

Summary of ERIC Library Committee Meeting

The inaugural meeting of the ERIC Library Committee was held June 23-24, 2010, in Washington, DC. All ten members of the Library Committee were in attendance, as were two library liaisons from the ERIC Steering Committee, two federal employees charged with management and oversight of the ERIC Program, and several staff members from CSC, the ERIC contractor.

Major topics discussed during the two-day meeting included ways to:

- Increase the availability of high-quality grey literature in ERIC;
- Enhance Web site functionality at www.eric.ed.gov;
- Understand user information-seeking behaviors, including search preferences (e.g., keyword vs. Thesaurus-driven searches); and
- Expand outreach to ERIC users and potential users, particularly K-12 practitioners.

Attendees also considered a plan to review and update existing ERIC topic areas to determine how well they map to current understandings of the education community. The plan entails consulting with experts, reviewing literature, and gathering data from other sources for each topic area.

Throughout the meeting, participants returned to the themes of ensuring that ERIC is relevant, continually improving, and responsive to the needs and preferences of diverse audiences. Toward this end, participants discussed priorities and proposed the creation of working groups in the following areas:

- Education Classification—identifying broad domains in education
- Domain Analysis—updating particular ERIC topics on a pilot basis while vetting the model for doing so
- Thesaurus—supporting efforts to update ERIC’s controlled vocabulary
- Content Development—expanding ERIC’s grey literature collection
- Outreach—engaging ERIC audiences
- Source Selection—reviewing sources suggested for indexing in ERIC

Once launched, the groups will operate via conference calls and electronic room collaboration.

The Library Committee is an advisory body to the U.S. Department of Education, convened to provide input on several aspects of ERIC’s operation, including collection development, lexicography, outreach, training/instructional delivery, and the public Web site at www.eric.ed.gov. The Library Committee joins two other advisory groups, the ERIC Steering Committee (which provides overall policy guidance and recommendations regarding research and development priorities) and the Content Experts (who review sources and share information about specific topic areas), in ensuring that ERIC is responsive to the needs of its diverse stakeholders.