Chapter Eighteen

Education on the World Wide Web: A Core Collection of Digital Resources

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Developing a digital collection of education materials is a daunting task considering the myriad materials available. If one adds to this predicament the variety of material formats (print, microfiche, CD-ROMs, electronic databases, e-books, and other Web-based materials), it becomes obvious that selection needs to be intentional. Librarians must make the best resource choices for users, available facilities, and with available monetary resources. With the recent demise of the ERIC Clearinghouses and subsequently clearinghouse publications and scheduled changes to the ERIC database, librarians, educators and researchers are assessing what might fill the virtual void for indexing of education materials and filling in the gaps of resources that were once the backbone for education collections. In this chapter, the core collection of digital education materials contains free or low cost materials. The exception to "free or low cost materials" is made to include the most comprehensive proprietary digital materials available to the education researcher or the educator interested in K–12 study. The chapter also documents where former ERIC resources are now found.

Background and Selection of Materials

Many scholarly education bibliographies and reference guides provide

detailed information on comprehensive education core collections in many formats. One resource for those interested in a comprehensive approach to the education core collection is *Education: A Guide to Reference and Information Sources* (O'Brien 2001). Other useful bibliographies include *Acquiring and Organizing Curriculum Materials* (Lare 1997) and *The Social Sciences: A Cross-disciplinary Guide to Selected Resources* (Herron 2002). In the latter work, a chapter on education includes Internet resources listing forty-four critical resources (Osa 2002, 338–44).

Finding What Is Best for an Education Digital Collection

In *The Multimedia Library: Materials Selection and Use*, Cabeceiras (1991) suggested that in developing a materials selection policy for the library, one must consider the purpose of the library, community needs, and service possibilities. The major goals of one's institution may vary and usually are reflected in collection development policies. Selecting materials for a current collection presents some with the challenge to offer a digital collection that provides a one-stop access point with full-text information, if possible, to students, faculty, and other users. This collection needs to complement the physical collection and make students' initial library research more convenient.

Education on the World Wide Web: Selection Criteria

The selecting of electronic resources for the Digital Core Collection in Education involved the following criteria:

Authority

Most important for the works selected for this core collection was the reliability and trustworthiness of the information resource. The materials were accessible and links were verified before inclusion. Resources chosen appeared often in bibliographies on online materials in education.

Access

Selected materials were easily attainable as online resources, either free or low-cost, except in the case of essential proprietary materials. Factors determining choice included the availability of the resource over time or perpetual access. Only materials with stable access were included.

Topic-related

Materials for the core collection are categorized to simulate education research paths such as teaching materials, learning information, educational administration, educational occupations and special cohorts, international education, and educational technology.

Quality of the publication
Authoritative online education directories, guides, bibliographies, reviews, dictionaries, thesauri, encyclopedias, indexes/abstracts, biographical sources, statistical sources, and yearbooks were all considered for this selective Webliography. Selection, however, depended upon the quality of the publication with link maintenance.

The Digital Collection: General
The most comprehensive site that crosses all categories in the Digital Core Collection in Education is the *United States Department of Education Web Site.*

United States Department of Education Web Site.
Subject: Web site; education
Cost: Free
URL: http://www.ed.gov/
The U. S. Department of Education Web site is a gateway site to federal government education resources providing information on K–12 curriculum, "No Child Left Behind" legislation, and links to state education resources. They are accessible by clicking on any state on a graphic map. The FREE (Federal Resources for Educational Excellence)section of the site includes lesson plans on many topics. U. S. Department of Education Web site now allows personalization of the announcements and information seen on the My.ED.gov Web page. Access to other education topics, such as grants, statistics, and education policy, is "only a click away" via the file tabs at the top of the Web page. An advanced search screen allows for searching the www.ed.gov Web site as well as other .gov sites by grade level, keyword, phrase searching, and limiting by language and format.

The Digital Collection: Teaching
The Teaching portion of this collection includes sources of curriculum and instruction materials that are general and subject curriculum specific available curriculum resources.

Educator's Reference Desk (formerly AskERIC).
Information Institute of Syracuse University
Subject: Web site, Curriculum-All Subject Areas.
Cost: Free
URL: http://www.eduref.org/
The AskERIC Web site was the ultimate education Web site. The new Educator's Reference Desk begins to fill the gap. A work in progress developed by the Syracuse University Institute staff, maintained with help from Librarian volunteers,

provides a "Yahoo"- style search directory of topical education materials, a sampling of questions archived from the AskERIC service, provides access to the ERIC Database, resource guides and lesson plans. One will also see information on educational technology and library associations, pieces of the former ERIC Information and Technology Clearinghouse.

