

Using Databases

Getting There: From University Libraries page, click [Databases by Title \(A-Z\)](#).
In the scrolling alphabetical list, select one of the databases listed below.

Databases Available (with dates of coverage):

Aerospace & High Technology Database (1962-)
ARTbibliographies Modern (1974-)
Aquatic Sciences & Fisheries Abstracts (1971-)
Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals (1934-)
Bibliography of the History of Art (1973-)
BioOne Abstracts & Indexes (1998-)
Communication Abstracts (1977-)
Conference Papers Index (1982-)
Criminal Justice Abstracts (1968-)
CSA Materials Research Database (1966-)
EIS: Digests of Environmental Impact Statements (1985-)
Environmental Sciences & Pollution Mgmt (1967-)
ERIC (1966-)
GeoRef (1693-)
Linguistics & Language Behavior Abstracts (1973-)

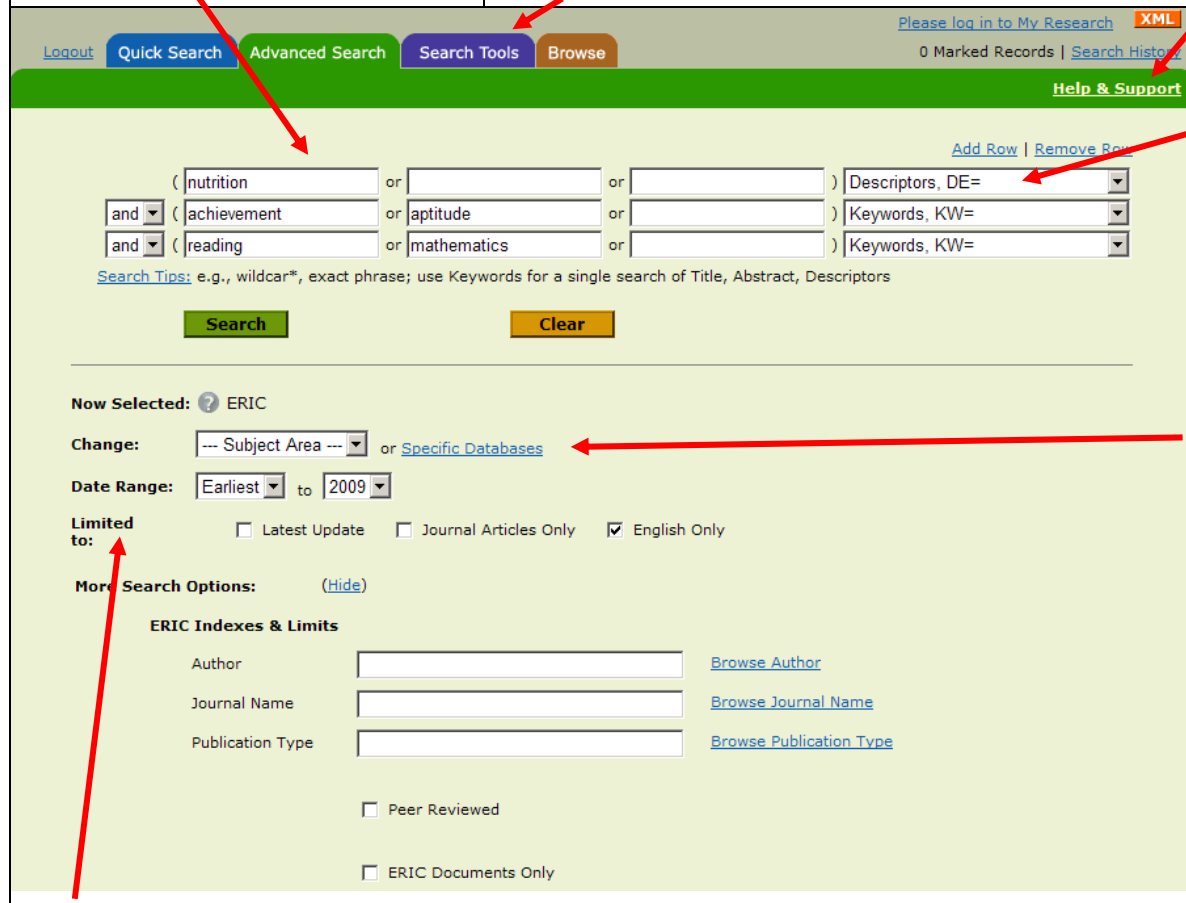
LISA: Library and Information Science Abstracts (1969-)
Meteorological & Geostrophysical Abstracts (1974-)
MicroPatent Materials Patents (1996-)
NTIS (1964-)
Oceanic Abstracts (1981-)
PILOTS Database (1871-)
PsycINFO (1806-) and PsycARTICLES (1894-)
RILM Abstracts of Music Literature (1967-)
Sage Full-Text Journal Collections: includes Communication Studies (1982-), Criminology (1976-), Political Science (1974-), and Sociology (1967-)
Social Services Abstracts (1979-)
Sociological Abstracts (1952-)
TOXLINE (1997-)
Worldwide Political Science Abstracts (1975-)

SEARCH

Enter your terms in the search boxes.
(See other side for descriptions of AND, OR, NOT.)

