

# RESEARCH IN EDUCATION

TENTH EDITION



JOHN W. BEST — JAMES V. KAHN

# **RESEARCH IN EDUCATION**

TENTH EDITION

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*To Gabe and Kathleen*

—JVK

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Welcome to  
**Research in Education**  
with Research Navigator™



This text contains some special features designed to aid you in the research process and in writing research papers. As you read this textbook, you will see special Research Navigator™ (RN) icons cueing you to visit the Research Navigator™ Web site to research important concepts of the text.

To gain access to Research Navigator™, go to **www.researchnavigator.com** and login using the passcode you'll find on the inside front cover of your text.

Research Navigator™ includes three databases of dependable source material to get your research process started.

- **EBSCO's ContentSelect Academic Journal Database** EBSCO's ContentSelect Academic Journal Database contains scholarly, peer-reviewed journals. These published articles provide you with specialized knowledge and information about your research topic. Academic journal articles adhere to strict scientific guidelines for methodology and theoretical grounding. The information obtained in these individual articles is more scientific than information you would find in a popular magazine, in a newspaper article, or on a Web page.

- **The New York Times Search by Subject Archive™** Newspapers are considered periodicals because they are issued in regular installments (i.e., daily, weekly, or monthly) and provide contemporary information. Information in periodicals—journals, magazines, and newspapers—may be useful, or even critical, for finding up-to-date material or information to support specific aspects of your topic. Research Navigator™ gives you access to a one-year, "search by subject" archive of articles from one of the world's leading newspapers—*The New York Times*.

- **"Best of the Web" Link Library** Link Library, the third database included on Research Navigator™, is a collection of Web links organized by academic subject and key terms. Searching on your key terms will provide you with a list of five to seven editorially reviewed Web sites that offer educationally relevant and reliable content. The Web links in Link Library are monitored and updated each week, reducing your incidence of finding "dead" links.

In addition, Research Navigator™ includes extensive online content detailing the steps in the research process, including:

- Starting the research process
- Finding and evaluating sources
- Citing sources
- Internet research
- Using your library
- Starting to write

For more information on how to use Research Navigator™ go to **www.ablongman.com/researchnavigator.com**.

# Preface

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The tenth edition of *Research in Education* has the same goals as the previous editions. The book is meant to be used as a research reference or as a text in an introductory course in research methods. It is appropriate for graduate students enrolled in a research course or seminar, for those writing a thesis or dissertation, or for those who carry on research as a professional activity. All professional workers should be familiar with the methods of research and the analysis of data. If only as consumers, professionals should understand some of the techniques used in identifying problems, forming hypotheses, constructing and using data-gathering instruments, designing research studies, and employing statistical procedures to analyze data. They should also be able to use this information to interpret and critically analyze research reports that appear in professional journals and other publications.

No introductory course can be expected to confer research competence, nor can any book present all relevant information. Research skill and understanding are achieved only through the combination of course-work and experience. Graduate students may find it profitable to carry on a small-scale study as a way of learning about research.

This edition expands and clarifies a number of ideas presented in previous editions. Additional concepts, procedures, and examples have been added. **A totally new aspect of this text is directed access to the information and technology available in Research Navigator, which contains pertinent articles available on-line.** As a result, the reader is able to locate articles associated with various terms cited in the page margins throughout this book. In all cases, we used the *Education Database of ContentSelect*. We also used Research Navigator in the exercises for most of the chapters (all except Chapters 2, 3, 4, and 12). These exercises ask questions that can be answered by going to a specific article identified in the exercise number.

**Also completely new to this edition is the instructor option to add a CD containing a copy of SPSS for Windows, Student Version.** The only limitation of the student version is the number of subjects and variables that can be used in the analyses. All of the sample analyses found in this text can be carried out using the student version.

Each of the five methodology chapters has the text of an entire published article following it that illustrates that type of research. Nothing substantive has been deleted from the ninth edition. Appendix B contains a data set for use by students

in Chapters 10, 11, and 12. This edition, as also was true of all of the editions since the fifth, has been written to conform to the guidelines of the American Psychological Association's (APA) *Publications Manual* (now in its 5th edition). The writing style suggested in Chapter 3 is also in keeping with the APA manual.

Many of the topics covered in this book may be peripheral to the course objectives of some instructors. It is not suggested that all of the topics in this book be included in a single course. It is recommended that instructors use the topics selectively and in the sequence that they find most appropriate. The portion of the book not used in those courses can then be used by the student in subsequent courses, to assist in carrying out a thesis, and/or as a reference.

This revision benefited from the comments of the second author's students who had used the earlier editions of this text. To them and to the reviewers: Mark Isham, Eastern New Mexico University; Richard A. McInturf, East Tennessee State University; and Mary O'Keeffe, Providence College, we express our appreciation. We wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the staff of the University of Illinois at Chicago Library and Computer Center.

