50 Years of ERIC
1964 - 2014
Illustrious History

• 50 years of service to education
  ◦ Research
  ◦ Practice
  ◦ Professional development
  ◦ Decision-making

• Innovation
  ◦ Thesaurus
  ◦ Dissemination
  ◦ Technologies
  ◦ Continuous, user-driven enhancements

• Known, respected, and searched worldwide
Groundwork – Late Eisenhower Presidency

1957 – 1958
Increase in federally funded research

1959
Office of Education (OE) commissions feasibility study

1961
OE coins acronym “ERIC”
1957 and 1958 – Defining the Need

- Elvis is “King” when the need for a report repository is recognized in the Office of Education.
- There was an increase in education research with no way to make the reports accessible to researchers, government officials, and the public.
1959 to 1961 – Studying the Feasibility

- The study recommends that the service “embrace all education research and research in other disciplines that have implications for educational theory and practice.”
1962-1965 – Kennedy and Early Johnson Presidencies

1962
Western Reserve Study – design for ERIC

1964
ERIC opens in OE

1965
Pilot project “Fingertip”
EDRS established
1962 – Designing the System

- Western Reserve Study, “The Library of Tomorrow—Today,” published as the design for ERIC.
- ERIC’s services defined as computer tapes, copies of source documents, abstracts, bibliographies, and a thesaurus.
1964 – ERIC Gets Its Start

• ERIC Program begins in the Office of Education on May 15.
• “It was an office without funds and an office without a program,” but early framers had big plans.
• Harold Haswell is first ERIC Director.
The Year ERIC Begins – First Ford Mustang, Signing of the Economic Opportunity Act, Hard Days Night (1964)
1965 – Piloting Dissemination

- Project Fingertip pilots document dissemination to special education teachers.
- Resources sent to all state Boards of Education, 100 largest cities, and a school district in each congressional district.
- Each packet contains 1,746 documents, with program descriptions, indices, resumes, and the full text of each document.
1965 – ERIC Document Reproduction Service (EDRS)

- OE decides to provide public access to indexed reports and other grey materials.
- EDRS handles document reproduction for those wanting copies of ERIC documents.
- Microfiche is the state-of-the-art dissemination medium.
Also in 1965... 

- President Johnson signs PL 89-10, the “Elementary and Secondary Education Act” (ESEA) of 1965.
- “No Child Left Behind” is the current incarnation of ESEA.
1966 – Rapid Expansion

- First 12 ERIC Clearinghouses established: March and June
- ERIC Processing and Reference Facility created: May
- Phase 1 ERIC Thesaurus published: June
- First issue of Research in Education (RIE) published: November
1966 – Expanding Capacity

- ERIC office quickly exceeds capacity for performing indexing.
- ERIC evolves into a decentralized system as OE awards contracts for first clearinghouses to acquire and process materials, especially materials not accessible through traditional publishers.
- Clearinghouses are subject-centered and typically placed in universities and education associations.
- Harvey Marron is Director.
1966 – ERIC Processing and Reference Facility

- Established as the scheduler and coordinator of the decentralized ERIC system.
- Hosted Thesaurus development and maintenance.
- Provided quality oversight to selection and indexing activities.
1966 – ERIC Thesaurus

• Formally known as “The Thesaurus of ERIC Descriptors.”
• Designed as an authority list for the field of education.
• Widely used, respected and recognized as a standard in the field.
• The ERIC Thesaurus continues to develop and is available online.
1966 – Research in Education (RIE)

• First printing of the abstract journal “Research in Education” signifies ERIC’s official opening to the public.

• The monthly RIE publication announces new documents added to the ERIC database.

• The title was changed in 1974 from “Research in Education” to “Resources in Education.”
Events in 1966

• U. S. Department of Transportation formed.
• Ronald Reagan is elected Governor of California.
• U. S. engaged in combat in Vietnam.

1967 – 1969
ERIC changes name
Adds journals

1970 – 1972
All 16 Clearinghouses on board
ERIC available on Dialog
ERIC transfers to the National Institute of Education

1980
U. S. Department of Education is formed
1967 – 1980

- ERIC changes name from “Educational Research Information Center” to “Educational Resources Information Center,” 1967.
- Journal literature added to ERIC database; first issue of “Current Index to Journals in Education” (CIJE) published, 1969.
- All 16 ERIC Clearinghouses on board, 1970.
- Dialog offers ERIC database online, 1971.
- ERIC transferred to newly created National Institute of Education (NIE), 1972.
- Chuck Hoover is ERIC Director.
Events in the 1970s

- U. S. soldiers return home from Vietnam.
- Hippy era gives way to disco fever.
- First pocket calculator introduced.
ERIC Clearinghouses 1-4 (with Latest Affiliation and Longest Serving Directors)

