School Counseling Library Resource Guide

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Accessing Library Materials and Databases

If you are on-campus, using one of the University computers or your own laptop (with all Windows updates and Bradford Client installed) you will automatically have access to the databases. If you are at home or off-campus elsewhere, and if you are logged into your MyLU account, you should have access to all the databases. If you are not logged into your MyLU account before you do your search, you will have the ability to log in once you actually try to go to a database/article. (At that point, before you can view the information you will be prompted to supply your login, which is the same as your LU login and password). If a database ever asks you to pay for an article, do not do it. Remember, Liberty can likely get the article for you for free. If you are on campus for an intensive, make sure you are on “Liberty access” and not “guest” access which doesn’t provide access to all of our databases.

The Jerry Falwell Library (JFL) website is easy to navigate. The snapshot below is the library’s homepage. From here you can begin your search for books, E-books, articles, etc.
**Interlibrary Loan (and document delivery for LU Online Students):**

Interlibrary loan is a free service to our students. If the JFL doesn’t have an item you need, there is a strong possibility we can get it for you and free of charge. First time users will need to create an ILLiad account:

- Use this link to create an account: [https://www.liberty.edu/library/interlibrary-loan/](https://www.liberty.edu/library/interlibrary-loan/)

Liberty will scan and send articles from journals we have in print. We will also request PDF’s of articles from other libraries. We will send you books in our collection. We won’t borrow books from another library and send them to distance students. If you are near an academic library, you might check on “community borrower” privileges for a small annual fee, or pursue these options:

- ATLA’s reciprocal borrowing (which would benefit in-state AND some out-of-state people) - [https://www.atla.com/Members/programs/Pages/Reciprocal-Borrowing-Initiative.aspx](https://www.atla.com/Members/programs/Pages/Reciprocal-Borrowing-Initiative.aspx)

Both of these allow our students to go in and directly check out books from those libraries. We also recommend that if you need a book we don’t own, you could request it via ILL through your local public libraries (most public libraries do ILL).

**LU Research Guides & Research Databases**

**LU Research Guides:**
Research Guides can be found by subject (Education, Psychology, Nursing, etc.) or by author. Research Guides are intended to give you an intro to the subject, listing helpful/popular books, databases, websites, and a point of contact.

Research Guides that may benefit you the most:

- General List of Research Guides: [http://libguides.liberty.edu/content.php?pid=229367](http://libguides.liberty.edu/content.php?pid=229367)
- Databases by Letter: [http://libguides.liberty.edu/content.php?pid=229146](http://libguides.liberty.edu/content.php?pid=229146)
- How to Find and Use E-books: [http://libguides.liberty.edu/ebooks](http://libguides.liberty.edu/ebooks)
Subscription Databases

1. From the library homepage, click on the Databases tab and then click on Browse Databases by Letter.

2. Some of the best databases for School Counseling students will be
   - **APA PsycNET** - Searches American Psychological Association resources such as PsycINFO, PsycARTICLES, PsycBOOKS, PsycCRITIQUES, and PsycEXTRA in a single search. Includes full-text peer-reviewed articles and book chapters in psychology and related disciplines.
   - **Education Research Complete** - definitive online resource for education research, providing indexing and abstracts for more than 1,500 journals, as well as full text for more than 750 journals, and includes full text for more than 100 books and monographs, and for numerous education-related conference papers; search for “lesson plans” along with your subject
   - **EPoint Books** - nonfiction eBooks on a variety of subjects for children in grades PreK-12
   - **ERIC (EBSCO Host)** - Teacher education, test, measurement, and evaluation, educational psychology, child development; search for “lesson plans” and your subject
   - **MAS Ultra (School Edition)** - full text from nearly 550 popular general interest and current events publications covering general reference, health, science, and other areas, including searchable images (high school); can be used as reference resource for lesson plans requiring student research
   - **ProQuest Psychology Journals** - this database provides abstracts and indexing for more than 640 titles, with over 540 titles available in full text. Many titles are indexed in PsycINFO. Coverage ranges from behavioral, clinical, cognitive, developmental, experimental, industrial and social psychology, along with personality, psychobiology and psychometrics.
   - **ProQuest Education Journals** - access to over 790 top educational publications, including more than 615 of the titles in full text
PsycTherapy - PsycThERAPY is an American Psychological Association database containing more than 300 streaming videos featuring therapy demonstrations showing clinicians working with individuals, couples, and families.

Teacher Reference Center - provides indexing and abstracts for 280 periodicals covering topics including assessment, best practices, continuing education, current pedagogical research, curriculum development, elementary education, higher education, instructional media, language arts, literacy standards, school administration, science & mathematics, and teacher education.

