

Library Resources and Research Strategies for Education

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USC Libraries' Electronic Resources:

<http://was.usc.edu/eresources/isd/>

Electronic Resources

New! USC Scholars Portal! search multiple resources together.

QuickLinks

Use this form to access the combined electronic resources of the USC Libraries and the Health Sciences Library. Note that the subject search is an "OR" search. When both a Health Sciences and USC Libraries subject are specified, results will be returned for resources matching at least one subject classification.

Combined Search

Title _____ SEARCH TIPS

Keyword _____

USC Libraries Subjects **All**

Health Sciences Subjects **All**

Format All Databases eJournals
 eBooks Selected Web Sites

Choose display option Brief List With descriptions

Search

Search

A-Z Listings

Databases

Ebooks

Ejournals

Full-text journals from databases or collections

Web Sites

Subject Listings

Help

New Electronic Resources

Resource of the Month

Remote Access

Report a Broken Link

Usage Guidelines

Find Articles from the Quicklink menu above.

- **ERIC:** Most comprehensive index of educational materials, 1966 -
- **Expanded Academic ASAP:** Index to articles from scholarly and popular sources, 1980-present, many in full text.
- **JSTOR:** Full-text research journals in the social sciences, humanities, and sciences.
- **Proquest Direct:** Index to scholarly, popular, and newspaper articles, many in full text. Includes full text of the *Los Angeles Times* from 1985-.
- **PsycInfo** Index to journal articles, book chapters, dissertations, and governmental agency reports in psychology and related fields. Covers 1887-

look at relevant descriptors in the record

best practices teaching higher education

present. Using the Thesaurus provides you with the correct descriptors to refine your search.

- **PsychARTICLES:** Full text articles published by the APA, the APA Educational Publishing Foundation, the Canadian Psychological Association, and Hogrefe & Huber.
- **Lexis-Nexis:** Full text from domestic and international newspapers and news magazines, and business and legal publications.

Find More Articles: Search Specialized Subject Article Index Databases

Article indexes for a specific subject area may be accessed from a list of subjects from the "Subject Listings" link on the right side of the page above.

Recommended specialized-subject article indexes for education topics:

- **Current Research at University of Southern California:** Full text USC dissertations 1996 -
- **Dissertation Abstracts :** Dissertations from the entire U.S. 1861 -
- **Education Abstracts:** Encompasses all areas of concern to today's educators, including administration, teaching methods, and curriculum. Updated monthly.
- **International ERIC:** Combines Australian Education index and British Education index
- **Wilson Education Full Text** Primarily scholarly journal articles 1994 – present, in full-text.

Develop a Search Strategy for Your Research Topic

Develop a topic. What questions do you need to answer about the topic? Brainstorm for keywords and key phrases that express the major concepts or issues involved, including synonyms and related terms.

Examples: Topic and Keywords

Topic: To what extent, if any, is the fast food industry responsible for American obesity?

Keywords and key phrases: fast food, obesity, Americans.

Keywords and key phrases for related issues: obesity epidemic, diet, nutrition, children, adults, fast food marketing, advertising, schools, television, "junk food," diabetes, heart disease, exercise, lawsuits, McDonald's.

Search for Articles in an Article Indexing Database

Use combinations of keywords that represent the key concepts you are interested in. Remember to join your key words and key phrases together with **and**. It is often necessary to do several different searches to gather articles relevant to your topic.

Examples: Keyword Searches

fast food and obesity; fast food and lawsuits; obesity and children; schools and fast food; fast food and advertising and television

Evaluate Search Results

- Skim the list of article citations: Do your keywords appear in any of them?
- Read article abstracts: How well does each article pertain to your topic?
- What kind of information does each citation/abstract/article appear to provide about your topic? Is it a research findings report, critical analysis, editorial or commentary, news report, or investigative report?
- Consider the currency of each citation--when was the article published? This will be more or less important, depending on your topic.
- Scholarly v. popular: What kind of article is it? Many research assignments require you to find articles from scholarly journals. Use the table below and analyze your citations/abstracts/articles for these characteristics:

Scholarly Journal Articles	Popular Magazine Articles
Published in an academic journal; may be described as refereed or peer-reviewed	Published in a popular, general interest, or news magazine
Author is expert on topic or scholar	Author may be lay reporter
Specialized audience of peers or students	Audience includes general public
Goal is to inform or present research	Goal is often to entertain or persuade
Research-based	Report events or findings of others
Includes sources: footnotes and bibliography	Sources may not be cited formally
Vocabulary is complex and technical	Vocabulary is familiar, non-technical

Graphics used to illustrate a point	Graphics used for visual impact
Titles may include the words <i>Journal</i> , <i>Review</i> , or <i>Annals</i> ; and/or refer to a field of study. Examples: <i>Anthropology & Education Quarterly</i> , <i>Journal of Higher Education</i>	Titles are often general, usually catchier Examples: <i>People Weekly</i> , <i>Newsweek</i>
Published monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, or annually	Published weekly or monthly

Locate Articles

Some article databases contain some articles in full-text; however, many do not. If only the citation and abstract are available, you will have to look elsewhere for the complete article:

- 1) Search for full-text access to the journal through other USC databases. Click the Full-text journals from databases or collections link (see page 1). Type in the journal title to find out which databases provide full-text of that journal.
- 2) Look in Homer (USC library catalog—see page 1) to see if a USC library has a print subscription to the journal your article is in. Type in the journal name (not the article title) and click on “Periodical Search.”
- 3) If USC does not own the journal your article is in, you may request the article via Interlibrary Loan (see page 1) and USC will obtain a copy for you from a library that owns the journal. Caveat: It can take 1-2 weeks to receive articles.

Search for Books

Homer, the USC library catalog, lists books owned by the libraries on the University Park Campus. Access Homer through Quicklinks (see page 1). Search for books by using the same or similar keywords or key phrases that you used to search an article index database, and click on “Search Everything.” You may also search for specific titles and works by specific authors.

Citing Your Sources

Citing electronic resources is similar to citing print, adding information about the electronic format and the name of the database from which you retrieved the article. See examples and details at:

<http://dotsx.usc.edu/repository/read/book/26>

More info

Need a Librarian:

Research Services in Doheny Memorial Library
(213) 740-4039

http://www.usc.edu/isd/libraries/services/ask_a_librarian/

Leavey Library, Information Commons
(213) 740-6938

Need a Computer Consultant:

Phone: (213) 740-5555 & select option #1

E-mail: consult@usc.edu

<http://www.usc.edu/its/new/students.html>

Connect from Off-Campus

<http://www.usc.edu/isd/it/connect/>

Research Guides

http://www.usc.edu/isd/libraries/about/reference/research_guides/

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