Information and Literature Searching for MPhil/PhD Students

# Week 2

## Readings for Week 2

* [Freathy, R., & Parker, S. (2010). The Necessity of Historical Inquiry in Educational Research: The Case of Religious Education. British Journal of Religious Education, 32, 229–243.](https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/01416200.2010.498612)

This is a case study which highlights the importance of historical inquiry as a method which can, as the authors state, 'add depth and range to our understanding of education... and can illuminate important longer‐term, broader and philosophical issues'.

* [Kuper, A., Whitehead, C., & Hodges, B. D. (2013). Looking Back to Move Forward: Using History, Discourse and Text in Medical Education Research: Amee Guide No. 73. Medical Teacher, 35, e849–e860.](https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.3109/0142159X.2012.748887)

This article highlights how historical, discourse and text analysis approaches that can help researchers and educators question the inevitability of things that are currently seen as ‘natural’. The article is offered both to emphasize the importance of historical inquiry but also to develop criticality.

* [Williams, R. (1985). Keywords: A Vocabulary of Culture and Society (Rev. ed). New York: Oxford University Press.](https://ucl-new-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/primo-explore/fulldisplay?docid=UCL_LMS_DS21161791050004761&context=L&vid=UCL_VU2&search_scope=CSCOP_UCL&isFrbr=true&tab=local&lang=en_US)

'Keywords' is a book by the Welsh Marxist academic Raymond Williams. It examines the history of more than a hundred words that are familiar and yet confusing and provides. Students are asked to consider the etymology of their key words in the same style as Williams.

In Week 2 you will be reminded of how to search the databases using Boolean logic. There are video demonstrations on how to search on some of the key education databases BEI, ERIC and the Web of Science.  Although the starting point is different since the change of systems, the searching techniques are still relevant.

This session also focuses on the importance of going back to primary sources to check accuracy of information and using these historical inquiry in your literature review.

## Databases

**Education Databases**

The following databases are the key ones for education:

* BEI - British Education Index
* ERIC - Education Resources Information Centre
* ASSIA - Applied Social Sciences Index and Abstracts
* AEI - Australian Education Index
* DERA - Digital Education Resource Archive

The key **Social Sciences database** include

* IBSS - International Bibliography of the Social Sciences
* Web of Science
* SCOPUS
* Academic Search Complete (via Senate House Library)

The main **Psychology Databases** are available via Senate House Library and include

* PsychINFO
* PsychARTICLES
* PsychBOOKS

The databases are available from [here](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/library/electronic-resources/databases).   There are two or three main platforms used by Databases and all of them feature the same *Basic* and *Advanced Search* options and contain a thesaurus. Do make use of the online help available on the databases to search effectively but start by watching the video on how to access a database remotely and then work your way down the resources that are linked to this part of the course.

***Tip!*** Check the scope of the database by clicking on the '**i**' in the list of databases to see what the coverage is and what subjects the database focuses on before you begin searching.

[How to search BEI (Basic)](http://youtu.be/xTtuWJbykpw)

BEI or the British Education Index, is the place to search for all things to do with British education and related areas.  The following is a short presentation on getting started with BEI.  Find out about BEI and its coverage - this will tell you what its limitations are of this database.

[Thesaurus Searching on BEI](https://youtu.be/wzIti7OO5D4)

[IOE LibGuide on DERA: Digital Education Resource Archive](http://libguides.ioe.ac.uk/DERA)

DERA stands for Digital Education Resource Archive and is a digital archive of documents published electronically by the UK government and related bodies in the area of education.

[Searching the Web of Science](http://youtu.be/AgTk3kA__lo)
This video has a demonstration of searching on the Web of Science.

* [Searching ERIC](https://libguides.ioe.ac.uk/ld.php?content_id=32002282)

The following is a screen-by-screen set of instructions of how to search on ERIC, the largest of the education databases. The instructions include searching for subject/indexing terms using the inbuilt thesaurus.

## Resources

* [Archive Collections](http://libguides.ioe.ac.uk/archivecollections)
* [Special Collections](http://libguides.ioe.ac.uk/specialcollections)
* [Historical Sources](http://libguides.ioe.ac.uk/historysources)
* [Theses and Dissertations](http://libguides.ioe.ac.uk/thesesdissertations)
* [Databases](https://library-guides.ucl.ac.uk/az.php)
* [Psychology Resources at Senate House Library](http://libguides.ioe.ac.uk/psych)
* [Accessing Resources Remotely](http://libguides.ioe.ac.uk/accessing)
* [DERA](http://libguides.ioe.ac.uk/content.php?pid=564564)

## Task 1

1. [​](http://ble.ioe.ac.uk/mod/hsuforum/view.php?id=99034)Read the Freathy & Parker and Kuper et. articles and consider the importance of historical inquiry for your literature review.
2. Raymond Williams gives examples of how language or the labels we give to words and meanings of words change over time. Be sure to look at these as he has done much of the work for us!
3. What concepts have you identified that need to be considered from a historical perspective?  What sources are you using to show the trajectory of how a concept and its meaning have changed over time? Be prepared to discuss this in class.

## Task 2

1. Watch the videos on how to use the key databases. Note in particular the in-built thesauri in the various databases.
2. Search the databases and make a note of your search strategy and the keywords and concepts you used to search on the MS Word document below. List your results and make a note of how you refined the search.
3. Be prepared to talk about your experience of searching the databases explaining how you used the thesauri, what worked and what didn't, as well as what you gained from this exercise.
* [Documenting your searches](https://libguides.ioe.ac.uk/ld.php?content_id=32002207)

Use this template to document your searches.