3. Research Tips
   - If full-text is not available, click on the “Get it at LU” button to see if it is available in another database at LU.
   - If it is not available online, check our print periodicals.
   - If it is still not available, request it through ILL with ILLIAD. https://www.liberty.edu/index.cfm?pid=1860

Quick Research Overview

There are a wealth of resources through the Jerry Falwell Library. If you need assistance in using these resources, your most knowledgeable contact is a Research and Instruction Librarian. These librarians work with students everyday on creating better search strategies.

All research involves searching words, phrases, or concepts (either keyword searches or controlled vocabulary “subject” searches) in appropriate databases (of electronically indexed resources) or print collections and then browsing the search results with appropriate limiters (date of publication, author’s perspective, language, format, intended audience, etc.). Your browsing may suggest alternate search terms which you would then search and browse the new results.

Sometimes the source you search will contain the full-text of the desired resource. In other cases, your search will only provide a citation (and perhaps an abstract) but you will have to locate the full-text resource elsewhere.

Realize the interdisciplinary nature of information. For instance, you will find articles on “attention deficit disorder” in education and medical databases. You will find information on “child sexual abuse” in psychology, medical, educational, and religious databases. Don’t limit yourself unnecessarily. For instance, because of the number of journals indexed, Academic Search Complete ought to be part of your search for any topic. If you only need a few articles on a topic, often a multi-disciplinary database will suffice. But for a comprehensive literature review, it is only the beginning.
When creating a search strategy, remember these tips:

- The search terms you use are critical to a successful search. Your search will be no better than the terms you use!
- “Fewer” words are often better when selecting keywords.
  - Remember that every additional term is a further “limitation” of your search and removes potentially useful sources along with irrelevant ones.
  - Don’t add unlikely words to your search terms. For instance, if you were looking at the benefits of pets for children, but you only wanted to look for cats and dogs, and not birds or fish, perhaps the word “mammal” while technically correct, would likely yield no results. Articles on the effects of “dogs” on “boys” or “cats” on “girls,” while appropriate to your topic, might never mention the word “mammal” in the article description and thus these helpful sources would not be displayed.
- Note that searching for keywords in our library subscription database indexes is not exactly like using a search engine such as Google. Rather than looking at the entire text of the article like Google does, journal database searching usually only searches the title, any assigned subject headings and the abstract or description of the article.
- Try to find controlled vocabulary (or standardized search terms) for indexed databases
  - Realize that different databases use different thesauri
  - Avoid slang.
  - Some terms change over time. If you are looking in an older database you may see entries under “global cooling,” and then later “global warming,” and currently “climate change.” “Home economics” is now “family and consumer science.”
  - Even within a particular database, you might try different keyword terms. For instance, you might find things under capital punishment, death penalty, and executions.
  - Look for related terms, like “unidentified flying objects” and “ufology”
- Precision vs. Recall – if you create an extremely precise search string filled with many limiters you could end up eliminating potentially useful information. If you use too broad of a search string, you may have too many results to browse through.
- Boolean logic (AND, OR, NOT), Truncation, Nesting, Wildcards:
  - **Boolean logic** is the use of “AND” and “NOT” to narrow your search and provide fewer results
“OR” broadens your search
- **teacher AND educator** - limits to results with both terms
- **teacher NOT educator** - limits to results with term teacher but excludes the term educator
- **teacher OR educator** - includes results with either or both terms

- **Truncation** - means using an asterisk to say any word with that “root”;
  - Attach* OR bonding AND father or patern* AND infant OR babies OR toddlers
  - Bully* OR bullies OR harass*

- **Nesting** - used to create an “order of operation” for your search terms. (Remember your order of operations form math class? Everything in parenthesis is done – or searched-first.)
  - Use parenthesis, i.e.(childhood OR adolescent) AND (poverty OR at-risk) AND (literacy OR reading)

- **Wildcards** - replace one letter
  - Usually represented by a ? (i.e. wom?n)
  - e.g. “n=*” means number of participants; “f=*” means female participants

- Combine **multiple Boolean operators and search strategies** into one search. (i.e. (attach* OR bonding) AND (father or patern*) AND (infant OR babies OR toddler*)

- Date of publication (very important to some disciplines, less important in others)
- Intended audience (scholarly, popular, juvenile)
- What makes something scholarly?
  - Peer review or scholarly journal editorial process
  - Scholarly apparatus – journal articles beginning with an abstract, footnotes, bibliography, etc.