Directory of Curriculum Materials Centers
Association of College and Research Libraries,
Subject: Database, Directory. Curriculum Materials Centers international education, and educational technology.
Cost: Fee
URL: http://acrl.telusys.net/cmc
The online version of the *Directory of Curriculum Materials Centers* provides contact, collection, budget, and circulation information about participating CMCs. Web addresses for the institution, library, and the CMC are included. The directory also includes information on the library catalog and the number of professional, support, and student staff for each CMC. Collection size information for each library is particularly useful for institutional comparisons and collection planning. Information on availability of core education resources such as Kraus Curriculum or ERIC microfiche also is included. A new edition is now being prepared.

goENC.
Subject: Web site, database, curriculum: mathematics and science
Cost: Fee
URL:http://my.goenc.com/
This Web site provides an index of mathematics and science curriculum materials collected/created and disseminated by the ENC. Formerly Funded by the U. S. Department of Education's Office of Educational Research and Improvement, you will soon find the *Focus Magazine,* which provides articles on topics related to teaching and the mathematics and science curriculum, along with linked curriculum materials.

The Gateway to Education Materials (GEM)
U. S. Department of Education
Subject: Catalog/database; curriculum: all subjects
Cost: Free
URL: http://www.thegateway.org
GEM is a free Web site with access to curriculum materials that are free but require Web site registration or materials available for a fee. Sponsored by the Department of

Education, this database is browsable by topic or searched by keyword. You will find amazing and thoughtful lesson plans throughout. A quick search by the topic "United States Government" brought a National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) document with lesson plans that include primary source documentation and audio. Click on the linked title of a lesson plan and find a complete citation for the material, including a brief abstract of the documents available. A link to new listings is an easy way to keep up-to-date on recently added resources.

KCDL Online, Kraus Curriculum Development Library
Subject: Database, index; curriculum: all subjects
Cost: Fee
URL: http://www.kcdlonline.com/
The Kraus Curriculum Development Library is an electronic database that provides access to curricula, lesson preparation materials, standards, and education content online in a variety of subjects. The current twentieth edition available on the Web provides PDF versions of its curricula for users to download as well as access to the cumulative index. In its previous editions, this core resource was available in CD-ROM and microfiche.

The Digital Collection: Education Research
Online resources that support academic inquiry into education topics were carefully reviewed. Education research resources included qualitative and quantitative research resources for study of the interdisciplinary fields of educational psychology, sociology, history of education, philosophy of education, economics of education, anthropological study of education, and political science study of education.

Education Abstracts (Full-Text)
Subject: Database, index; education
Cost: Fee
H.W. Wilson, Publisher
URL: http://www.hwwilson.com
Education Abstracts is an excellent resource providing indexing and abstracting for more than five hundred periodicals, monographs, and yearbooks. Students tend to enjoy full-text access to these materials. Strong features are the offering of an HTML or PDF version of most full-text materials as well as the addition of the "peer-reviewed" limit. The version available for Yale education researchers is provided by H. W. Wilson. Other related databases to consider for the education digital collection are Sociological Abstracts (sociology of education), World Political Science Abstracts (education policy), Sports Discus (sport and physical education), Anthropological Litera-

ture and/or Anthropological Index (anthropology of education), EconLit (economics of education), and Social Science Abstracts *(*overviews of materials pertinent to education*)*.

Education Week on the Web Glossary
Subject: Dictionary; education
Cost: Free
URL: http://www.edweek.org/
Select "Research Tools", then "Glossary"
This is a simple, alphabetically arranged glossary that includes education policy terms. Although print dictionaries seem to still be the best reference source for term clarification, this small glossary provides access to the most used policy terms. You need to be registered with Edweek (free) to use the resource.

The Digital Collection: Education Administration
Education administration includes human resources materials, budgets, facilities, law, and policy materials.

FindLaw
Subject: Web site; education law
Cost: Free
URL: http://www.findlaw.com
An excellent law resource providing legal information (not advice) to the legal professional, students, and anyone interested in legal issues. The FindLaw Web site is part of the West Group, a legal information publisher. Interesting features include the education law page with access to education law reviews, government education Web sites, and many other useful resources. On the front page are links to human resources, family, and financial information, as well as the opportunity to personalize the Web site for the use through "My FindLaw."

