

# ΣΟΦΙΑ—SOPHIA

## Editorial

### **ERIC an alternative for the search of academic information directed to researchers of the education area**

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**T**here's no doubt we are facing a phenomenon of the new model of scientific transmission that has revolutionized both the ways of carrying out the editorial processes, as well as the way in which researchers collect, store and quote the input information of their research work. Assuming the challenges generated by these new models of scientific transmission means to be constantly studying the new technologies of academic information. Since the last decades of the twentieth century, databases have been developed in order to facilitate access to systematized and related by context information (Arreguín, 2017); they allow to deal with a large amount of information in a small space, recovering it accurately and quickly, and even accessing to information stored on distant computer media. Nowadays, different institutions have grouped or created new spaces of information, separating them by thematic areas, which makes the search by academic disciplines much more precise. In this opportunity, we will share with our readers a very important tool for research processes in the area of education: ERIC.

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The ERIC database (Educational Resources Information Center) is the main source of reference bibliographic information in educational sciences sponsored by the United States Department of Education. It is the most important database in the world of education. It includes more than 700,000 citations of journal articles, technical reports, and description of curricular programs and materials since 1966. It covers 26 countries. Currently, it has 1.2 million records and is made up of the grouping of two sources: Current Index to Journals in Education (CIJE) and Resources in Education (RIE). Together, they index more than 20,000 journal articles and offer scope to more than 14,000 documents in the area of education. In addition, ERIC provides access to books, theses, audiovisual media, monographs, bibliographies and conferences.

### **How can ERIC be consulted?**

It is freely available through the Internet by the following link: <https://eric.ed.gov/> Its interface is similar to google, the information search is done using a simple box, just typing the terms in which we are interested in the search engine and this will make available a number of results, which can be limited by date, year, or any descriptor that helps us get closer specifically to the topic of interest. Quotation marks and Boolean logic signs can be used for more searches precise. Every time we use a descriptor, a smaller number of results will appear; for example, this tool gives me the option to filter the search for documents that have been reviewed by peers, or will only show me, if I wish, documents whose full text is available. In addition to accessing through the mentioned web address, ERIC also works through several interfaces (Ebsco host, Proquest, or libraries of academic institutions) that provide the researcher with other potentialities at the time of carrying out searches such as limiting the language in which the texts of interest will appear, options to expand or limit the results and the options for visualizing them in different formats such as xml, (Extensible Markup Language) pdf (Portable Document Format) or html (HyperText Markup Language), in order to export towards any bibliographic citation manager that allows integrated construction of the text with its bibliographical references.

In this regard, Arreguín infers some benefits of the advanced ERIC search:

If you are already an expert in information searches, then you will find attractive the advanced search, in it, you can locate resources through language commands such as: “title”, “author”, “source”, “abstract” “Pubyear”, “descriptor”, among others. For example, if you are looking for resources of an author surnamed “Peña,” published this year, your search parameter should be constructed like this: author: Peña pubyear: 2017. (Arreguín, 2017)

In libraries, ERIC is used as a reference tool for gathering information with the purpose of elaborating states of the art on some specific educational subject, and in order to integrate the information in theoretical frames of academic works. This way, there is a possibility that researchers commit fewer errors possible when taking data from other authors to feed their discussion, or direct a quote properly, and this contributes to the impact factor of the publisher. Let’s then remember that a quote is an alternative quantitative measure to evaluate the scientific quality, the frequency of citation and the impact factor of journals or other types of publications.

According to this criterion, an indicator of the impact (positive or negative) of a publication in the scientific community is the number of times that a given article is cited. It is evident that an elevated number of citations to a particular publication reflects the fact that such publication has generated new knowledge in the scientific community. (Beltrán, 2006)

Offering to those who read us the sources on which our productions are based is an act of rigor and coherence, the use of diverse sources and the contrast of ideas grant scientific rigor and intellectual solidity to any article.

At the same time, it allows that other people interested in the same subject can expand their documentary data base (López, 2017). Therefore, it is important to know and use the tools created to facilitate the process of data collection and integration of quotes to investigation works. We also want to share another list of tools with our readers of information search aimed at the area of education, whose management is relatively similar to the one described in ERIC: Emerald Insights, Science Direct, Informe Académico, Índice de Revistas de Educación Superior e Investigación Educativa (Iresie) and Academic Search Complete.

Finally, we present to the public the volume 14 number 1; the content of the magazine addresses topics related to secondary school, the curriculum and knowledge in context, techniques for learning mathematics with the use of simulation, and a research that studies the need to work on healthy relationships between socio-educational contexts, among other topics of interest to society and the academic community.

## **References**

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