

Welcome to this ECU Library podcast about accessing the education journal databases hosted by Kathy Little.

I'm your Education subject librarian at the Joondalup campus library.

This library podcast will help you find journal articles in education. (Journals are also known as serials or periodicals).

As well as publishing their work in books and reports, scholars in education publish articles in academic journals. The most efficient way to access this literature is via the education databases.

The databases are tools that index the education literature. You are expected to read articles in this academic literature for your university studies. You will not be able to rely on just searching the web.

You will be able to find high quality journal articles on topics you are researching by searching the databases.

These databases are not free like Google or Yahoo, they are owned by commercial database providers and the university library pays a subscription so that staff and students can access them. These subscription services allow you to search hundreds of quality journals simultaneously to find specific articles on topics. Many allow you to directly access the full text of articles.

You need to be an ECU staff member or student and to authenticate to get access to the databases.

So, where do you begin?

Start at the Library website at [www.ecu.edu.au/library](http://www.ecu.edu.au/library)

Under the Find heading, click the Journal articles (Databases) link.

Another way of getting access to the databases is via the Library Resources by Faculty link.

I suggest that the following databases are probably the best for undergraduates to use:

Education Full text (Wilson Web)

Proquest Education Journals

ERIC (Ebsco)

A+ Education – really useful for Australian material

From the Library website you can also access a portal called Metaquest, which allows you to search up to 15 databases at once.

Databases have search screens which look somewhat like web search engines, but they offer more sophisticated searching so you retrieve more relevant results.

They have HELP links, search tips and sometimes tutorials, so there is plenty of online assistance if you need help in working out how to construct searches and manage the results of your searches.

Search results will often be a list of citations, but many of the education databases offer the full text of articles and allow you to limit your results to full text. If the database does

not directly link to the full text of the article you may be able to click on a FIND IT link to link you to the full text.

I suggest that undergraduate students stick to the easy to find articles ie those in journals that the ECU library system has.

Staff and postgraduate students can use the Document Delivery service to obtain journal articles that are published in journals that ECU does not hold.

Librarians love to answer questions about databases, so if you need any help with searching please contact us.

For contact details for your education subject librarians, Kathy Little at the Joondalup campus library and Graham Connell at the MTL campus library, and for much much more!

Check the library website at <http://www.ecu.edu.au/library>

We are also reference and teaching librarians so you may see us at the library reference desk or teaching a library research skills class.

I hope you find this ECU Library podcast helpful. Stay tuned for more!