

## **SPE 510 Tip Sheet**

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**University Library website:** <http://library.southalabama.edu>

**Librarians:** The reference desk is located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor North. In addition to in-person help at the times listed below, you can call (251) 460-7025, email, or IM a librarian. You are also welcome to contact me directly at the email address above. Full contact information for the reference department is available at <http://www.southalabama.edu/univlib/referenc.htm>

### **Summer Reference Desk Hours:**

May 27 – July 25, 2008

Mon – Thurs	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
7:45am – 9:30pm	7:45am – 6pm	9:30am – 5pm	1pm – 9:30pm

Closed: July 4<sup>th</sup> (Friday)

### **SOUTHcat – Library Catalog**

The catalog contains records for books, e-books, journals, CD-ROMs, CDs, DVDs, videos, and government documents held by the libraries at the University of South Alabama.

**Tutorials:** <http://library.southalabama.edu/ewilson/tutorials>

#### **Search tips:**

- Keyword searches – use quotation marks to hold phrases together
- Truncation – use ? after the root of a word to find all its variants (sport? finds sport, sports, sporting...)
- Browse the Subject(s) field in records to find the right words for searches
- Revise and refine your searches
- Watch for repeating call numbers and browse stacks in that area
- Pay attention to the Location and Status fields

#### **“Where are the journals?”**

This simple question does not have the simplest answer. Journals are available in several parts of the library, as well as through the library’s website:

- Current print periodicals are located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor South, where they are shelved alphabetically by title.
- Older print periodicals are bound into books and are located on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor South, where they are shelved by call number.
- Old issues on microform are located in the cabinets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor South.

- Many journals are also available electronically through article databases. Check the Articles, Indexes, and Databases link on the library's homepage to access these databases, or check the availability of a specific journal using the Our Journal List link on the library's homepage.

## Articles, Indexes, and Databases

The library subscribes to a large number of databases, covering a wide range of topics. These indexes and databases contain articles from academic journals, magazines, newspapers, etc. Most of these can be accessed off-campus from any computer with internet access. You will be prompted to log in.

### Education Databases

*ERIC:* Education's disciplinary index

*Education Research Complete:* Contains scholarly research and information relating to all areas of education, from early childhood to higher education, as well as to administration, policy, funding, and related social issues. Education Research Complete contains indexing and abstracts for more than 1500 journals, and full-text for more than 750 journals. It also includes full-text for more than 100 books and monographs, as well as numerous conference papers.

*Professional Development Collection:* Contains many full-text articles, but is not as large or comprehensive as ERIC.

*Sage Journals Online:* Provides online access to the full text of individual SAGE journals.

### Searching a Specific Journal

One method of searching within a specific journal is to use the Our Journal List link on the library's homepage. Enter the journal title. The results screen will show the available coverage in databases to which the library is subscribed. Click through to the appropriate database and look for an option to search within that title.

You searched for: Journal: **exceptional children;**

Journal Title	Online Coverage	Full Text Access	Print Holdings	Table of Contents	
				Current	Publisher Info
<b>Exceptional Children (Formerly: Journal of Exceptional Children)</b>					
<a href="#">From EBSCO ( Academic Search Premier )</a>	01/2001 -				
<a href="#">From EBSCO ( Education Research Complete )</a>	01/2001 -		View Catalog		
<a href="#">From EBSCO ( Professional Development Collection )</a>	01/2001 -				
<a href="#">From Gale ( Academic OneFile )</a>	01/1988 - 4/2008				
<a href="#">From Gale ( Expanded Academic ASAP )</a>	01/1988 - 4/2008				
<a href="#">From Gale ( General OneFile )</a>	01/1988 - 4/2008				