Education Resource Organizations Directory (EROD)
U. S. Department of Education
Subject: Web site, directory; education
Cost: Free
URL: http://wdcrobcolp01.ed.gov/Programs/EROD/
EROD is a database from the Department of Education that provides contact information for federal, regional, and state resources, including curriculum materials centers, regional assistance centers, parent resource centers, and regional educational laboratories. For a full list of information available through this database and infor-

mation on searching this database, see the database overview page at http://bcol02.ed.gov/Programs/EROD/.

Education Resources Information Center
United States, Department of Education,
Subject: Index, Database. Education.
Cost: Free
URL: http://eric.ed.gov
This version of the ERIC database is free of charge and available to the public. The database includes citations for journals, reports, and government documents on education topics. Coverage includes 1966 to December, 2003 and is currently not updated due to transitions to the new contractual database provider. Beginning September 1, 2004, the "New ERIC" (Education Resources Information Center) database is expected to include links to full text journal articles and other resources in tandem with the Thesaurus of ERIC Descriptors and the ERIC Identifier Authority List, this database can be searched precisely. An expert search mechanism allows searching by field and with Boolean operators. For the novice searcher, a search engine type of mechanism is available. ERIC is also available through many commercial vendors. Changes to the current database are scheduled. It is necessary to monitor changes to the database by viewing the *ERIC Homepag*e at http://www.eric.ed.gov/ before searching. In light of changes to this database, *Education Abstracts* becomes increasingly important as a more comprehensive indexing source for education resources. Other related databases to consider for the education digital collection depending on changes to the ERIC database are *Sociological Abstracts* (sociology of education) *World Political Science Abstracts* (education policy); *Sports Discus* (sport and physical education), *Anthropological Literature* and/or *Anthropological Index* (anthropology of education), *EconLit* (economics of education) and Social Science Abstracts.

Thesaurus of ERIC Descriptors
United States, Department of Education. ERIC.
 Subject: Thesaurus. Education.
Cost: Free
URL: http://www.eric.ed.gov/ERICWebPortal/
Home.portal?_nfpb=true&_pageLabel=Thesaurus&_nfls=false
The *Thesaurus* is searchable and browsable; this version of the ERIC Descriptors controlled vocabulary for the ERIC database is easy to use and free of charge. Enter a keyword into the search box and click on "Search." Restricting the search by numeric category is performed by choosing the general topic of interest from the ERIC category drop-down menu. Controlled vocabulary terms appear

based on the keyword entry. Click on each highlighted term to view the record type, scope note, and numeric category for each term. Broader, related term, and narrower terms associated with the controlled vocabulary term are mentioned along with used for, used and, and use term information. The date that the identifier was added to the Thesaurus is available for each controlled vocabulary entry. ERIC terms can be examined via alphabetical lists or numeric category classification.

National Clearinghouse for Educational Facilities at the National Institute of Building Sciences
Sponsored by the U. S. Department of Education
Subject: Web site; education facilities
Cost: Free
URL:http://www.edfacilities.org
Topical lists for subjects such as school size, safety and security, disaster planning, and many others are available at this Web site. Links to full-text documents and ordering information for other materials are included. A "Construction Data Page" with access to the *F.W. Dodge Historical and Forecast Data* and some construction cost estimation tools also are available at this site. The site has been redesigned.

Clearinghouse on Education Policy and Management (CEPM)
(Formerly ERIC Clearinghouse on Educational Management).
University of Oregon, College of Education
Subject: Web site, Educational Management.
Cost: Free
URL:http://www.eric.uoregon.edu/
It offers authoritative information to the School Administrator. The "Hot Topics" section provides links to pertinent information on management topics such as class size, charter schools and educational vouchers. Access to in-process abstracts on citations being prepared for the ERIC database is also available. The online Directory of Organizations provides contact and summary information about education management research organizations and other programs.

NCES Statistics
Institute of Education Sciences, U. S. Department of Education
Subject: Web site; education statistics
Cost: Free
URL: http://nces.ed.gov
This well-known and authoritative government Web site provides education statis-

tics and popular reference tools including the *Condition of Education*, *Education Statistics Quarterly*, and the much-used *Digest of Education Statistics*. The "ED Stats at a Glance" portion of the Web site provides easy access to other statistical materials such as the *Youth Indicators*, *Indicators of School Crime and Safety*, and the *Projections of Education Statistics*. This resource can be used to retrieve contact information on a given school, college, or library by using the *Search for Schools, Colleges, and Libraries Directory*, which can be used with institution, city, and state names.

The Digital Collection: International Education

This portion of the core digital library contains information on country curriculums and resources, databases and indexes, and an example of a statistical source.

