

EME 2040 Educational Technology Library Research Methods

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Some important questions to consider:

- What is the assignment and why am I doing this research?
- What kind of information, how much, and when do I need it?
- What do I already know about my topic and can I apply what I am learning now?
- Did I completely answer my initial research question and support it with relevant resources?
- How can I best share my conclusions with others?

To find a book (circulating or reference):

- Visit <http://www.spcollege.edu/central/libonline/> >>> click on **#4 Library Catalog** >>> it helps sometimes to narrow your search for items located on the **Gibbs campus** or to a certain **format**, **date**, and/or **language** >>> conduct a **subject**, **title**, **author** or **keyword** search?

A search for **education practices** within the **subject field** displays 3 results. Conducting the same search within the **keyword field** displays 321 results. If you have several results, then adding more specific keywords and/or an appropriate subject heading to your search can help to narrow down your topic.

To find appropriate subject headings:

- You can click on the **Browse Lists** button inside the Library Catalog and search for other subject terms. Discovering other subject terms can help you narrow or even broaden your topic. (e.g. **subject begins with ... education**. Click on "See related information" to find other subject terms.
- Or you can use the four volume print set found in the Reference section and search within the **Library of Congress Subject Headings**.
- Or you can do a basic or advanced search and notice other hyperlinked subject headings inside the bibliographic record.

You can add Boolean operators (i.e. AND, OR, NOT) easily in the **Advanced Search** mode. Searching for **teaching** as a **subject** AND **"best practices"** as a **keyword** will locate 11 records.

Search by:	Subject	teaching
and	Keyword	"best practices"
and	Keyword	

[AND = both terms/phrases must be present (this will narrow your search results). You could use **OR** to find synonymous terms/concepts or **NOT** to eliminate certain terms/phrases.]

Note: It is possible to request books from other libraries and have them sent to your main campus library!

St. Petersburg/Tarpon Springs Circulation	HF5381 .T2212 2006	Available	Request
Valencia/East	Circulation HF5381.T2212 2006	Available	Request

Select Your Library:
 St. Petersburg College

Borrower ID:

PIN:

What are my ID and PIN? What about privacy?

Borrower ID = Student Number

PIN = Last 4-digits of Social Security Number

Find Electronic Books via NetLibrary: Visit <http://www.spcollege.edu/central/libonline/> >>> click on #5 Netlibrary. [name =spc and password = _____].

(Note: You are now able to search for all of our electronic books (over 60,000 titles) within our main library catalog!) However, using NetLibrary will allow you to search within the Full Text of the electronic book.

Try an Advanced Search for Subject: reflective teaching AND Full Text: read*)

Subject	<input type="text" value="reflective teaching"/>	And
Full-Text	<input type="text" value="read*"/>	And

To find articles in journals, magazines, newspapers and more:

- Visit <http://www.spcollege.edu/central/libonline/> >>> click on #1 Articles and Databases >>> Here you will find several databases. (**Education Resource Complete, ERIC, Academic Search Complete, and Jstor** are excellent first choices.) In some cases, you can simultaneously search more than one database!
- Can also search a printed index like the **Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature**, the **Humanities Index** etc. – they are especially helpful if the power goes out! Don't forget to ask a librarian for help.

Education Resource Complete: Topics covered include all levels of education from early childhood to higher education, and all educational specialties, such as multilingual education, health education, and testing. The database also covers areas of curriculum instruction as well as administration, policy, funding, and related social issues.

Try a search for "teaching methods" AND creativ*

Find:

in:

(Searching: Education Research Complete)

ERIC (Education Resources Information Center): guide to published and unpublished sources on thousands of educational topics, with information from RIE (Resources in Education) and CIJE (Current Index to Journals in Education).

Try a basic search for effective educational practices to see if ERIC will “recommend” various terms.

The screenshot shows the ERIC search interface. At the top, there is a banner with a globe and the text "The world's largest digital library of education literature". Below this is a blue header with "Search ERIC". The main search area has a "Search Term(s):" field containing "effective educational". Below that is a "Search In:" dropdown menu set to "Keywords (all fields)". There are three buttons: a green "Search" button, a green "Advanced Search" button, and a red "Search Help" button.

Once you scan the results to see if there are any pertinent resources supporting your thesis, then you may want to narrow down your result list by searching within them. I usually select Full-text availability, a shorter publication date range (e.g., 2000-2008) and select a few ERIC Thesaurus Descriptors to see what happens to the results.

The screenshot shows the "Search Within Results" filter panel. It includes a "Keywords:" field, a "Full-Text Availability:" section with a checked box for "Show only results with free full-text availability", a "Publication Date:" section with "From:" set to 2000 and "To:" set to 2008, and two sections of checkboxes for "Publication Type(s)" and "ERIC Thesaurus Descriptors". The "Publication Type(s)" section includes options like Books, Journal Articles, and Reports. The "ERIC Thesaurus Descriptors" section includes options like Basic Skills, Beginning Teachers, and Case Studies.