J.W.B.

J.V.K.

# Using Research Navigator™

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This edition of *Research in Education* is designed to integrate the content of the book with the following resources of Research Navigator™, a collection of research databases, instruction, and contemporary publications available to you online at [www.researchnavigator.com](http://www.researchnavigator.com).

- **EBSCO's ContentSelect Academic Journal Database** organized by subject, with each subject containing leading academic journals for each discipline.
- *The New York Times*, one of the most highly regarded publications of today's news. View the full text of articles from the previous year.
- **Link Library** connects users to thousands of websites for discipline-specific key terms.
- **Research Review and Preparation.** A special section called "Understanding the Research Process" helps you work your way through the research process.

## CONNECTING THE BOOK WITH RN™

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As you read this book, you'll see special Research Navigator™ (RN) icons cueing you to visit the ContentSelect database on the Research Navigator™ website to expand on the concepts of the text and to further explore the work being done in the field of Educational Research. RN learning aids in the book include:

1. **Marginal keyword search terms.** Appearing in the margins of the text, these already tested terms will guide your search on topics relevant to the course content and will yield an abundance of sources from a variety of perspectives that will broaden your exposure to key topics. Begin by searching the ContentSelect database, and then check out the other databases as well.
2. **Applied research activities and projects.** At the end of each chapter, special RN exercises provide more practice



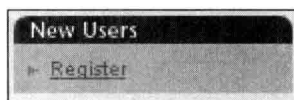
using the ContentSelect database in Research Navigator™ and move you beyond the book to library and field research.

It's now time to enter Research Navigator™. Purchase of this book provides you free access to this exclusive pool of information and data. The following walk-through illustrates, step-by-step, the various ways this valuable resource can make your research process more interesting and successful.

## REGISTRATION


In order to begin using Research Navigator™, you must first register using the personal access code found on the inside of the front cover of your book. Follow these easy steps:

1. Click "Register" under New Users on the left side of the home page screen.



2. Enter the access code exactly as it appears on the inside front cover of your book or on your access card. (Note: Access codes can only be used once to complete one registration. If you purchased a used text, the access code may not work.)

**1 Your Access Code**

  
Need Help?

Please enter your six-word code without dashes. You can type the letters in lowercase or uppercase.

Example

SIMPLE	FRILL	TONLE	WEIRS	CHOIR	FLEES
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

**2 Do You Have an Account?**

If you've previously registered for any [Pearson Education](#) online product, please enter your existing Login Name (also called User ID) and Password so our system can identify your account and fill in most of the information requested on the next pages.

☒ **No, I am a new user.**  
(You will create a Login Name and Password at the end of this registration process.)

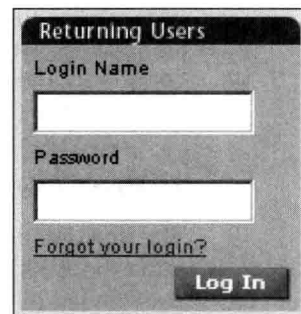
☐ **Yes, look me up.**  

Login Name	Password
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="button" value="Next"/>	

[Forgot your Login Name/ Password?](#)



3. Follow the instructions on screen to complete your registration—you may click the Help button at any time if you are unsure how to respond.
4. Once you have successfully completed registration, write down the Login Name and Password you just created and keep it in a safe place. You will need to enter it each time you want to revisit Research Navigator™.
5. Once you register, you have access to all the resources in Research Navigator™ for six months. Each time you enter Research Navigator™, log in by simply going to the “Returning Users” section on the left side of the home page and type in your Login ID and Password.



Returning Users

Login Name

Password

[Forgot your login?](#)

Log In

## GETTING STARTED

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You're now official! The options available to you on Research Navigator™ are plenty. From Research Navigator™'s home page, you have easy access to all of the site's main features, including a quick route to the three exclusive databases of source content. If you are new to the research process, you may want to start by browsing "Understanding the Research Process."

This section of the site can be helpful even for those with some research experience but who might be interested in some helpful tips. Here you will find extensive help on all aspects of the research process including:

- Introduction to the Research Paper
- Gathering Data
- Searching the Internet
- Evaluating Sources
- Organizing Ideas
- Writing Notes
- Drafting the Paper
- Academic Citation Styles (i.e., MLA, APA, CMS)
- Blending Reference Material into Your Writing
- Practicing Academic Integrity
- Revising
- Proofreading
- Editing the Final Draft

## COMPLETING RESEARCH

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The first step in completing a research assignment or research paper is to select a topic. Your instructor may assign you a topic, or you may find suggested topics in the margins or at the end of chapters throughout this book. Once you have selected and

narrowed your research topic, you are now ready to *gather data*. Research Navigator™ simplifies your research efforts by giving you three distinct types of source material commonly used in research assignments: academic journals (ContentSelect), newspaper articles (*The New York Times*), and World Wide Web sites (Link Library).