British Education Index
Subject: Web site, database; education—British Isles
Cost: Free
URL: http://www.leeds.ac.uk/bei/
The British Education Index provides citation information for British Isles education materials. Coverage includes more than three hundred resources, and searching may be performed using the British Education Thesaurus. Browse the thesaurus for search terms and then search the index for only recent citations. Choose a citation of interest by clicking on the blue title link. The full citation will provide material source, title, pagination, notes, author, subject keywords, and British Library Shelfmark. For full access to the database, a subscription is needed. More information can be found at http://www.leeds.ac.uk/bei/beiaccess.htm. Access to the Canadian, Australian, and British Education Index is available in CD-ROM form called *International ERIC*, which is available through DIALOG.

British Internet Resource Catalogue
Subject: Web site, catalog; education—British Isles
Cost: Free
URL: http://brs.leeds.ac.uk/~beiwww/beir.html
The British Internet Resource Catalogue is an online catalog searchable by using the British Library Thesaurus as controlled vocabulary, or find British education Internet resources by keyword. Citation information includes title, format, a description of the material, subjects, resource language and type, resource creator, status/date, publisher, and URL. This excellent project is in its beginning stages and will be a useful resource upon completion.

Canadian Education on the Web
Subject: Web site; education—Canada
Cost: Free
URL: http://www.oise.utoronto.ca/canedweb/
The site provides access to databases such as the Aboriginal Educational Resources Database, Canadian education publishers, and directories of Canadian schools, distance education, and scholarship/financial aid information.

Canada's SchoolNet
Subject: Web site; education—Canada
Cost: Free
URL:http://www.schoolnet.ca/
For those interested in Canadian education, this is another excellent Web site resource. Sponsored by the Canadian government, this Web site provides access to various Canadian initiatives, Web sites, links to online Internet courses through some of the listed sites, excellent education Web sites, and a variety of other resources. The Web site can be searched by curriculum area, grade level, and keyword categories.

SourceOECD
Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development Electronic Database
Subject: Database, statistics; international education, education indicators
Cost: Fee for full access; free for selected parts of the database
URL:http://puck.sourceoecd.org/vl=10740441/cl=29/nw=1/rpsv/home.htm
Data on various education policy topics about OECD countries are available for analysis. After a query is developed and a table set, the option to build a pie chart, a line chart, a bar chart, or change table axis is available. Note the descriptions of each set of data before querying.

The Digital Collection: Educational Technology
Educational technology—its use and assessment—is an important part of the resources librarians can make available to patrons.

Distance Education Software
Subject: Software; education technology
Cost: Fee
URL:http://www.blackboard.com/us/index.aspx
This important tool is changing the way materials are distributed to students, as well as student participation in class, student reference interactions, and class location.

WebCT® and Blackboard® are two examples of available courseware on the market. Chat sessions, newsgroups, online syllabi, and the ability to assess student progress through online quizzes or exams are just a few uses of this tool. Librarians can virtual reference for the college or department or have a Web reference clinic using these tools. Blackboard and WebCT announced an agreement to merge on 12 October, 2005

ebrary
Subject: E-books; education
Cost: Fee
URL:http://www.ebrary.com/corp/index.htm
An online collection of e-books that may be viewed and searched online, ebrary comes with a variety of education materials, including textbooks, dictionaries, encyclopedias, and other materials. Choose a subject topic "Education," then select "match exact" or "any or all terms" to find a listing of available materials fitting the search. Browse the e-book's table of contents or search via dialog box. Favorite education e-book references include the *Dictionary of Multicultural Education* and the *Biographical Dictionary of Modern American Educators*. ebrary also provides other works on multicultural education and the history of education.

Federal Resources for Educational Excellence (FREE)
U. S. Department of Education
Subject: Web site; education technology
Cost: Free
URL:http://www.ed.gov/free/index.html
FREE, a working group of federal government agencies, provides monthly updates via this Web site of learning and curriculum materials for the classroom. The educational technology section provides listings of online technology resources from online courses to teacher software. Other curriculum subject-specific materials also are available.

WWW4teachers
Subject: Teacher software tools, web site; software, education technology
Cost: Free
URL: http://www.4teachers.org/
The University of Kansas, High Plains Regional Technology in Education Consortium, prepares and maintains WWW4teachers. It presents software and information on educational technology use and assessment for all levels. A few examples of helpful teacher software include Quiz Star, Quiz Maker, and a program that allows preparation and presentation of online quizzes for students. Casa Notes is a program

that enables the professor to prepare standardized awards certificates and take home notes for students. Some of the software programs are available in Spanish .

