This paper begins with an overview of ERIC that provides background on the system's decentralized structure, the bibliographic database, document availability, and ERIC publications. The historical development of ERIC from the early 1960s is described and illustrated with a chronology of selected major ERIC events from 1965 to 1991 and a table listing directors and host organizations of Central ERIC, the ERIC Clearinghouses and the ERIC Support Contractors during the same period. Three strategies that contributed to the evolution of ERIC are then discussed: decentralized structure, leveraging with the private sector to achieve database dissemination, and document delivery as an essential service. Policy emphases identified by a 1986-87 redesign study of ERIC are listed, together with strategies for accomplishing these goals; and a review of the current status of the system is given in the form of a statistical summary covering funding, acquisitions, database input, microfiche distribution, publications, information requests, database users, and service providers through the year 1991. That same year was also the year of ERIC's 25th anniversary, and the article concludes with a consideration of ERIC initiatives for the rest of the 1990s, including: the identification, development, and dissemination of materials pertaining to the national education goals; full-text delivery of education materials; diversification of funding sources; coverage and delivery of non-print materials; expanded international activities; the promotion of increased collaboration through the activities of the ERIC Research and Development Partners; greater comprehensiveness of bibliographic coverage; and value-added services. (Contains 10 references.) (MSE)
Educational Resources Information Center (ERIC)

Article Prepared for the:

*Encyclopedia of Library and Information Science*

by

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ERIC Processing and Reference Facility

October 1991
The Educational Resources Information Center (ERIC)

by

Ted Brandhorst

An Overview of ERIC

The Educational Resources Information Center (ERIC) is a nationwide information system currently sponsored and supported by the U. S. Department of Education's Office of Educational Research and Improvement (OERI). ERIC was founded, in the mid-1960s, at the then Office of Education, for the purpose of achieving bibliographic control over the report literature produced by the agency and its many contractors. ERIC has since expanded to cover the education-related document and journal article literature wherever it is produced. ERIC collects, analyzes, catalogs, indexes, abstracts or annotates, announces, and makes available, documentary information from public, private, local, state, Federal, and international sources.

The decentralized structure of ERIC consists of a policy-making, funding, and monitoring Federal program office in the U.S. Department of Education (commonly referred to as "Central ERIC"), 16 subject-specific ERIC Clearinghouses (aided by a small number of volunteer "Adjunct Clearinghouses"), and three technical support contractors. Each Clearinghouse is responsible for collecting and processing the literature within a major segment of the field of education. The technical support contractors are: (1) the ERIC Processing and Reference Facility (for database editing and building, lexicography, and centralized computer processing); (2) the ERIC Document Reproduction Service (EDRS) (for microfiche and document delivery); and (3) ACCESS ERIC (for outreach, marketing, and referral services).

ERIC's most well-known product is its bibliographic database, which through 1991 contains approximately 758,000 records (for over 328,000 documents and 430,000 journal articles). For this database, ERIC actively solicits technical reports, conference proceedings and papers, curriculum materials, project descriptions, evaluation and policy studies, and many other kinds of documents, serving all levels of the educational community, from the practitioner to the researcher. Items entering the database are announced, as appropriate, in one of ERIC's two monthly printed abstract journals: Resources in Education (RIE), covering documents (about 14,000 per year); and Current Index to Journals in Education (CIJE), covering journal articles (about 18,000 per year). The database is available for computer searching and retrieval via various online vendors (e.g., DIALOG, OCLC, and BRS) and CD-ROM vendors (e.g., SilverPlatter, DIALOG).
Some 98 percent of the documents collected by ERIC are archived on microfiche and made available to libraries and users by EDRS on a subscription basis (through 1991 there were over 870 subscribers worldwide) or an on-demand basis. Some 80 percent of the journal articles selected by ERIC are available from standard reprint sources, such as University Microfilms International (UMI).

In addition to building the world’s premier education-related bibliographic database, the ERIC components produce many publications of their own. The Clearinghouses prepare various syntheses, interpretative summaries, state-of-the-art reviews, annotated bibliographies, and digests (all told, over 200 publications per year). The support contractors produce a variety of directories, calendars, indexes, newsletters, and other reference and referral tools.

Historical Development

In the late 1950s and early 1960s, the U.S. Office of Education found itself faced with a proliferation of unpublished reports emanating from increased Federal funding of research, exemplary programs, and demonstration projects. The first gropings for a solution to the problem—a system to control and disseminate Federally-sponsored education-related research papers—can be found in concept and feasibility studies dating back to 1960. For example, the first efforts to conceptualize an ERIC Thesaurus, i.e., a subject-indexing authority for such a future system, appeared in 1961. The concept of an overall ERIC “system”—combining document collection, cataloging, indexing, abstracting, announcement, archiving, and dissemination—began to emerge during this period under the leadership of Dr. Lee Burchinal; however, ERIC’s gestation proved to be quite long. It wasn’t until 1964 that an actual embryonic organizational unit called “ERIC” appeared within the Office of Education. Then in quick succession, however, a contract was let in 1965 for the ERIC Document Reproduction Service (EDRS) and contracts were let in 1966 for the first twelve ERIC Clearinghouses and a central editorial and computer processing facility. In November 1966, the first issue of ERIC’s abstract journal appeared, then called Research in Education, creating a convenient milestone from which to count future anniversaries.