### 1. EBSCO's ContentSelect

The first database you'll find on Research Navigator™ is ContentSelect, which contains the EBSCO Academic Journal and Abstract Database containing scholarly, peer-reviewed journals (such as *Journal of Education Policy* and *Assessment & Evaluation in Higher Education*). The information obtained in these individual articles is more scientific than information you would find in a popular magazine, in a newspaper article, or on a Web page. Searching for articles in ContentSelect is easy!

Within the ContentSelect Research Database section, you will see a list of disciplines and a space to type keywords. You can search within a single discipline or multiple disciplines. Choose one or more subject databases, and then enter a keyword you wish to search. Click on "Go."

Now you'll see a list of articles that match your search. From this page you can examine either the full text or the abstract of each of the articles and determine which will best help with your research. Print out the articles or save them in your "Folder" for later reference.

The screenshot shows a web interface for searching EBSCO's ContentSelect Academic Journal Database. At the top, there is a header "Search for Source Material" in a dark box. Below it, the text "EBSCO's ContentSelect Academic Journal Database" is displayed. A paragraph states: "Exclusive to instructors and students using Pearson Education textbooks, the ContentSelect Research Database gives students instant access to thousands of academic journals and periodicals from any computer with an Internet connection!" Below this, it says "Search by Keyword" and "You must select a database to search. To select multiple, hold down the alt or command key." There is a list box containing several disciplines: Communication, Communication Sciences & Disorders, Computer & Information Science, Criminal Justice, Education (which is highlighted), and Engineering. Below the list box is a text input field containing "Mixed Methods". To the right of the input field is a "Go" button and a warning icon with the text "Log in to search."

## 2. *The New York Times*

Searching *The New York Times* gives you access to articles from one of the world's leading newspapers. The first step in using the search-by-subject archive is to indicate the subject area you wish to search. You have the option of searching one specific subject at a time by highlighting the subject area or searching all subjects by highlighting "All." Click on "Go" now for a complete listing of articles in your chosen subject area that have appeared in *The New York Times* over the last year, sorted by most recent article first. For a more focused search, type a word, or multiple words separated by commas, into the search box and click "Go" for a list of articles. Articles can be printed or saved for later use in your research assignment.



The New York Times Search by Subject Archive

Archive of New York Times articles from January 1, 2002.

Search by Subject

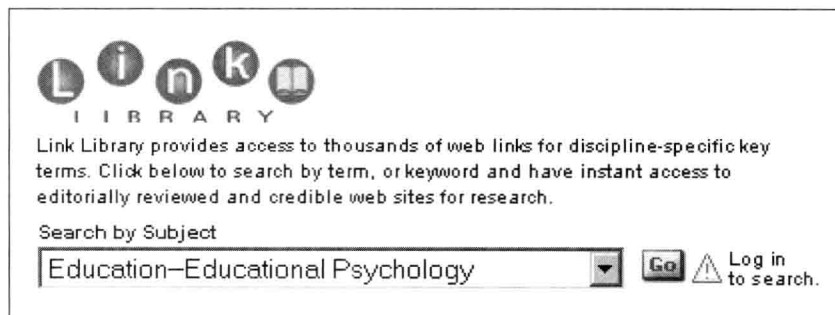
Education Research

Search by Keyword

Mixed Methods

## 3. "Best of the Web" Link Library

The third database of content included on Research Navigator™ is a collection of Web links, organized by academic subject and key terms. To use this database, simply select a subject from the dropdown list and find the key term for the topic you are searching. Click on the key term and see a list of editorially reviewed web-sites that offer educationally relevant and credible content. The Web links in Link Library are monitored and updated each week, reducing your incidence of finding "dead" links.



Link Library

Link Library provides access to thousands of web links for discipline-specific key terms. Click below to search by term, or keyword and have instant access to editorially reviewed and credible web sites for research.

Search by Subject

Education-Educational Psychology

## **USING YOUR LIBRARY**

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While Research Navigator™ does contain a vast amount of information to assist you with your research, it does not try to replace the library. After you have selected your topic and gathered source material from the three databases of content, you may need to go to your school library to complete your research. Finding information at the library, however, can seem overwhelming. Research Navigator™ provides some assistance in this area as well. Research Navigator™ includes discipline-specific “library guides” for you to use as a road map. Each guide includes an overview of the discipline’s major subject databases, online journals, and key associations and newsgroups. Print them out and take them with you to the library!

**CAUTION!** Please note that the Research Navigator™ site undergoes frequent changes as new and exciting options are added to assist with research endeavors. For the latest information on the options available to you on Research Navigator™, visit [www.researchnavigator.com](http://www.researchnavigator.com).

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