Under **Search Tools**, use the **Thesaurus** to select from the database's list of **descriptors** (subject terms) to get more precise terms for your search. (See "Developing Expert Searches in CSA" handout for more detail.)

Get more detailed **help**.



The screenshot shows the search interface with several red arrows pointing to specific elements:

- An arrow points to the search input boxes containing terms like 'nutrition', 'achievement', and 'reading'.
- An arrow points to the 'Search Tools' tab in the top navigation bar.
- An arrow points to the 'Descriptors, DE=' dropdown menu.
- An arrow points to the 'Change: --- Subject Area ---' dropdown menu.
- An arrow points to the 'More Search Options: (Hide)' link.

Get more **focused results** by searching in specific fields, such as author, title, or descriptor (subject).

Change databases. Select a broad **Subject Area** (Natural Sciences, Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities, Technology) or one or more **individual databases**.

Consider possible **limits**. Individual databases may have their own additional limits.

As you search, consider using the FOLLOWING TOOLS to help you get BETTER RESULTS:

COMBINE CONCEPTS AND TERMS

Combine concepts	Use AND to retrieve records with all terms: dyslexia and treatments
Include synonyms	Use OR to retrieve any or all concepts: leadership qualities or leadership style
Exclude concepts	Use NOT to exclude concepts or words: teachers not preschool

TRUNCATION / WILDCARD

Unlimited character	Add asterisk to word: develop* retrieves develop, develops, development, etc. and behav*r retrieves behavior and behaviour
One character	Add question mark where character(s) would occur: wom?n retrieves woman and women and theat?? retrieves theater and theatre

PROXIMITY SEARCHES -- available in Quick Search or Command Search (under Search Tools)

NEAR	Use to find words within 10 words of each other, e.g. women near violence will find records that contain those words (in any order) with up to 9 words between them.
WITHIN "X"	Use to find words in specified distance, e.g. women within 5 violence will find records that contain those words (in any order) within five words of each other.

LOOK AT YOUR RESULTS and REFINE YOUR SEARCH

Click on the **title** of the article (or **View Record**) to find out more about it.

Look at your results by **publication type**.

Refine your search with **Edit Search**.

Edit or combine previous searches from **Search History**. (See "Developing Expert Searches in CSA Illumina" handout for more detail.)

24 results found for: DE=**nutrition** and KW=(**achievement** or **attitude**) and KW ... in ? ERIC [Alert Me](#)

Published Works 24 [Scholars 156](#)

All Publication Types 24 [Journals 7](#) [Peer-Reviewed Journals 3](#) [Conferences 5](#) [Books 1](#) [More >](#)

Mark or Clear all on page | [Update Marked List](#) | [Save, Print, Email](#) Sort by: [Most Recent First](#) Go

◀ Previous 1 Next ▶ Record # Go

1. [Educational Impact of a School Breakfast Programme in Rural Peru](#)
[Cueto, Santiago; Chinen, Marjorie](#)
International Journal of Educational Development; v28 n2 p132-148 Mar 2008
 ... positive effect on short-term memory, arithmetic and **reading** comprehension. The evaluation also showed an unexpected negative consequence: students in the breakfast group reduced their time in the classroom with their teachers and increased ...
 Accession Number: EJ782393
[View Record](#) |

Database:
ERIC

Descriptors:
[Reading Comprehension](#) | [Rural Schools](#) | [Dropout Rate](#) | [Breakfast Programs](#) | [Academic Achievement](#) | [Attendance](#) | [More...](#)

Scan relevant articles in the results list for more terms to use in a revised search.

Descriptors (subject terms) are especially useful.

GET THE FULL TEXT

Each item in a results list will have a link. Clicking on this will:

- find the article in any of our other full-text sources (when available)
- link to the CAT to see if Penn State owns other formats of the publication
- link to ILLiad (the Interlibrary Loan System) to request it be sent to you if a print or electronic version is not at your campus

See a librarian if you need assistance with these options.