- Consider primary sources vs. secondary sources
- Consider theoretical or philosophical articles vs. empirical research articles
- For your topic, what format will the preponderance of your research like be in? (Journal articles, essays, books, etc.?)

- Understand the “cycle of information.”
  - For extremely recent or emerging topics, you may need to use newspapers or news magazines but realize that journalists rather than scholars usually write these articles. For most topics, they are not scholarly enough.
  - Next are short articles in trade and professional publications and scholarly papers presented at professional conferences
  - Then, scholars write journal articles
  - Finally, books are published.
  - Which stage of the information cycle is likely to contain the most information on your topic?
    - For some fields (such as science, technology, engineering, medicine and counseling) journal literature is predominant.
    - Other fields produce a healthy mixture of books and journals (religion, humanities, etc.).
    - Many subject areas (particularly historical topics) are found predominantly in books.

- Review bibliographies of relevant resources to find additional resources
  - **NOTE**: If you wish to quote a source you find in a bibliography, you should obtain the original document so that you have access to all of the information in the context in which it was originally published. If this is not possible, consult your advisor to see if you can still use the source with having access to the material. (There is a way to quote a source as cited in another work if you can’t locate the original source.)
• If you are researching a combination of two or more topics or main ideas, research both topics independently and then analyze and synthesize the two ideas.

**Helpful Research Tips**

• You may find it useful to create the following accounts:
  - **Ebsco account** – you can save items in a persistent folder
    - If you don’t create an account and log in, you will lose any items that you have added to a folder once you exit the database since the folder will only be a “temporary” folder.
    - You can also create search alerts for your topic to send you emails when new articles are published or when a new issue of a particular journal is added to the database.
    - To create an account, go into any Ebsco database such as **Education Research Complete** and click on **Sign In** at the top of the screen. You can then create an account and set up your preferences.

**My instructor said I must find a peer reviewed/scholarly article. What exactly is that?**

• **Journals** are often published by professional associations and are aimed towards professionals and researchers in a particular field.
  - Considered scholarly
    - Characteristics of scholarly/peer-reviewed articles include:
      - Credentials of the author at the beginning or end of the article
      - Footnotes or works cited list
      - Start with an abstract
      - Often discusses methodology
  - Many are peer-reviewed
    - Undergo review process by experts in the field
    - Usually a “blind” peer-review (reviewers don’t know the name(s) of the author(s) so that they can provide an unbiased evaluation of the research on its own merits)
    - Some journals that are “scholarly” but use an editorial board rather than a peer review process
    - Generally considered to be the highest level of scholarly publishing.
    - Sometimes indicated in a database by a graduation cap icon at the end of the title or citation

For more in depth information regarding research, contact a Research & Instruction Librarian or the Graduate Research Librarian.

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**Curriculum Library**

The Curriculum Library houses resources typically used by students pursuing a degree in education. Resources include:

• Teaching resources and lesson/activity idea books for all grades PreK-12, not specific to particular textbook; Popular publishers are Scholastic, Jossey-Bass, and Teacher Created Materials
• PreK-12 Teacher edition textbooks and supplements
The Curriculum Library resides in the Terrace Level of the Jerry Falwell Library. You can contact the Curriculum Library at 434-592-3361.

**How Do You Get Additional Help?**

- Your professor is the best person to ask regarding the requirements for assignments. They are also often the best person to ask if you need help narrowing or refining your topic.
- If you need help with formatting your paper or with your writing skills, you should contact the Graduate Writing Center. [http://www.liberty.edu/index.cfm?PID=18192](http://www.liberty.edu/index.cfm?PID=18192)
- If you need help with developing a search strategy, identifying the best places to search, accessing resources, citing resources, etc., you should contact someone in the library.
  - **Off-campus Students**
    - You may contact the online call center for the Jerry Falwell Library for general access and research questions. The direct number is 434-582-2221 OR you may call the toll-free LUO number at 866-584-7231 and then ask to be transferred to the JFL online call center.
    - There are several librarians that can assist you. You can call one of these or email them to schedule an appointment if your question will likely be more involved than can be answered in 5-15 min.
      - Randy Miller, Graduate Assistance Librarian at 434-592-3096 or rlmiller5@liberty.edu
      - Rachel Schwedt, Research and Instruction Librarian and School of Education Graduate Liaison at 434-592-3357 or reschwed@liberty.edu.
      - For Curriculum Library questions: Shelley Oakley, Curriculum Librarian, 434-592-6965 or sdoakley@liberty.edu.
  - **On-campus Students**
    - You can contact the Customer Service Center of the Jerry Falwell Library by calling 434-592-3362, or you can just stop by that desk anytime for assistance.