• Adult, Career, and Vocational Education, Ohio State University (Juliet Miller, Susan Imel)
• Assessment and Evaluation, University of Maryland (S. Donald Melville, Lawrence Rudner)
• Community Colleges, University of California at Los Angeles (Arthur Cohen)
• Counseling and Student Services, University of North Carolina at Greensboro (Garry Walz)
ERIC Clearinghouses 5-8 (with Latest Affiliation and Longest Serving Directors)

- Disabilities and Gifted Education, Council for Exceptional Children (Donald Erickson, Bruce Ramirez, Cassandra Peters-Johnson)
- Educational Management, University of Oregon (Philip Piele)
- Elementary and Early Childhood Education, University of Illinois (Lilian Katz)
- Higher Education, George Washington University (Jonathan Fife, Adrianna Kezar)
ERIC Clearinghouses 9-12 (with Latest Affiliation and Longest Serving Directors)

• Information & Technology, Syracuse University (Donald Ely, Michael Eisenberg, David Lankes)
• Languages and Linguistics, Center for Applied Linguistics (Charles Stansfield, Joy Peyton)
• Reading, English, and Communication, Indiana University (Bernard O’Donnell, Carl Smith)
• Rural Education and Small Schools, Appalachia Educational Laboratory (Everett Eddington, Craig Howley, Hobart Harmon, Timothy Collins)
ERIC Clearinghouses 13-16 (with Latest Affiliation and Longest Serving Directors)

• Science, Mathematics, and Environmental Education, Ohio State University (Robert Howe, David Haury)

• Social Studies/Social Science Education, Indiana University (Irving Morrissett, John Patrick)

• Teaching and Teacher Education, American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (Mary Dilworth)

• Urban Education, Teachers College, Columbia University (Edmund Gordon, Erwin Flaxman)

- 500,000 ERIC entries
- ERIC on CD-ROM
- Office of Educational Research and Improvement (OERI) is formed

- 1989
  - ACCESS ERIC established
  - Adjunct Clearinghouses established

- 1990 - 1992
  - ERIC on the Internet
  - Special projects began: AskERIC, GEM, Virtual Reference Desk
1981 - 1989

- ERIC database reaches 500,000 entries, 1983.
- ERIC transfers to NIE’s successor, Office of Educational Research and Improvement (OERI), 1985.
- ACCESS ERIC and first Adjunct Clearinghouses established, 1989.
- Bob Chesley, Chuck Hoover, Alan Moorehead are ERIC Directors.
Events in the 1980s

• Motorola introduces first mobile phone.
• Space Shuttle Challenger explodes after take-off.
• Cold War ends with the fall of the Berlin Wall.
1992

- ERIC debuts on the Internet.
- AskERIC launched by the Information & Technology Clearinghouse at Syracuse University.
- Other special projects start up: Gateway to Educational Materials (GEM) and Virtual Reference Desk (VRD).
- Bob Stonehill is ERIC Director.
ERIC Support Components (with Longest Serving Directors)

• ACCESS ERIC – outreach and communications (Lynn Smarte).
• ERIC Document Reproduction Service – document conversion and delivery (Peter Dagutis).
• ERIC Processing and Reference Facility – coordination, data quality, and ERIC Thesaurus (Ted Brandhorst).
1993 – 2003 – ERIC in the Internet Age (Clinton and Early George W. Bush Presidencies)

1993
ERIC begins indexing books

1994 - 1998
National Library of Education (NLE) founded
ERIC transfers to NLE
EDRS begins online document delivery

1999 – 2003
1 million ERIC records
Institute of Education Sciences founded
1993 – 2003

• ERIC adds books to the database, 1993.
• ERIC transfers to NLE, 1995.
• ERIC database reaches 1 million entries, 1999.
• ERIC joins the new Institute of Education Sciences (IES), 2002.
• Pat Coulter and Keith Stubbs are ERIC Directors.
An ERIC Clearinghouse Website – 1997

Access our **ERIC Database** search interface.

Databases cover from years 1989 through February 1997.

**ERIC Digests**

ERIC Digests, a portion of the ERIC Database, are short reports on current education topics produced by each of the 16 ERIC Clearinghouses. To search the fulltext database of ERIC Digests, go to the U.S. Department of Education WWW at [http://www.ed.gov/databases/ERIC_Digests/index/](http://www.ed.gov/databases/ERIC_Digests/index/).
AskERIC Website – 2001
Updated Monday, September 23, 2002

Ensuring Quality and Productivity in Higher Education: An Analysis of Assessment Practices (PDF version)

This new Digest from the ERIC Clearinghouse on Higher Education summarizes the leading issues involved in ensuring the quality and productivity of education and professional development activities in a specific system of higher education.

ERIC/CCLL Language Link

The September 2002 issue of ERIC/CCLL Language Link from the ERIC Clearinghouse on Languages and Linguistics features an article on "Cultural Exchange Through the Visiting International Faculty Programs" and reviews the journal Language & Intercultural Communication. It also announces recent and upcoming activities of the Clearinghouse and its affiliates.

