Outside the Box : *ScienceDirect*

If you haven't ever considered incorporating *ScienceDirect* into your research process, you might want to give it a closer look. While it's true that there are numerous journals devoted to fields such as engineering, biology, and mathematics, you'll find a wealth of other information useful to the College of Education. Topics related to information technology, knowledge retention, or learning models are discussed in numerous journals devoted to studying the way students receive, process, and apply their education. You can find *ScienceDirect* listed at http://libguides.uah.edu/databases/science. Try searching for **ADDIE instructional design** there. Take note of the many peer-reviewed articles and case studies you get discussing this particular design model. You'll get a mix of subscription and open web research in one place!

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Contact your librarian with questions or comments about your resources! To see a complete listing of Nursing databases, check out our LibGuide at:

http://libguides.uah.edu/databases/education

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SPORTDiscus will be especially beneficial to our Kinesiology program at UAH. It balances coverage for those interested in pursuing careers in the Allied Health and Sports Education fields especially. The database contains a mix of scholarly research and popular publications, providing a quality search experience when you are interested in gaining a broad understanding of public opinion and peer-reviewed evidences on a topic. *SPORTDiscus* can serve as a supplement of sorts to the types of sources you might find in something a bit more robust, like *PubMed*. If you're doing research on something like **concussions**, especially those occurring during sporting events, it would likely be in your best interests to expand your research beyond *PubMed's* focus on clinical, highly focused studies. You would want to gain a sense of the *issue* as well as the medical risks, and *SPORTDiscus* would provide information from sources in academic medical journals, sports management magazines, and even coaching perspectives.

Other topics in this collection's coverage include nutrition, occupational health and safety, exercise science and fitness, orthopedics, and consumer health. Try searching on the topic **physical fitness and academic achievement**. You'll get a mix of articles addressing specific teaching strategies, case studies and reports documenting the impact of certain programs on test scores for various age groups, or even just general discussions on the role of athletics in academia.

Did you Know…?

OneSearch has served as a one-stop-shop for many of our electronic resources over the past few years. Now, in addition to finding articles and books with ease, you can locate a listing for our electronic journals at the title level in a *OneSearch* result list. Let's say you're doing a cursory search on **educational technology** in *OneSearch*. You'll see that we actually have a periodical titled *Educational Leadership* that will pop up at the top of your list. In addition to the title, you'll see a quick-search bar for you to begin exploring within that particular journal immediately.

Web Searching Quick Tip:

We all use the open web at some point in our research process, but using it "effectively" and "efficiently" is often a much more challenging ordeal when it comes to academic research. Still, there are certainly going to be resources that either fall outside of Salmon Library's subscriptions, or are just more accessible via a Google search. If basic searching is failing you, try focusing on the domain types that host certain information. If you're trying to find some more scholarly info, you might want the ".edu" sites. For government collected/archived data, you probably want the ".gov" sites. Say you're looking for information on **common core**, and you are striking out at your usual research stops. Add the terms "**site:.org**" or "**site:.edu**" to your search string in Google, and see if your results are noticeably different. Try typing **common core site:.gov** into your browser, and compare that to results for **common core site:.org**. Does one lean more toward primary research data? See what you find!
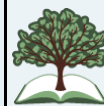
Quick Tip:

In *Academic Search Complete,* type in **Vital Speeches of the Day**, and change the drop-down **Select a Field** option to **Journal Name**, then search. You'll get a list of speeches that range from political commentary to commencement addresses, from actors to politicians. Use them as primary source documents for insights into current political events or divisive social issues.

UAH's Full Text Finder

At Salmon Library, we've had the ability to browse our electronic periodical collection for some time. However, the process of locating and accessing that information has improved over the years, and EBSCO's new **Full Text Finder** enhancements over the past year or so have brought some welcome changes to that experience. On the library homepage at uah.edu/library, click on the **Journals** tab. You will see a page with a search box, but also a **Browse by Discipline** section taking up 3/4 of the screen. This allows you to browse for a list of periodical titles in our collection based on broad subject classification. This may not catch every title, but it will catch many under these umbrella headings such as **Technology** or **Education**. Additionally, you can now search within a journal itself, allowing you to extract all the articles from across the publication of a journal mentioning your search terms.

The *Education Resources Information Center* is an online digital library of education research and information. *ERIC* is sponsored by the Institute of Education Sciences of the United States Department of Education. The mission of *ERIC* is to provide a comprehensive, easy-to-use full-text database of education research and information for educators, researchers, and the general public. Education research and information are essential to improving teaching, learning, and educational decision-making. *ERIC* provides access to 1.5 million bibliographic records (citations, abstracts, and other pertinent data) of journal articles and other education-related materials, with hundreds of new records added every week. A key component of this database is its collection of literature options outside the traditional journal article format, such as annual reports, policy papers, and government documents. You can access *ERIC* through the library website, or directly at eric.ed.gov. If accessing through the library, click on the **Full Text From ERIC** link underneath the title and author information in the item's record.

Did you know…?

The *Review of Educational Research* is listed as having the highest **5-Year Impact Factor** for 2015, according to *Journal Citation Reports*. Want to know how many times it was cited last year? Visit *Journal Citation Reports* at http://libguides.uah.edu/databases, or ask one of your librarians to help you find the answer. Stay informed on these rankings and more to see what publications rank highest in your field.

Education: a Sage Full Text Collection contains 36 journals covering a variety of topics and challenges related to such topics as early childhood literacy, international student education, and community college administration. You'll also find a few journals dedicated to issues in policy development or administrative roles. *Sage*'s platform will actually allow you to search across several titles at once, as Salmon Library subscribes to at least eight different *Sage* collections that cover many academic disciplines. The *Education* link takes you to a customized search page set to pull results from the 36 journals focused on education. While most of these titles are discoverable in OneSearch, it might be worth your time to take advantage of *Sage*'s built-in tool to save personalized search alerts. There is also an ability to select individual articles and save them to a citation manager linked to a *Sage* personal profile. Explore the *Education* collection today!