

Questions and answers about changes to the ERIC Selection Policy

The purpose of this document is to provide answers to questions submitted after a webinar was hosted in March 2024 to publicize draft updates to the ERIC Selection Policy. The Selection Policy guides the review of sources and the types of materials cataloged by ERIC. The goal of the updates is to ensure the policy is transparent and reflects current practices.

Stakeholders can access the [policy](#) and watch the [recorded webinar](#) explaining changes. The [final version](#) of the policy will be available on the ERIC website following the U.S. Department of Education's (ED) approval.

Questions about changes to support compliance with the new federal public access policy:

1. Will ERIC continue to catalog journals that do not contain federally funded articles?

Yes, ERIC will continue to catalog journals that do not contain federally funded articles. The journals that contain federally funded articles are a small percentage of the ERIC collection. During source review or re-review, sources that include ED-funded content may be prioritized.

2. What type of ED-funded work is included in ERIC?

ED-funded work in ERIC includes manuscripts written by awardees receiving funding from the U.S. Department of Education. This includes journal articles, reports published by ED and its offices, and grey literature that is published by the awardee's institution.

3. How should federal awardees submit their article to ERIC?

Federal awardees should contact their project officer to determine which public access policy they are subject to. Then, they should visit the Awardee Submission Portal, <https://eric.ed.gov/submit/>, to determine whether they need to submit their article. Awardees do not need to submit their article to ERIC if they publish in a source where the publisher will submit it on their behalf.

4. What happens if a journal has some authors who are federally funded, and others are not?

It is not a requirement that a journal includes articles written by federally funded authors. A journal that frequently or occasionally includes authors who are federally funded may be prioritized for the source review or re-review process, but all sources will go through the normal review process.

5. How does ERIC know what articles in a journal are written by federally funded authors?

Authors are required to acknowledge their funding and include their grant or contract award number in the published article. ERIC also works closely with ED program offices to ensure all funded works are submitted to ERIC.

6. Is the scope of ERIC narrowing to only include areas of the current education research field that are being funded?

No, ERIC will continue to include sources that cover the entire field of education and are geographically diverse, including content focused on education in urban and rural areas. The topics specified in ERIC's authorizing legislation are broader in scope than the research IES is currently funding.

7. Will journals be required to provide a machine-readable format of ED-funded articles to ERIC?

No, journals will not be required to provide a machine-readable format of articles. When ED-funded authors submit their manuscripts via the Awardee Submission Portal, ERIC will convert them to a machine-readable format for display on the ERIC website. If a publisher of ED-funded content would like to provide machine readable formats (i.e. XML) of their articles to ERIC, please contact us at ERICRequests@ed.gov.

Questions about the new process to periodically re-review all sources:

8. Why did you choose to re-review new sources after 3 years, and then every 5 years following? Why not more often?

We chose the initial 3-year benchmark because we wanted to ensure there was enough published content in ERIC for the re-review process. We believe 3 years is the minimum amount of time to gauge the continuing quality and contribution of the source while at the same time allowing for any abnormalities or one-off events to be resolved. After the 3-year review, sources will automatically be re-reviewed every 5 years.

However, re-review may also happen at any time for certain situations, such as a source name change, current content is not provided, there is a dramatic increase in published content, or the source is acquired by a new publisher.

9. Will a source need to be re-reviewed even if it has been cataloged in ERIC for years?

Yes, ERIC will systematically re-review all sources cataloged in ERIC, including IES sources. We are not seeking any major changes to the collection and expect that most sources will continue in the collection. The ongoing reviews ensure that the source still meets the selection goals, standard, and criteria outlined in the ERIC Selection Policy.

10. What will be considered during the re-review process?

ERIC has created a rubric to use during the re-review process. The answers to the questions will be recorded and weighted. Following the scoring, ERIC will consider topic area and geographic coverage in the current collection and make a final decision per source. The following seven questions will be considered:

1. Are all articles published in the last 3 years directly related to the field of education?
2. Are all the articles in English and meet ERIC's English quality criteria?
3. Has the source published new content in the past year?
4. Is content provided as expected?
5. Has the volume of content published remained approximately the same?
6. Has this journal published U.S. Department of Education awardee content within the last 10 years?

7. Does the source focus on education in the U.S. or are the research participants in OECD member countries where English is the primary or most used language and whose education systems are similar to that of the U.S. – that is, Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom?

11. How could a publisher assist in the source re-review process? Will I know if ERIC will continue to catalog my journal?

