Using Library Resources for Research

Before you start:

- Activate your network access account in MyGate. (This must be done each semester.)
- Register for ILLiad. (There is a link to this website on the Finding Articles page of the subject guides. You will only need to sign up for this once)
- Use the Library on Bb pages for Education to guide your research.

http://lib.murraystate.edu/bb/

General Searching Hints

- These databases do not search like Google. Google adds the “AND” automatically between keywords. Here, the AND is provided between search boxes.
- It is often better to use ONE term or distinctive phrase per search window. Nouns work better than other forms of speech.
- “Teaching strategies” may or not work as a search term; most databases seem to prefer the older “teaching methods”.
  - For example:
    - Teaching methods AND Elementary AND success*
    - Teaching methods AND Elementary AND mathematics
    - Teaching methods AND Secondary AND Reading
    - Use the asterisk as a “truncation” method. Add it to the root word and get all the variations, or in this case = success, successes, successful, etc.
    - Start with two concepts; divide by teaching level or discipline, or other demographic.
  - Use the Subject Terms and the Thesaurus option in the databases, to browse your search terms. This is a good way to learn the language of the database and get better results.
  - If looking for scholarly or peer-reviewed journals only, you can limit your search to those in some of the databases.

- If using EbscoHost Databases, use select a database to search more than one database at a time.

- If you are just searching for journal articles, search ERIC separately.

- Use the Find it @MSU button to locate articles if it is not full-text in that database.

- Database will provide a citation for journal articles found within the database.