Frequently Requested Information About Child Care

The ERIC Clearinghouse on Child Care, an adjunct ERIC Clearinghouse, has posted two new lists of resources addressing "The Effects of Quality Child Care on Young Children," and "National Accreditation Organizations for Early Childhood Programs."

New Digests About Educational Facilities

The National Clearinghouse for Educational Facilities, an affiliate ERIC Clearinghouse, has published two new Digests: The Role of Wireless Computing Technology in the Design of Schools and Schools Designed with Community Participation.

New Digests About Urban Education

Two new Digests are available from the ERIC Clearinghouse on Urban Education: Data-Driven Equity in Urban Schools and Literacy Education After High School.
2002 – Education Reform Act Establishes the Institute of Education Sciences (IES)

- ERIC Becomes Part of IES
ERIC Website – 2003

ERIC is a national information system funded by the U.S. Department of Education’s Institute of Education Sciences to provide access to education literature and resources.

Search the ERIC database to find education-related journal articles, research reports, curriculum and teaching guides, conference papers, books, and more.

Visit the ERIC Clearinghouses’ content-rich Web sites for brief and in-depth publications, virtual libraries, directories, and links to other resources in their areas of subject expertise.

Explore more than 2,400 ERIC Digests on current topics, and links to resources for parents, a conference calendar, an online question-answering service, and other resources.

ACCE38 ERIC produces and maintains this site for the U.S. Department of Education’s Institute of Education Sciences under Contract Number ED-91-CO-0005.
2004 – 2012 – ERIC Redesigned (Bush Second Term and Obama Presidencies)

2004
ED consolidates ERIC operations
ERIC launches a single web portal

2005 - 2009
Release of Online Submission System
Microfiche Digitization Project underway

2010 - 2012
Debut on social media
1.4 million records in ERIC
2004

- U. S. Department of Education consolidates ERIC under a single contract.
- Production of microfiche ceases.
- ERIC becomes an all-electronic service.
- A single new website replaces 20 separate sites.
- Luna Levinson is ERIC Director.
Welcome to the ERIC Database

The Education Resources Information Center (ERIC), sponsored by the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) of the U.S. Department of Education, produces the world's premier database of journal and non-journal education literature. The new ERIC online system, released September 2004, provides the public with a centralized ERIC Web site for searching the ERIC bibliographic database of more than 1.1 million citations going back to 1966. Effective October 1, more than 107,000 full-text non-journal documents (issued 1993-2004), previously available through fee-based services only, will be available for free.

Search the database

Searches: Keywords | Terms | Advanced Search

Search: [Search] [Clear]

ERIC News

- New ERIC Web Site Online September 3, 2004
- Improved Download Performance for Free PDF Image Documents
- Acquisition of ERIC Resources to Resume This Fall
- ERIC to Introduce Electronic Submission for Conference Papers

My ERIC

Login or register now to access My ERIC. You do NOT need to login or register to use ERIC's search features.

About My ERIC

Username:
Password:
Login

Forgot your password?
2005 – 2012

• ERIC opens Online Submission System for individual author papers and reports, 2005.
• ERIC establishes presence on Facebook and Twitter, 2010.
• Records in ERIC exceed 1.4 million, 2012.
ERIC Website – 2012
2013 to Present – ERIC Transition (Phase 1)

- **August 2013**: ERIC releases new streamlined website
- **September – December 2013**: Review of ERIC policies and procedures
- **January 2014**: ERIC adopts new Selection Policy
ERIC Transition – August 2013 to January 2014

- ERIC releases new streamlined website at eric.ed.gov to enhance usability and simplify searching for a broadening audience.
- Advisory Group formed to assist in review of collection policies.
- New Selection Policy adopted in January to focus on collecting education research.
- Erin Pollard is ERIC Program Officer.
ERIC Transition – February 2014 Through Remainder of the Year (Phase 2)

March 2014
ERIC database and Thesaurus made openly accessible

Spring/Fall 2014
New ERIC Topic Pages under development

Remainder 2014
Further enhancements to increase usefulness
ERIC Transition – February 2014 Through Remainder of the Year

• ERIC database and Thesaurus files made free and open for download without a license.

• ERIC developing topic pages with informative, peer-reviewed summaries designed for a general audience and links to valuable resources.

• ERIC continues the long tradition of ongoing innovation and enhancement.
Special Thanks

The ERIC Team would like to extend recognition to:

- ERIC founders and early innovators:
  - Western Reserve University – Allen Kent.
  - University of Michigan – Frederick Goodman.
- Former Directors and staff from ED, ERIC Clearinghouses, EDRS, ERIC Facility, and ACCESS ERIC.
- Publishers and other contributors to the ERIC collection.
- ERIC searchers everywhere.
For More ERIC History . . .