No publisher assistance is needed for the source re-review process. All journals will be re-reviewed, but we do not yet have an exact schedule. We will contact publishers if there are any questions or if the journal will no longer be cataloged by ERIC. We anticipate that this initial re-review of the current sources cataloged in ERIC will happen over the next 3 years. If you do not hear from us, please assume that your agreement will automatically continue to be renewed.

12. What will happen to the content already cataloged if a source is discontinued?

If a source is discontinued, the publisher will be notified, and ERIC will cease the processing of any new content. However, the records or full-text content permitted originally in ERIC will be preserved and remain available through the ERIC website.

13. Will the re-review of current sources delay the review of new sources?

No, the re-review of current sources will not impact the ongoing review and selection of new sources. ERIC conducts twice-a-year review cycles, in the spring and fall.

14. Does ERIC require adherence to ethical publishing practices and guidelines, such as those outlined by the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE)?

Yes, ERIC requires publishers and sources to adhere to ethical publishing practices, as outlined in the ERIC Selection Policy in the section called Criteria: Publisher Evaluation.

15. Do you prioritize journals in other repositories such as EBSCO or the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)?

No, we do not prioritize journals because they are in other repositories. However, ERIC may identify education research journals for review if they are included in other repositories or databases.

16. Do you use a journal ranking system when selecting sources for ERIC?

No, ERIC does not use a journal ranking resource to select sources. ERIC does consider a wide variety of factors when selecting sources for the ERIC collection, including impact ratings.

Questions about the re-prioritization of international content:

17. Why has international content been re-prioritized?

ERIC has found more high-quality content that meets ERIC’s selection standard and criteria than ERIC has the resources to catalog. Going forward, we are going to shift our prioritization to focus on the needs of our core stakeholders – educators, parents, policymakers, researchers, and the public across the United States. This means that we are rethinking how we prioritize international content.

18. What international sources will ERIC continue to catalog?

ERIC catalogs content published from around the world to include different perspectives in the collection and to contribute to comparative education research. ERIC will give priority to international sources where research participants are in OECD member countries where English is the primary or most used language, and whose education systems are similar to that of the U.S. – that is, Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom. ERIC will also continue to catalog other sources that include content focused on education internationally to satisfy a collection need for geographic and topical diversity.

19. Will ERIC restrict the collection to only English-speaking OECD countries?

No, ERIC is not restricting the collection to only English-speaking OECD countries.

20. If there are not many journals from a country, such as Poland, will ERIC seek to include more journals from this country?

ERIC will follow the priorities stated in the selection policy such as balancing the collection in terms of topic areas and geography.

21. What is the process to determine which international sources will be included in ERIC?

The first step in any source review is to determine if the source's content meets the standard and criteria outlined in the ERIC Selection Policy.

As a follow-up step, ERIC will prioritize education-research sources published where research participants are in OECD member countries where English is the primary or most used language, and whose education systems are similar to that of the U.S. – that is, Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom. During the re-review of the current collection, ERIC will also evaluate the current topic area coverage by international sources and select new sources or stop cataloging others to ensure geographic coverage in all topic areas.

22. Will ERIC include fewer international sources going forward?

The number of international sources going forward is unknown. ERIC will re-review all sources currently cataloged and review new sources, including international sources that are directly relevant to educators in the U.S. or to ensure geographic and topical diversity.

Questions about the changes to the types of materials eligible for online submission:

23. What is the main difference between the Awardee Submission Portal and the Online Submission Portal?

Research funded by the U.S. Department of Education must be submitted to ERIC using the Awardee Submission Portal. All other individuals may submit a document to the Online Submission Portal.

24. Is ERIC now only accepting submissions from ED-funded awardees?

No, individuals who are not ED-funded awardees may submit a document to the Online Submission Portal.

25. Why can't non-awardees submit a published journal article?

We believe it is more valuable for our users to have published journal articles from sources that have been reviewed and selected for regular cataloging in ERIC. Users and publishers may submit a request for ERIC to review a journal or non-journal source to ERICRequests@ed.gov.

26. Does this change to online submissions by non-awardees apply to articles that have not yet been published in any journal?

Any non-awardee author may submit their original manuscript, either before or after a peer-review process. The PDF submitted must not be in a published format containing the journal's branding.

27. What types of materials will be accepted through the Online Submission Portal?

Non-awardee individuals may continue to submit reports, conference papers, white papers, briefs, and original manuscripts via the Online Submission Portal. Using the Selection Policy as its guide, ERIC will determine whether this content will be accepted into the collection.