Walden Library Video Transcript

Title: How to Search an Education Database

URL: http://youtu.be/XOWNVwmw8eY

Begin Transcript

Visual: ERIC database search page
Narration: This video demonstrates a basic search in a library database. For this search we are using ERIC, one of the education databases.

Visual: Slide showing a research topic
Narration: First look at your topic and identify the major concepts. Here is a sample research question: How is collaborative learning effective in online higher education? The major concepts are: collaborative learning, online, and higher education. Use these as your keywords to start a search. Effective keywords refer to specific, concrete ideas.

Visual: ERIC database search page
Narration: Type your keywords into the search boxes, one concept per box. Use phrases only when the words must be found next to each other. Add limits to your search if you need them. This database automatically limits to full text, but it is also useful to limit to scholarly, peer-reviewed journals or to specify a date range. Now click Search.

Visual: ERIC database results page
Narration: We found 61 results. You can explore your results now for useful articles, or look at the words used in your results to improve your search. In the first result is an alternative term for one of my keywords: cooperative learning, which is another way of saying collaborative learning. Group similar terms in the same search box, separating the terms with OR. This tells the database to find articles that mention either collaborative learning OR cooperative learning.

Visual: ERIC database results page after new search
Narration: When search is clicked again, more results are found. To learn more about an article, click its title to read the abstract, which is a short summary of the article. This can help you decide if the article matches what you need. To see the entire article, click a full text link. Some ERIC results are available on ERIC's website. These will have a Full Text from ERIC link. Other results are available in the library databases. These have a PDF or HTML Full Text link. Click the link to open the full text.