

Notes to accompany the [Higher Education Resource Grid](#)

Books: monographs & collected essays

[Zondervan Library Catalog](#)

The first place to go to find books, etc. in the Zondervan Library (but not periodical articles).

[WorldCat](#)

The unparalleled resource for finding books, dissertations/theses, AV resources, etc. from over 12,000 libraries. The database is immense and unique with over 73 million cataloged resources. Interlibrary loan requests for books can be generated through WorldCat by activating from the ILL icon. Note WorldCat's "cite this item" capabilities for easily (but individually) formatting citations. What you won't find here: periodical articles; use "Databases" below for that.

[OhioLink](#)

Especially useful for finding essays and chapters in books; use the keyword search. (To some degree WorldCat is superseding what OhioLink can do because many newer books have their tables of contents enumerated.)

[Google Books](#) (See also Microsoft's Live Search Books)

You can only see "full views" -- the full text of the book for books that are out of copyright but with Google Books you can search the full-text contents of books. In effect, it's vastly more than a "table of contents" or "index to the book" approach. You're probing the full book for the term(s) you search. To obtain a book not in full-text, go to WorldCat and initiate an interlibrary loan request.

Book-like resources -- government documents, research reports

[ERIC](#)

One of the strengths of ERIC -- in addition to indexing more than 600 periodicals in education -- is its indexing plus document provision of "ERIC Documents". These "documents" cover a broad range of material type: conference papers, research project reports, curricular studies, an occasional thesis, etc. Some of the kinds of literature available as ERIC Documents are often referred to as "grey literature" -- they fall outside of the regular channels of publication as books or periodical articles. Back to about 1993, many of the ERIC documents are available online. Some are not, however, as they may "document" books and other publications not disseminated through ERIC. These can usually be obtained through interlibrary loan as can other ERIC documents that are not available online (for example those before 1993).

[American Council on Education Library catalog](#)

This is a library catalog at the ACE library. It is of particular value because it's a collection that focuses on higher education, it reports on new resources in a very timely manner (occasionally before WorldCat), and covers some "grey literature" as well. It is only useful for discovering resources, however. You will have to then explore their availability through WorldCat (and request via interlibrary loan) or the Zondervan catalog. (WorldCat should indicate if it is a resource that the Zondervan Library holds.)

[Google Scholar](#)

In addition to crawling thousands of scholarly, peer-reviewed journals (including the full set of about 650 titles in JSTOR), Google Scholar uncovers many kinds of "grey literature." In some cases, it will lead you directly to a full-text document (often a .pdf files). Note the Advanced Search capabilities. Also, you can export a citation to RefWorks -- one citation at a time. (You must open your RefWorks account.) And, you can save a search by copying (and pasting) the search URL for later access. Google Scholar provides a strong complement to "constructed" databases like ERIC and Professional Development Collection.

Government documents; reports from research centers

[GPO Catalog](#)

Department of Education and other documents pertaining to higher education, of which there are many, can be found through the Government Printing Office catalog. Many, perhaps most, recently published documents are available in full-text online. Many DOE documents are also indexed and available through ERIC.

[WorldCat](#)

Many federal government documents can be discovered through WorldCat and can then be acquired through interlibrary loan.

Bibliographies

WorldCat is a key resource for finding published bibliographies on a topic. It is also a good tool for discovering web-sites on a topic that may often include bibliographies or reading lists.

This category refers to more extensive bibliographies that may have been published in book or document format. An example is this bibliography on "[Spirituality in Higher Education](#)" published by the Higher Education Research Institute (HERI). In this case the documents are available online from this project. Identifying a research institute or project in your area of research can be useful in discovering bibliography, current research underway, etc. Another good example is this bibliography on "[Religious Engagement Among American Undergraduates](#)".

See [Google Scholar's](#) - "Cited by" capability

The "Cited by" component of Google Scholar allows you to see those articles or publications that have cited the resource from which you link. This is a good way of discovering related citations and research.

Periodical (journal) literature

[ERIC](#) (via Ebscohost) -

ERIC, arguably the premier index in education, indexes over 600 periodicals, including most standard scholarly, peer-reviewed journals pertaining to higher education. In addition, it indexes more than 500,000 ERIC Documents mentioned earlier. Many of these documents are now available in full-text from 1993 to the present. ERIC does not in general provide any full-text access to periodical articles that it indexes. Consequently, you have to explore through the Periodical List from the Zondervan web site to ascertain whether you have full-text access. Using the Ebscohost interface for ERIC, you will find some "linked" full-text articles in ERIC because these are titles to which we have access through other Ebscohost databases (like Academic Search Premier).

(ERIC open access)

This is an approach to searching ERIC to which you can get access without an institutional or library affiliation. It's open to anyone on the web and also links to full-text ERIC Documents when they're available.

Professional Development Collection

This is "runner up" to ERIC in terms of online periodical indexes. (Education Index, which Zondervan has in print format to 2003, is useful for searching older periodicals -- back to 19XX). It focuses on educational periodical literature and covers many higher education journals. There are many full-text articles available here since Professional Development Collection provides full-text access to over 400 journals.

