

## **Research Guide – Education**

### **1 How to Access APU Library Databases**

#### **To access APU library databases from on campus:**

**Step 1:** Go to the APU library home page (<http://www.apu.edu/library>)

**Step 2:** Click the "All Databases" link

#### **To access APU library databases from remote locations:**

**Step 1:** Go to the APU home page (<http://www.apu.edu>)

**Step 2:** In the "Quick Links" menu at the top of the page, select "Cougars' Den (den.apu.edu)."

**Step 3:** Login with your APU NetID and password.

**Step 4:** Click on "Library Resources and Services" located under "Application Links," then click the "All Databases" link. This will allow you to access all of the library's databases without logging in multiple times.

Contact the IMT Support Desk at 626-815-5050 (toll-free at 866-278-3375) or [support@apu.edu](mailto:support@apu.edu) for help with your APU NetID and password.

### **2 How to Find Books**

#### **Library Catalog – Books and other materials in the APU libraries**

The Library Catalog is the online catalog of books, media items, journal/magazine/newspaper titles, and other material owned by the APU libraries. You can search by keyword, subject, author, title, and call number. Individual journal, magazine, and newspaper articles are **not** accessible in the Library Catalog (you will need to use a database to access these).

To access: From the library home page, click "Library Catalog - APOLIS2."

#### **LINK+ – Books available in the LINK+ libraries**

Search for and request books from the collections of more than 40 participating LINK+ libraries. More than 11 million books are available for borrowing free of charge through LINK+.

To access: From the library home page, click "LINK+." When you find an item you wish to borrow, click "Request this item" and fill out the online form. Books will be delivered to the Marshburn Library; you will be notified via email when they are ready for pickup. Books will be mailed to Regional Center patrons' home address and must be mailed back to Azusa before their due date (a pre-paid mailing label is included for this purpose).

#### **NetLibrary/Ebrary – Electronic books**

Access thousands of electronic books available anytime. These books are also listed in the library catalog and will appear along with print books in your catalog search results.

To access: From the library home page, click "All Databases." From the alphabetical links, click on "N" (for NetLibrary) or "E" (for Ebrary). You may need to establish a free account in order to "check out" ebooks.

### **3 How to Find Articles**

To find articles on a particular topic, you will need to use a research database. Databases

contain different sets of information, so it is a good idea to try your search in multiple databases. To access any of the databases listed below, visit the library home page and click "All Databases." Click the letter that corresponds with the name of the database, and then click the database link.

### **MULTI-DISCIPLINARY DATABASES**

The databases listed below are general in scope and contain articles from a wide variety of subject areas, including business, science, education, and the humanities. Using these databases will often help you find perspectives on your topic outside of your immediate discipline.

- **Academic Search Premier**  
APU's biggest and most popular database, Academic Search Premier is a good starting point for most research topics. It contains articles from journals covering the social sciences, humanities, and general sciences. Most, but not all, results will include full text.
- **OmniFile Full Text Mega (WilsonWeb Databases)**  
Like Academic Search Premier, OmniFile Full Text contains many full text articles from the social sciences, humanities, and the sciences.
- **ProQuest Databases**  
This set of databases provides access to journal, newspaper, and magazine articles from multiple academic disciplines. ProQuest also contains thousands of full-length dissertations on a wide variety of topics.

### **SUBJECT-SPECIFIC DATABASES**

The databases listed below contain articles directly related to education.

- **Education Full Text**  
This extensive database contains articles covering all aspects of education, from preschool to post-graduate. As its name implies, most records include full text.
- **ERIC (Coverage years: 1966-present)**  
The ERIC (Education Resources Information Center) database provides access to journal articles and government documents on education. Many of these documents, including lesson plans, reports, case studies and conference proceedings, can only be found through ERIC.  
*Note: ERIC is available through 2 different databases: EBSCOhost and FirstSearch. EBSCOhost offers more search options than FirstSearch, which may help you focus your search.*
- **Physical Education Index (1970-present)**  
CSA Physical Education Index contains scholarly article abstracts related to physical education. These abstracts cover physical education curricula, sports medicine, dance, health education, physical therapy, sport law, kinesiology, motor learning, recreation, standardized fitness tests, sports equipment, business and marketing, coaching and training, and sport sociology/psychology.
- **Primary Search (1985-present)**  
Full text of more than 60 popular children's magazines and informational pamphlets, from 1989 to present. Articles are assigned reading level indicators (Lexiles) for classroom use.
- **PsycInfo (1887-present)**  
PsycInfo contains an extensive collection of case studies and review articles covering all aspects of psychology, including child psychology. Partial full text coverage.

### **FINDING FULL-TEXT**

Many databases contain full-text versions of most articles. Some, however, will provide only a citation or summary of the article. Follow the directions below to locate articles that are not fully available through a database.

1. **Write down or print out the full article citation.**

You will need this information (especially the journal title, volume, issue number, and page numbers) to locate a full-text version.

*Note: the journal title and article title are **not** the same.*

2. **Use the Periodical Finder.**

From the library home page, click "Periodical Finder." Type the **journal title** (not the article title) into the search box and click Search. (Note: There is no search feature for off-campus users; you must browse the journal list for your title). If the library has a subscription to the journal you need, it will appear in the search results.

"Print/Microform" titles are not available electronically and must be obtained from one of the APU libraries. If a journal is available electronically, access information will be listed. Be sure to check the date coverage for each title to make sure we have the volume you need.

3. **Fill out an Interlibrary Loan request.**

If the library does not have a subscription to the journal you need, we may be able to borrow a copy of your article from another library. To use this service, go to the library home page and click on "Request Materials" under Services.

## 4 How to Find High-quality Web Sites

The Web searching tips and tools below will help you locate excellent, authoritative Internet sites for research and other purposes.

- Try a subject directory like the Librarians' Internet Index (<http://www.lii.org>) to find excellent, authoritative sites pre-selected by librarians and other subject specialists.
- Use the "Advanced Search" option in Google (<http://www.google.com>) to limit the domain of your searches to .edu or .gov. This will eliminate commercially-oriented sites from your search results.
- Before using any information you have found on the Internet, be sure you can answer the following questions:
  - Who created the web site?
  - When was the site last updated?
  - Why was the site created?
  - Where does the site's information come from? Are sources documented and cited?

If the answers to these questions are not easily available on a web site, you should be wary of using it for your research.

## 5 Need Help?

Research Assistance:

**Kimberley Wilcox, M.L.I.S.**

Assistant Professor; Education Liaison Librarian  
(626) 815-6000 x5770 | [kwilcox@apu.edu](mailto:kwilcox@apu.edu)

Interlibrary Loan/LINK+ Questions:

**Larry Handy**

Interlibrary Loan Coordinator and Stacks Manager  
(626) 815-6000 x3272 | [lhandy@apu.edu](mailto:lhandy@apu.edu)