Locating a Thesis/Dissertation

Laura Harris, Penfield Library
Locating a Thesis/Dissertation

• For your assignment, you need to locate at least one thesis or dissertation related to your topic.

• The best places to look for theses in the field of Education are:
  • ERIC
  • Databases of freely available theses & dissertations
  • ProQuest

The following slides will show you how to locate a thesis.
Locating a Thesis/Dissertation in ERIC

• First, go to the ERIC database (link on the EDU 516 Library Guide)
• ERIC will automatically open to the Advanced Search Screen. Scroll down to “Limit Your Search.”
Locating a Thesis/Dissertation in ERIC

- Next, go to the box labeled “Publication Type.” From this option, you can select an option for various dissertations or theses. I suggest choosing “Dissertations/Theses – All.”
Locating a Thesis/Dissertation in ERIC

• Next enter your search terms and select “Search.” From your results screen, you should see entries that look similar to this image.
Tip for ERIC Theses & Dissertations

• If you see the phrase “Request through interlibrary loan” AND the dissertation is relatively recent (2000 or later), try Googling for the title. This is what I found when I Googled the search result in the last slide:
Locating a Thesis/Dissertation in Open Access Theses and Dissertations

- Open Access Theses & Dissertations is one of the databases of freely available theses & dissertations. There is a link on the EDU 516 - Virtual Library Guide.

- I searched for:
  - “Education” as a subject
  - “technology” in any field
  - “primary elementary” combined with the “Any of these words” dropdown means it will return results that have primary OR elementary in them
  - Items written in English
  - Items published since 2010
Locating a Thesis/Dissertation in Open Access Theses & Dissertations

- Once you’ve found a thesis or dissertation you want to look at, click the URL.
Locating a Thesis/Dissertation in Open Access

Theses & Dissertations

After you’ve clicked on the URL, you might have to look around for the PDF a bit. Here are a few examples:
Locating a Thesis/Dissertation in ProQuest

- After entering the Proquest database (link on the EDU 516 Library Guide), scroll down to “Source Type.” From here, check the box “Dissertations & Theses.”
Locating a Thesis/Dissertation in ProQuest

If you find a thesis or dissertation that interests you, just click the Full Text link.
Questions?

- Let me know if you have questions about locating a thesis/dissertation either through the Module 2 discussion board or email – laura.harris@oswego.edu.