

Education Research Complete (ERC)

ERC is a leading education database, covering all levels of education from early years through to higher education. It provides full text access to over 1,200 journal, and to almost 500 books & monographs.

Subject coverage: All areas of education

Dates of coverage: 1925 – present

What is the difference between the electronic journal A-Z listing and electronic databases?

The electronic journal listing is simply of list of journals which are available to us online. You should use it if you know which journal title you want to look at; for example if your tutor has recommended 'Journal of Contemporary Culture' in your reading list, then you should go directly to the A-Z listing and search for it.

A database is a collection of journals, and you use them to search for articles; for example if you are doing an assignment on 'postmodernism in Hollywood cinema' then you would use a database to find journal articles related to that topic.

To access ERC when on-campus

- Go to www.ucpmarjon.ac.uk/facilities/library
- Click on **Electronic Resources** and then **Database listing**.
- Click on **Education Research Complete (ERC)**
- If you are working on-campus, you will be logged in automatically.

To access ERC when off-campus

- Go to www.ucpmarjon.ac.uk/facilities/library
- Click on **Electronic Resources** and then **Database listing**.
- When you click on the link to Education Research Complete (ERC), you will see a screen that asks you to select your region or group.
- From the drop-down box, select 'UK Higher Education'.
- A list of institutions will appear (this can sometimes take a while to load) – scroll down and click on 'University College Plymouth St Mark & St John'.
- A box requesting a username & password will appear – here you need to enter your Marjon student number or staff login and your Marjon password, as if you were logging in to check your emails.
- You will then be logged in and ready to search the database.

Problems with logging in

- You use the same username and password for logging into the electronic resources as you do for accessing your emails. If you are able to log into your emails, but are having issues with logging into electronic resources, please email libraryenquiries@marjon.ac.uk
- If you are unable to log into any services (eg. emails/network/Learning Space), please contact computingservices@marjon.ac.uk
- CPD students need to use their 999 student number, and their password is their date of birth in the format DDMMYYYY. Please contact echorley@marjon.ac.uk if you have any problems.

Boolean searching

This is a type of searching used in online electronic resources, and uses the words AND, OR and NOT. It is a way of combining or excluding words to make your search more effective. For example:

- Literacy AND teenagers = results which cover **both search terms**
- Teenagers OR adolescents = results which cover **one search term or the other**
- Assessment NOT informal = results which **exclude the second term**

Search tools

Using special symbols can expand the scope of your search:

- Use * to 'truncate' search terms. This expands a search term, eg. Cultu* will search culture, cultures, cultural, and cultured.
- Use ? to find alternative spelling, eg. Sociali?ation will search both socialisation and socialization.
- If you are searching for a phrase such as "early childhood education", remember to put it into "speechmarks" and the database will recognise that you are looking for the phrase rather than the separate words.

Choosing your search terms

You need to consider your search terms when you do a search. Think about:

- Technical or alternative terminology and colloquialisms
- Alternative spellings such as American spelling

Also try to have a very definite idea of what it is you are searching for and stick to it – it is easy to follow different links and go off on a tangent when you are using the databases.

To perform a basic search – use this for a simple initial search

- Enter your search terms. Try using the Boolean search method and search tools as detailed overleaf.
- Remember that you may need to try different combinations of search terms to get results.
- Tag the box that says '**Full text**' – this means that any results will have the article attached to it, so you can read it straight away; you search the database, get the results, access the article and you're done!
- Set any other limits, such as 'published date', and then click on *search*.
- The results will be displayed in a list – with articles attached for you to read.
- Click either on the link to the HTML full text or the PDF full text.

To perform a non-full text search – use this for a more in-depth search, eg. for dissertation research

- Follow the same instructions as above, but this time don't tag the 'Full text' box.
- There should be more results available, but not every record will have the article attached.
- If you want to read an article which isn't attached, click on the title so you can see the full record.
- Note down the details under 'Source' – this tells you which journal the article is in, and also the volume and issue. You also need to note down the article title.
- Now you need to check the electronic journals A-Z listing to see if we have access to the journal. There is a helpguide available in the Library and on the website on how to use the e-journals.
- You can also check the library catalogue to see if we have access to the journal in hardcopy.

Print, email or save your results

- In the detailed article record, click on the icons on the right hand side to print, save or email the record.

Problems?

If you have any problems with using ERC, please email libraryenquiries@marjon.ac.uk