

<b>Title:</b>	Dual Enrollment in Georgia's High Schools and Technical Colleges
<b>Author(s):</b>	<a href="#">Lynch, Richard</a> ; <a href="#">Hill, Frieda</a>
<b>Source:</b>	<a href="#">Techniques: Connecting Education and Careers</a> , v83 n7 p28-31 Oct 2008. 4 pp
<b>ISSN:</b>	1527-1803
<b>Descriptors:</b>	<a href="#">Credentials</a> , <a href="#">High Schools</a> , <a href="#">Career Planning</a> , <a href="#">Student Attitudes</a> , <a href="#">Technical Institutions</a> , <a href="#">Colleges</a> , <a href="#">Dual Enrollment</a> , <a href="#">Program Effectiveness</a> , <a href="#">Research Design</a> , <a href="#">Transition Programs</a> , <a href="#">Access to Education</a> , <a href="#">Educational Administration</a> , <a href="#">Students</a> , <a href="#">Disproportionate Representation</a> , <a href="#">Interviews</a> , <a href="#">Surveys</a> , <a href="#">High Schools</a> , <a href="#">Higher Education</a> , <a href="#">Postsecondary Education</a> , <a href="#">Secondary Education</a>
<b>Identifiers:</b>	Georgia, Attitude Toward School
<b>Abstract:</b>	Georgia conducted a multiphase, mixed methods study over three years (2003-2005) to determine whether credit-based transition programs facilitate college access and success for students who participate in them. The study, conducted in collaboration with funding from the Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) and with cooperation from the Georgia Department of Education and the University System of Georgia (USG), specifically on dual enrollment of high school students in technical colleges and subsequent transition into a public college or university; policies and processes for administering the program; benefits and challenges; and how dual enrollment affects students, high schools and colleges that participate. Among the findings is a marked increase in the number of participants in the state's dual enrollment programs, access to colleges for more students, especially for those who were historically underrepresented; nearly all dual enrolled students experienced postsecondary success in the technical college courses; and large numbers of participants ear

In *ERIC* (the one accessed via the EBSCO Company), we will search on the terms: *georgia and charter schools*

PICTURE:



Poke around in the results list.

PICTURE:

. By: Johnson, Amy Suzanne; Kezak, Achariya Ianya; Hodges, *Georgia*. Reading Teacher, v62 n1 p54-63 Sep 2008. (EJ817117)  
[PDF Full Text](#)  
[Add to folder](#)  
[Show all 5 images](#)

2. [States Eye Looser Rein on Districts](#)   
. By: Jacobson, Linda. Education Week, v27 n26 p1, 18 Mar 2008. (EJ787772)  
[HTML Full Text](#)  
[Add to folder](#)

3. [School Choice: Policy Developments and National Participation Estimates in 2007-2008. Backgrounder. No. 2102 \[with Executive Summary\]](#)   
. By: Lips, Dan. Heritage Foundation. 2008 14 pp. (ED501500)  
[Full Text from ERIC](#)  
[Add to folder](#)

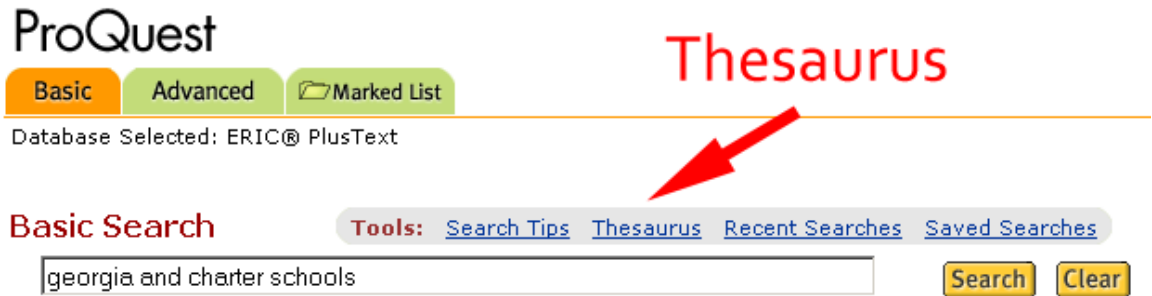
4. [Creating Quality Choices: Charters. Closing the Achievement Gap Series](#)   
. By: Read, Triv. Annie F. Casey Foundation. 2008 8 pp. (FD500487)

**EJ = Journal** (with arrow pointing to the first result)

**ED = Document** (with arrow pointing to the third result)

Try the other ERIC ... *ERIC Plus Text* (from the ProQuest Company).

PICTURE:



QUESTION:

So what are the differences  
between the two ERICs?

ANSWER:

The answers mostly involve things  
that make my head hurt (truly),  
and I don't want to pass a  
headache on to you.



The main thing to keep in mind is that even though both boxes of  
information (the databases) contain references to just about the same  
information (items), the identical search, performed in each database, may  
yield slightly different results in terms of the items found, the order in  
which the items are presented, and which items are provided in full text.  
My suggestion ... use them both.



This publication was written by Jay Brandes, Reference Librarian, Troy  
University. Available online at the TROY Global Campus Library site  
<http://uclibrary.troy.edu> in the *Information and Help* section.