

# **Research Guide for Ed 300: Education Reform Past & Present**


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This research guide is divided into three parts, which reflect the different portals we use to recover information: library catalogs, databases and the internet. The portal we select is determined by the publication format (book, graphic, journal article, report, manuscript, etc.) and the distribution (print or electronic).

## **CATALOG:** <<http://library.trincoll.edu>>

The catalog is used to find information that is published in monographs (books), documents (reports published by government agencies or research institutions), newspaper or journal titles (not the individual journal articles), anthologies (collections of articles or essays on a common topic), encyclopedias, dictionaries and almanacs (compilations of statistics, historic events, scientific charts, calendars, etc.). Except for the content of the almanacs, most of the information packaged in this format is narrative; memoirs, histories, biographies, social science and scientific research reports. The majority of this material will be in a tangible format (print, CD, DVD, microform) but some will be electronic. Government documents in particular are now often published electronically, so the bibliographic record will have an internet link to the text.

## **TOR:** (Trinity Online Resources) <<http://library.trincoll.edu>>

TOR is the Trinity College web site for all their subscription databases and for web sites that contain research material. Use TOR to find journal articles, conference reports and book reviews. The results of most academic research is first published in scholarly journals or announced at conferences. Databases are the resource we use to find the most recent research in any academic subject. A few databases, which will be particularly useful in this course, are listed below. Not all databases are full text. If the database only supplies the citation for your journal article, use the  button to locate the full text.

### America History and Life:

Indexes abstracts of scholarly literature written on the history and culture of the United States and Canada from prehistoric times to the present. Citations for journal articles, book reviews, media reviews, and dissertations are included.

### Archives USA:

This is an excellent resource for locating archival material. However, none of the collections have been digitized. Since the material is unpublished, you must either request photo or micro form copies on ILL or visit the relevant institution to use the documents, manuscripts, etc.

### Education Fulltext:

This is the online version of Education Index. It covers all topics relating to education from administration and instruction to economic and social issues. The content includes journals, yearbooks and some monographs. Full-text coverage for selected periodicals begins in 1996. NOTE: The print version is available in the Reference Collection (REF Z5813 .E23) beginning with v.1 (1929/1932) through v.50 (1999/2000).

### ERIC:

Educational Resources Information Center is a database is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education. It provides extensive coverage of both the educational and related literature found in Resources in Education (RIE) and Current Index to Journals in Education (CIJE).

### Hartford Courant:

The Hartford Courant database is divided into two sections: the first part (Hartford Courant) covers 1992 to the present. The second part (Historical Hartford Courant) covers 1764 to 1982. There is a 10 year gap which is not indexed. The entire paper, from 1840 until the present, is also available on microfilm. Both databases provide full text coverage of all news articles. However, the current file (1992-present) does not include any graphics. The Historical Hartford Courant is a PDF file and includes the entire paper including classified ads. Both databases can be searched by keyword.

### JStor:

JStor is a full text database that indexes journals from all academic disciplines. Each journal begins with vol. 1 but there is a 2-5 year embargo on current issues. The length of the embargo is decided by each journal. It is an excellent place to begin research on the early history of schools and curriculum in the United States. NOTE: Follow JStor's printing instructions; do not use the print function on your browser. The journal articles are pdf files so the print command on your browser will only capture the frame.

### Lexis Nexis Academic: (Use for legal research, U S Supreme Court Cases, etc.)

Lexis Nexis is an immense database with several distinct parts. After selecting Legal from the red tool bar click on Federal and State cases in the right side bar. Use this screen to search for US Supreme Court Cases.

### Reader's Guide Retrospective (1890-1982):

Readers' Guide Retrospective indexes many of the popular magazines that were widely distributed between the late nineteenth century and the late twentieth century. It is not full text.

### WorldCat:

WorldCat is an international database that combines the catalogs of most of the college and university libraries in the United States and Canada. In addition, many research libraries (the Library of Congress, New York Public Library etc) are also included. Not all, but many libraries in Africa, Asia, South America and Europe have also contributed their catalogs. This is an excellent place to begin your research if you are uncertain who are the principal scholars or publishers in the field.

## **INTERNET:**

The advent of electronic publishing has greatly enhanced our opportunities for research and increased the number of available resources. However, whenever you use a web site, remember to critically evaluate both the author's credentials and the content. Below are a few pre-screened web sites that will help you with your research.

[American Memory Project](http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/index.html) <<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/index.html>>

The Library of Congress created this website as a portal for the many documents, photographs, reports, letters, etc in their collections that have been digitized. This is an excellent resource for primary source material on the early history of education.

[Connecticut State Department of Education](http://www.sde.ct.gov): <<http://www.sde.ct.gov>>

This is the official web page for the Connecticut Department of Education. From this page you can access many online publications. Scroll down to the middle of the page in order to see links to various topics within the site. Use the link Connecticut Education Data and Research ([CeDar](#)) for quantitative data and school reports.

[U. S. Department of Education](http://www.ed.gov): <<http://www.ed.gov>>

The Ed.Gov site covers current policies and publications, with links to the web sites of subordinate agencies where more detailed information is available. Examples are the [National Education Research and Development Centers](#) or the [National Center for Education Statistics](#). Both agencies post data and reports on their web sites. [Digest of Education Statistics](#) is a particularly important link on NCES, with many data reports.

[Educational Studies Program](http://www.trincoll.edu/depts/educ): <<http://www.trincoll.edu/depts/educ>>

This is the homepage for the Trinity College Educational Studies Program. It lists additional resources, such as course syllabi and links to senior research project papers.

[Office of Institutional Research](http://www.trincoll.edu/TrinityAZ/planning/IRP/) <<http://www.trincoll.edu/TrinityAZ/planning/IRP/>>

Trinity's Office of Institutional Research and Planning is designed "to inform and guide planning and evaluation." There are links to [reports](#) about the College and its student body, which are limited to users on the Trinity College campus network.

[Hartford Studies Project](http://www.trincoll.edu/UG/UE/HSP): <<http://www.trincoll.edu/UG/UE/HSP>>

A Trinity College project that encourages "Trinity Students and faculty to explore Hartford's history and present experience of issues such as race, immigration, culture, labor, and local politics," with listings of print and on-line resources.

[Education Week](http://www.edweek.org): <<http://www.edweek.org>>

A weekly newsmagazine that reports on pre-K to 12<sup>th</sup> grade policies and practices in the US and abroad, with on-line database of articles since 1981.

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[Chronicle of Higher Education](http://chronicle.com): <<http://chronicle.com>>

A weekly newsmagazine which reports on college and university policies in the United States and abroad, with on-line database of articles since 1989. "Search the Site" > "More Options"

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