Reviews of Research

The following are sources of reviews of research and evaluation and can provide valuable overviews on a range of topics in education. Click on the title for a link to each organization's website.

Best Evidence Encyclopaedia (BEE)

The Best Evidence Encyclopaedia (BEE) presents reliable, unbiased reviews of research-proven educational programs to help policy makers use evidence to make informed choices, principals to choose proven programs, teachers to use the most powerful tools available, and researchers to find rigorous evaluations of educational programs.

Centre for the Use of Research and Evidence in Education (CUREE)

The mission of Centre for the Use of Research and Evidence in Education (CUREE) is to translate large scale and technical research findings and resources into materials teachers and policy makers can use.

Campbell Collaboration Library of Systematic Reviews

The Campbell Collaboration (C2) helps people make well-informed decisions by preparing, maintaining and disseminating systematic reviews in education, crime and justice, and social welfare.

Educational Policy Analysis Archives (EPAA/AAPE)

Educational Policy Analysis Archives focuses on the intersection of education and policy issues broadly speaking. EPAA/AAPE is a peer-reviewed, open-access, international, multilingual, and multidisciplinary journal designed for researchers, practitioners, policy makers, and development analysts concerned with education policies.

Educational Research Review

Educational Research Review is a new international journal aimed at researchers and various agencies interested in reviews of studies in education and instruction at any level. The journal will accept meta-analytic reviews, narrative reviews and best-evidence syntheses.

Evidence for Policy and Practice Information (EPPI)

The Evidence for Policy and Practice Information and Co-ordinating Centre (EPPI-Centre) is part of the Social Science Research Unit at the Institute of Education, University of London.

Since 1993, they have been carrying out systematic reviews and developing review methods in social science and public policy. EPPI is dedicated to making reliable research findings accessible to the people who need them, whether they are making policy, practice or personal decisions.

International Academy of Education

The International Academy of Education is a not-for-profit scientific association that promotes educational research, its dissemination, and the implementation of its implications. Founded in 1986, the Academy is dedicated to strengthening the contributions of research, solving critical educational problems throughout the world, and providing better communication among policy makers, researchers and practitioners.

National Education Policy Center

The mission of the National Education Policy Center is to produce and disseminate high-quality, peer-reviewed research to inform education policy discussions. We are guided by the belief that the democratic governance of public education is strengthened when policies are based on sound evidence.

Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) iLibrary

OECD iLibrary contains all the publications and datasets released by OECD, International Energy Agency (IEA), Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA), OECD Development Centre, PISA (Programme for International Student Assessment), and International Transport Forum (ITF).

Review of Research in Education

The *Review of Research in Education* provides an annual overview and descriptive analysis of selected topics of relevant research literature through critical and synthesizing essays. *RRE* promotes discussion and controversy about research problems, in addition to pulling together and summarizing the work in a field.

Review of Educational Research

The *Review of Educational Research* (*RER*) publishes critical, integrative reviews of research literature bearing on education, including conceptualizations, interpretations, and syntheses of literature and scholarly work in a field broadly relevant to education and educational research.

What Works Clearinghouse

What Works Clearinghouse is an initiative of the U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences; the WWC assesses the rigour of research evidence on the effectiveness of specific interventions (programs, products, practices and policies) and produces research syntheses and reports that are accessible on the website.

Best Evidence Synthesis

A Best Evidence Synthesis (BES) combines the qualities of a meta-analysis with a literature review. It begins with studies that have evidence of impact (meta-analysis) and explores the themes that cut across these studies, in relation to explanatory theoretical literature, to identify the most promising contributors to success. BESs are intended to be a catalyst for systemic improvement and sustainable development in education.

Single Studies from Research Literature Databases

The following is a list of research databases, some with a focus on education. These databases provide access to a variety of publications including books, peer-reviewed articles, conference papers, policy papers and other materials. Some databases provide full-text articles available to download; in cases where this option is not available, all documents and books can be requested from the **library**.

Education Resources Information Center (ERIC)

ERIC contains over one million records for education-related materials, including over 300,000 full-text documents.

Education Research Complete

ERC has extensive content of bibliographic and full-text databases covering scholarly research and information relating to all areas of education.

CBCA

CBCA provides full-text content and bibliographic content that focuses on Canadian information in the field of education.

Academic One File

Contains peer-reviewed, full-text articles from the world's leading journals and reference sources. It has extensive coverage of the physical sciences, technology, medicine, social sciences, the arts, theology, literature and other subjects. There are millions of articles available in both PDF and HTML full-text with no restrictions. Includes full-text coverage of the New York Times back to 1995.

Australian Education Index

Focuses on the subject descriptions of, and bibliographic references to, more than 130,000 documents relating to educational research, policy and practice.

British Education Index

Focuses on the subject descriptions of, and bibliographic references to, significant journal literature relating to education and the teaching of curricular subjects. The Index provides details about the contents of various literature sources. Particular strengths include aspects of educational policy and administration, evaluation and assessment, technology and special educational needs.

Psychology Collection

This collection gives individuals a basic understanding of the study of the mind, emotions and how the human mind develops and diminishes over time. Researchers will have access to nearly 500 subject-appropriate full-text periodicals—many cited in the PsycINFO index.

How to Search Databases

Key words: There are thousands of publications available through these databases, so it is important to be able to narrow down your search so that you produce relevant and manageable information. A general search of a term could yield thousands of results. You can narrow down your search by:

Date: You can choose specific dates, depending on the scope of your project. For example, you may only be interested in literature after 2005.

Including terms: You can search several terms, using the term 'and' to indicate that you are looking for literature that has all of the terms. You can also use the term 'or' to indicate that you are interested in literature that contains either of the terms.

Excluding terms: Most databases give you the option of including several key terms, but also by excluding words that don't relate to your topic. You can choose to include a key word, and exclude other words that relate to your topic, but are not your primary focus, by using the 'not' function.

Other Online Resources

Not all research studies are published in journals; getting a study published in an academic journal takes a considerable amount of time. The internet, then, can be a great source of unpublished reports; however, identifying which information on the Internet is reliable, and which is not, requires you to have knowledge of your topic and some tools for sifting through all of the information that is out there. **Check here** for tips on how to evaluate the quality of the information you have found.

Given all the research literature available, the internet should be checked only after you have gathered evidence from research databases. **Library and Archives Canada** offers tools for searching online.

Tracking and Synthesizing Evidence

Use our **worksheet template** to track the evidence you're gathering.