Academic Search Complete: largest scholarly, multi-disciplinary full text database containing full text for nearly 4,650 serials, including more than 3,600 peer-reviewed publications.

Try a search for **“active learning”**

Find:
in:
(Searching: *Academic Search Complete*)

You are able to narrow by subject and type of resource (e.g., Academic journals, magazines, and newspapers)

Or if you have conducted some background research and have a specific thesis in mind, try a more precise search for **SU “active learning” AND TX “best practice*”**

[Field Codes](#)
Find:
in:
(Searching: *Academic Search Complete*)

Research Tip: Academic Search Complete will generate citations in APA, Chicago, MLA, and other styles!



“Find it at SPC” using Google Scholar.


Try a search for **“active learning” “best practices”**



[Web](#) [Images](#) [Video](#) [News](#) [Maps](#) [more »](#)


[Best Practices in Web-Based Nursing Courses](#) - [Find it at SPC^{SPC}](#) - all 2 versions »
Connors, DJ Skiba - *Advances in Nursing Science*, 2001 - [advancesinnursingscience.com](#)
ed on a benchmarking project to determine **best practices** in online ...
ces used to facilitate learning (**active learning**, time on ...
[ted Articles](#) - [Web Search](#) - [Import into EndNote](#) - [BL Direct](#)

[Good library instruction practices into the web environment: An analysis of online ...](#) - [Find it at SPC^{SPC}](#) -
Journal of Academic Librarianship, 1999 - Elsevier
fit than lectures alone, and **active learning** is accomplished ... Do online
o exhibit these **best practices** of traditional library ...
[ted Articles](#) - [Web Search](#) - [Import into EndNote](#) - [BL Direct](#)

Research Tip: Within Google Scholar preferences, you can select a Bibliography Manager to import citations. Also,  <http://www.worldcat.org> can cite sources too! Just copy/paste the title.

Benchmarking Best Practices in Web-Based Nursing Courses by [D M Billings](#); [H R Connors](#); [D J Skiba](#)

☆☆☆☆☆
(not yet rated)

Type:  Article; English
Publication: [ADVANCES IN NURSING SCIENCE](#), 23, Part 3 (2001): 41-52
Database: British Library Serials
Other Databases: [ArticleFirst](#)
ISSN: [0161-9268](#)
BL Shelfmark: 0709.508000
OCLC: 205289532
Citations: [Cite this Item](#) | [Export to EndNote](#) | [Export to RefWorks](#)



Other Research tools:

Library Toolbar: <http://www.spcollege.edu/SPG/WSPCL/toolbar.html>
LINCC FaceBook Application and other tools: <http://www.linccweb.org/Tools/>
Collect, manage, and cite your research sources with Zotero: <http://www.zotero.org/>



Although many articles are now available in full-text, you may find some that are in a printed format (i.e., bound in book form) or available in one of our many other databases. If the article is not in full-text, then you will need to determine if our library owns that particular edition. This is a great time to Ask-a-Librarian to help you locate these articles that are not available in full-text.



If you do research via the World Wide Web please consider the following:

- Anyone can create a website.
- Can you clearly determine who has written the article? Do they have subject expertise?
- Is the website relevant to your research? Is it comprehensive? Up-to date? Biased?
- Can the information be verified?



Don't forget to cite your sources!

- Visit <http://www.spcollege.edu/central/libonline/> >>> click on #6 Citing Sources >>> this will help you cite your sources properly.
- Also, check out Landmark's Citation Machine at: <http://www.citationmachine.net>.
- <http://www.worldcat.org> can cite sources too!



Some more things to consider ...

1. Computers do fine jobs storing and retrieving information; however, they are only as intelligent as their users. We must continue to use our brains and critically evaluate what we read and judge it accordingly. Computers allow researchers to find lots of information easily, but it is clearing the thickening "data smog" that can be difficult while at the same time rewarding.
2. Try to add content that you may think is missing from an article and ask vital questions along the way. This will force you to think more openly about a topic and to remain focused throughout the research process.
3. Don't forget to cite your sources! Take good notes and remember to document where and when you found the information. Visit <http://www.spcollege.edu/central/libonline/> and under Quick Links select Citing Sources for more information. Read SPC's Academic Honesty Policy at <http://www.spcollege.edu/webcentral/admit/honesty.htm>.
4. Have fun and enjoy the learning process!

Do you have a question? Are you completely lost? ...



Librarians are available to help every person select and effectively use the library's resources within the library and even in cyberspace!