Google Scholar

JSTOR is very effectively searched by Google Scholar. See the [Zondervan Library main page](#) for a "quick search" box..)

Academic Search Premier

A "general" subject index but does include quite a range of literature on higher education, including popular press material. With more than 4,000 periodicals available in full-text many citations include full text. Academic Search is especially useful when you're exploring a higher education topic that intersects with other disciplines.

A note about the Ebscohost databases (ERIC, Professional Development College, PsycInfo, Academic Search Premier): These provide a common interface from the same vendor, Ebsco. You can mark, email (and print or save) citations and full-text. You can export citations to RefWorks. You can save search strategies ("Add search to folder" or "Display link to search.") You can also create a search strategy that you want to keep current on and set up an RSS or email feed as new citations appear under that search. To do this you simply create a "MyEbscohost account" by linking from "Sign in".

Another capability from the Ebscohost databases, again with a "MyEbscohost account", is notification about the contents of a particular journal as new issues are published. To be notified about a specific journal, search that journal under the "Publications" tab where you will then see a "Journal Alert" link. For example, you can be alerted to the contents of issues of the *Journal of Higher Education* as they are published.

PsycInfo

PsycInfo focuses on the periodical literature (and some essay collections) of psychology but is nearly comprehensive in periodical coverage. It's the principal index for psychology. There is full-text from about 50 American Psychological Association journals and other linked journals via Ebscohost though PsycInfo does not inherently provide any full-text to periodicals.

Wilson OmniFile

Another general index in which everything is available full-text. There are some higher education indexed (and full-text) here that are not available in ERIC, Professional Development Collection or Academic Search Premier.

ATLA Religion Database

The principal index for theological-related periodicals and essay collections. It could be useful for studies that focus on students and religion.

Christian Periodical Index

This indexes more popular Christian periodical literature.

To identify access to specific periodical titles, use the [Periodical List](#) from the Zondervan web site.

Higher Education Periodicals List (Taylor University)

This is a compiled list of periodicals available in print or online in full-text relating to higher education. While it won't be as up to date as the full Periodical List (above), it provides a means of browsing titles relating to higher education.

Dissertations/theses

Dissertation Abstracts International

Dissertations and theses can be a fruitful resource for studying higher education, especially Christian higher education. They tend to be very specific but can suggest research models, offer a literature review and bibliography. DAI is the principal index to dissertations submitted to North American universities. It's searchable by author, title, and keywords within (c. 300-500 word) abstracts. Dissertations are often not available through interlibrary loan but can be purchased on demand and received in about one week.

WorldCat

WorldCat provides an alternative means of finding dissertations by subject heading and keyword in citation.

Working papers, research studies,
research institute reports & publications,
other "grey" literature

WorldCat

ERIC

Google Scholar

While research reports, conference papers, and numerous other kinds of non-published resources exist for most academic disciplines, education has been served particularly well through ERIC. Since 1966 ERIC has indexed and made available more than 500,000 such documents. From the early years, "ERIC Documents" were available on microfiche. Many ERIC Documents now have been digitized going as far back as 1993.

Statistical data

National Center for Education Statistics

NCES is the arm of the U. S. Dept. of Education that collects and reports educational statistics. It disseminates numerous higher education reports, many of which are online.

IPEDS

The "Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System" (IPEDS) is the principal collecting and reporting repository of data pertaining to higher education. There are various "tools" provided to mine data and provide comparative statistics.

Statistical Abstract of the U. S.

Print edition call no: Reference 317 Un4

Web sites

Obviously, Google and other web browsers turn up myriad web sites. One means to discover more reliable and reputable sites is to use a resource that mediates discovery of sites.

WorldCat

Catalogs many web sites, especially those of an academic research nature.

Infomine

Provides a search engine to a body of web sites about which it has collected data.

Intute

Its mission: "to advance education and research by promoting the best of the Web in one easily accessible place, providing access to quality resources through a process of evaluation and collaboration." Searches will reveal many UK and European sources but also a considerable number from North America. Here for example, is a search for "[higher education](#)" resources.

Internet Scout Project

This is one of the most reliable web site discovery tools but is stronger in the natural sciences and mathematics than in the social sciences.

Citation management resources

RefWorks

(for which you need to create a "free" personal account initially from on-campus) This is the "Cadillac" of citation management tools. You can import citations from a variety of sources and format bibliography in numerous "output styles." You can create folders for different projects. There is a learning curve but it's worth getting through it. "Write-N-Cite" is a downloadable application that integrates with MS Word and enables you to link to citations in your RefWorks database as you write. Then, it will "automatically" format footnotes/endnotes and

bibliography.

WorldCat

Note the “Cite this item” and Export to RefWorks options. The former is especially useful when you have only a few items to cite at the time.

Citation Help page from the Zondervan web site

Library Research Guides

Higher Education Research Guide (Zondervan Library)

This is a “work in progress” for which we invite your suggestions for additions and improvements. It is designed to be a referral and reminder tool.

Educational Research (Boston College)

Very extensive resource that goes well beyond the Zondervan guide – what you can do with resources: fiscal and personnel!

If you have questions about resources or research strategy, please contact:

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