

1. SELECT A TOPIC

Consult some general sources available to select a topic. Some topics, such as learning disabilities, may be too broad. Some sources that will be helpful in identifying or refining a search:

- ***Encyclopedia of Early Childhood Education*** Ref LB1139.25 .E53 1992
- ***Encyclopedia of Special Education*** Ref LC4007 .E53 1987
- ***Encyclopedia of Higher Education*** Ref LB15 .E49 1992
- ***Encyclopedia of Education*** Ref LB15 .E47 2003
- ***Encyclopedia of Educational Research*** Ref LB15 .E48 1992
- ***Encyclopedia of Multicultural Education*** Ref LC1099.3 .M58 1999
- ***World Education Encyclopedia*** Ref LB15 .W87 1988

Find these sources and *read* the sections on topics that interest you. Identify key terms and definitions that will help create a search (e.g., philosophy of education and public policy, etc.) The [Thesaurus of ERIC Descriptors](#) (kept at the reference desk) can also help.

2. BEGIN SEARCHING FOR ARTICLES OR BOOKS

- Thompson Library's catalog of books: **Mirlyn**
- **ERIC**: (provided by Cambridge Scientific Abstracts) indexes educational materials from journals, books, conferences, dissertations, etc.; covers materials issued since 1966. The ERIC database is also provided by FirstSearch, where many of the ERIC [documents](#) are available as full text
- **Education Abstracts**: (provided by FirstSearch) indexes and abstracts journal articles in the field of education (covers material published from 1983 to the present)
- **Research Library Complete**: (provided by ProQuest) general humanities index, including education

These databases and other resources can be accessed on the Thompson Library's Web page of education resources: lib.umflint.edu/education.html.