



EDUCATION 530/531/532 G

Master in Education Thesis Research

REFERENCE & SUBJECT ENCYCLOPEDIAS:

Reference works give a balanced, concise overview of your topic and provide beginning bibliography for your project. They're especially helpful when you haven't got a glimmer about your future topic ;-) !

Browse the Reference section and look for encyclopedias on broad topics in education or psychology that might contain a background article on your topic! Education is in **L** (2½ bookcases); psychology, in **BF**; and *Tests in Print* and *Mental Measurements*, in **Z 5814**.

Licensed online encyclopedias are available through the [Gale Virtual Reference Library](#) and the [Hedberg Library catalog](#) :

Corsini Encyclopedia of Psychology and Behavioral Science
Encyclopedia of Children and Childhood in History and Society
Encyclopedia of Education
Encyclopedia of Distance Learning

A title + call number list of tests and measurements in the Hedberg Library reference section can be found at <http://www.carthage.edu/ais/library/tests.pdf>

LIBRARY CATALOG & BOOKS:

Use a (key)word search to identify some books on your subject; then examine their “subjects” to select some LC subject headings that you can also search on. Leave the red *Library of Congress Subject Headings* books for a last resort!

Keyword searching, used for the Hedberg catalog and licensed databases, combines elements by means of specific words or operators; in the web, however, search terms achieve their result by simply being juxtaposed.

Catalog/licensed databases: boolean search operators		Web search engines: non-boolean searching
and	combines different concepts	boolean operators are not usually expressed: and is implied
or	joins synonyms or alternates	
not	excludes unwanted aspects	
truncation or wildcards	* or ? replaces word endings to retrieve related words beginning with the same letters	truncation is not usually used
phrase searching	nesting with () tells the server which operation to perform first	“ ” for phrases

You can limit a keyword catalog search (<http://library.carthage.edu/search/X>) by location, date, language, etc., to retrieve goodies like recent reference books, for example.

eBooks can be accessed and read by clicking on “An electronic book accessible through the World Wide Web....” Location: L> Online allows you to retrieve only eBooks on a given topic (keyword). A proxy is required off campus.

If the catalog retrieves the wrong items when you search a lot, clean your cache!
 (For Mozilla Firefox 2.0.0.7, go to Options > Advanced > Network > Cache: clean now)

To get an idea of what books exist **anywhere** on your topic and plan your interlibrary loans, as well as determining the viability of your topic, consult [WorldCat](#), linked to the AIS web page. It contains more than 62,000,000 records in 400 languages. Direct loan requests can be made from within an item record: “[Borrow this item from another library](#) (Interlibrary Loan)”.

JOURNAL DATABASES, or periodical indexes & abstracts in electronic format, can be reached by going to [Finding articles](#), on the AIS web page. The general and subject-specific indexes you will find there are listed first by discipline and then by database within each discipline.

PROFESSIONAL LEVEL:

Graduate or thesis level research should be based on the most professional sources. General article database searches often allow limiting to [scholarly \(peer-reviewed\)](#) articles, chosen for publication anonymously, by nationally known authorities. In ERIC and PsycINFO, the "intended audience" category can serve a similar purpose.

Arranged by Vendor

[EBSCOhost Web](#)

Academic Search Elite
 ERIC
 Professional Development Coll.
 PsycINFO
 PsycARTICLES
 Teacher Reference Center
 various health & medical dbs

[Cengage \(formerly InfoTrac\)](#)

Academic OneFile
 Expanded Academic ASAP
 General OneFile

[ProQuest Direct](#)

ProQuest Education Complete
 Wilson Education Abstracts

Alphabetical by db

Academic OneFile	Cengage
Academic Search Elite	EBSCO
ERIC	EBSCO
Expanded Academic ASAP	Cengage
General OneFile	Cengage
Professional Development Coll.	EBSCO
ProQuest Education Complete	ProQuest
PsycARTICLES	EBSCO
PsycINFO	EBSCO
Teacher Reference Center	EBSCO
various health & medical dbs	EBSCO
Wilson Education Abstracts	ProQuest

PERIODICAL INDEXES & HOLDINGS

All the indexes mentioned above are available online, but only some have **fulltext** (ERIC and PsycINFO, for example, do not). To determine which journal issues are held by Carthage in **paper** and/or

microform, first search the **catalog** for the journal title, and then check holdings for the issue and format.

Use *EBSCO A-to-Z* (<http://atoz.ebsco.com/home.asp?Id=carcole>) to determine which of Carthage's licensed databases—and their 21,000 journal titles in electronic format—contains fulltext for your article. Double click on the first initial of your source, then on the first two letters, and scroll down to the journal title. Search provides an alternative method. Double click on any of the databases that contain your issue. Depending on the particular journal and the page it takes you to, you can reach your exact citation by browsing and/or searching.

WORLD WIDE WEB

Try Google and Google Scholar (<http://scholar.google.com/>). (Other good search engines can be found at <http://www.carthage.edu/ais/library/webtools.htm> .)

Search using individual words, with quotation marks around phrases.

Apply [critical thinking](#) methods with special care to evaluate any web pages you find.

DOCUMENTATION AND FORMATTING

Citation and style guides can be found on the Writing Center page (<http://www.carthage.edu/ais/writing/studentresources.html#citing>).

How to format a thesis using MS Word 2000 or XP

<http://www.carthage.edu/ais/library/medformat.doc>

REMOTE COMPUTING

Freely accessible Carthage documents include the Hedberg Library catalog, materials written by Carthage faculty and staff, and a very few [free databases](#), often provided by the government. The majority of databases, online reference works, and eBooks, however, are licensed for the exclusive use of the Carthage community. They can be used with on campus computers or, off campus, with authentication and forwarding by the Carthage proxy server.

Connecting to Hedberg Library Electronic Databases from Off-Campus [overview]

<http://www.carthage.edu/ais/library/offcampus.htm>

Configuring Your Browser to Access Library Databases from Off-Campus

<http://www.carthage.edu/ais/library/wamproxy.htm>

Frequently Asked Questions About Off-Campus Access to Hedberg Library Databases

<http://www.carthage.edu/ais/library/offcampfaq.htm>

Happy searching! Call 262 551-5950 for further help.