The Digital Collection: Learning

Learning, assessment, counseling, and educational psychology resources help complete the digital education collection. These resources provide citations on psychological topics, assessment and test locator information, and access to psychosocial instruments.

PsycINFO®
Subject: Database, index; psychology
Cost: Fee
URL: http://www.apa.org
The PsycINFO database with the *Thesaurus of Psychological Index Terms* offers indexed citations of journal articles, book chapters, dissertations, and other information resources on educational psychology topics (school psychology, child development, peer relations, and learning). Various proprietary versions offer a cited reference feature, access to the *PycINFO Thesaurus of Psychological Index Terms*, and full text of some of the APA core resources via *PsycArticles*. If changes to the ERIC database include the removal of gray literature, it will be interesting to see if *PsycExtra*, the newest addition to APA's databases is able to compensate for what would be missing in ERIC.

Mental Measurement Yearbook Test Review Online
Buros Institute
Subject: Web site, Database. Assessment, Tests, Education.
Cost: Free, Fee for reviews
URL: http://www.unl.edu/buros/
ETS Test Collection, TestLink
Educational Test Service
Subject: Web site, Database. Assessment, Tests, Education.
URL: http://www.ets.org/portal/site/ets/
With the elimination of the ERIC Clearinghouse on Assessment and Evaluation, their site offered links to other federal agencies that deal with assessment, its own online full-text journal, and a full text assessment library. The Test Locator databases provided access to the ETS/ERIC Test file index, Test Review Locator, and the Buros/ERIC Test Publisher Directory. Lacking this great wealth of material, we rely on *Mental Measurement Yearbook Test Reviews Online* for reviews on test titles and the *ETC Test Collection*, a database covering the 1900s to the present, indexing tests and assessments.

Council for Exceptional Children
Information Center on Disabilities and Gifted Education
Council for Exceptional Children, Arlington, VA.
Subject: Web site, Database. Education.
Cost: Free
URL:http://www.cec.sped.org//AM/Template.cfm?Section=Home
Exceptional Child Educational Resources Database and *Teaching Exceptional Children*
are just a few of the many resources offered on this website. An archive for the ERIC
Clearinghouse on Disabilities and Gifted Education, one will still find pathfinders or
"minibibs" on topics ranging from autism to ADD and gifted children. Fact Sheets
provide links to special education statistics, directories, and listings of grants, online
journals about special education or gifted education. However, the CEC webpage is
not just to be visited for its ERIC archive. Join the many listservs on topics such as
mentoring, lesson swap and share, and public policy. Visit the *National Clearing-*
house for Professions in Special Education (http://www.specialedcareers.org/)for the
Educational Leadership Research Library, and resources for paraeducators.

Health and Psychosocial Instruments (HAPI)
Behavioral Measurement Database Services
Subject: Database; education measurement
Cost: Fee
URL: Yale Library distributor: Ovid at http://www.ovid.com
HAPI is a database index of measurement instruments including questionnaires,
interview schedules, checklists, index measures, and coding schemes that pertain to
health, psychology, organizational behavior, and information science. Search limits
include check-off boxes for primary or secondary source information in the OVID
version.

The Digital Collection: Educational Occupations and Special Cohorts
This grouping of core resources includes indexes and clearinghouses on various
aspects of teacher education, education of diverse students, and special education.

Gender Watch® and Ethnic News Watch® (ProQuest)
Chicano Database (Research Libraries Group)
Subject: Database, index; gender and ethnicity
Cost: Fee
URLs: http://www.proquest.com; http://www.rlg.org/en/page.php?Page_ID=176
The Chicano database, from the Research Library Group, provides information on
Mexican-American topics. The *Ethnic News Watch* database provides interdiscipli-

nary multicultural coverage of education for diversity and other information topics. *GenderWatch* is an electronic database that provides citations and full text on gender as a topic. Resources include conference proceedings, journal articles, magazines, government materials, and international agency information.

Conclusion

The materials represented in this Webliography represent a small percentage of the many excellent online, digital education materials available. Further research and study are recommended in all of these areas. Particular attention to education software, online journals, children's literature and resources, and grant-funding, careers, and teaching as a career on the World Wide Web would benefit educators and librarians alike.

Selecting digital resources for education can be challenging in light of the dynamic nature of web-based materials, the expense of selecting these materials, and the myriad of changes in education research due to the elimination of the ERIC Clearinghouses and its many resources. The virtual core collection in education will continue to evolve and grow as Education selectors voice their research needs and continue to coordinate their collections.

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All URLs are current as of April 18, 2006.