In 1967, an additional six Clearinghouses were established, for a total of 18. Since then, the number has fluctuated in response to needs and priorities. There have been a total of 23 different ERIC Clearinghouses over the years, but the number has currently stabilized at 16. Also in 1967, the word Research in ERIC’s name was changed to Resources, reflecting the emerging recognition that research results were not the only bibliographic resources that ERIC was going to collect. (Interestingly, the same switch of words in RIE’s title didn’t take place until much later, in January 1975.)
Many of ERIC's basic organizing principles, still in use today, were determined very early in its life and reflect the careful planning of the founders. Much of the historical evolution of ERIC can be traced to the following three "signature" strategies:

- **Decentralized Structure.** Unlike the other monolithic government information centers that might have served as a model, ERIC decided to adopt a decentralized model. Education in the United States was--and still is--a decentralized enterprise, with power dispersed to the states and localities, professional associations, and teacher unions. Information was being developed at all these levels and a monolithic information center in Washington was not felt to be the best way to keep abreast of such a diffuse and dispersed community. Instead, a system of separate "Clearinghouses" was conceptualized, each concentrating on a major sector of the field of education and each bearing responsibility for acquiring the documentation of that subfield and for interacting with that particular part of the educational community.

The same decentralized structure pertains today, and it has served ERIC well in coping with the many constituencies that comprise the field of education. Though decentralization is not without special problems of coordination and duplication caused by the geographically-separated system components, on balance the increased breadth of coverage, the diversity of contacts, and the variety of points of view represented, have ultimately been assessed as strengths that outweigh the operational problems.

- **"Leveraging" with the Private Sector to Achieve Database Dissemination.** Always modestly budgeted, ERIC was from the beginning forced to involve the private sector in an effort to "leverage" various dissemination products and services. ERIC had enough funds to create its bibliographic database, but not enough to create all the products and services that needed to be derived from that database.

The micrographics contractor (EDRS), commercial publishers, and the online and CD-ROM vendors are all examples of organizations that provide ERIC products and services to the public, at no charge to the Government. ERIC, in effect, gives these organizations a license to, in the first case, microfilm ERIC documents; in the second case, publish the ERIC Thesaurus and Current Index to Journals in Education; and, in the third case, to include the ERIC database in commercial online and CD-ROM information retrieval systems. The for-profit sector organizations provide services and market products to the public, recovering their costs and making a profit in the process; the users, in turn, pay for what they specifically want, but pay no subsidy in tax dollars for those products and services.
"Leveraging" is evident, to some extent, even in the Clearinghouse contracts, where the host organization holding the Clearinghouse contract typically provides ERIC with some services (e.g., in-kind personnel, printing, and office equipment) above and beyond those strictly required by the contract.

• Document Delivery as an Essential Service. The first ERIC contract, in 1965, before any of the Clearinghouses, established the ERIC Document Reproduction Service (EDRS). This is an indication of how crucial the early planners viewed document delivery. Unlike many information systems, which simply tell users about the existence of an item without solving the problem of obtaining a copy, ERIC wanted to be able to actually deliver the vast majority of the items it announced. Partly this stance was dictated by the fugitive nature of the report literature. If ERIC had not offered availability, the problems and frustrations of the users in this area would probably have led to more criticism that any system could bear. Be that as it may, ERIC was founded on the principle of closing the loop for the user as much as possible.

The over 870 ERIC microfiche collections that exist around the world, built up regularly through annual subscriptions, together with the ready on-demand availability of documents in microfiche and reproduced paper copy from the ERIC Document Reproduction Service (EDRS), represent one of the strongest links in the ERIC chain of services.

While structural decentralization, private sector leveraging, and guaranteed document delivery are perhaps the major basic strategies of ERIC, there are several other lesser strategies that might be mentioned.

• The bibliographic database as a fundamental foundation for the system, on which most other products and services are built and connected in some way or other.

• Primary coverage devoted to that part of the educational literature that is not handled adequately by anybody else, i.e., the report/fugitive/"gray" literature, encompassing such things as contractor reports, conference papers, curriculum materials, etc., but generally not including the commercially-published book literature.

• Relevance to all levels of the educational community, from the teacher concerned with tomorrow's lesson to the professor engaged in research. This implies an acquisitions net that is cast widely and that encompasses both the theoretical and the practical.
A wide distribution of ERIC information, including both to the regular education community (teachers, administrators, researchers, counselors, students, etc.) as well as to parents, policy-makers, and the media, at the lowest possible cost.

A database that changes in response to changing conditions. ERIC's acquisitions and selection criteria have been modified over time in response to new priorities (e.g., the inclusion of machine-readable data files), and new fields have periodically been added to improve searchability and discrimination (e.g., Publication Type, Target Audience). In 1990, the full text of certain selected documents (i.e., two-page ERIC Digests) became available to online users.

ERIC "Redesign"

In 1986-1987, there occurred perhaps the single most significant event in the development of ERIC since its birth. This was called the ERIC Redesign Study, a top-to-bottom examination that involved the internal staff at the Department of Education, an outside panel of reviewers, and numerous critiques from the field. This intense examination of ERIC culminated in a widely-discussed paper titled ERIC In Its Third Decade (Bencivenga 1987, in ED 278 429). Later that same year, on July 30, 1987, the House Subcommittee on Select Education sponsored the first oversight hearings on ERIC (ED 287 519). As a result of these activities, three main policy emphases were identified for ERIC's immediate future:

- ERIC products and services should become more widely used and available;
- ERIC should become better integrated into OERI's mission of gathering, analyzing, and reporting information on the status and condition of American education.
- ERIC should serve a wider, more diverse audience, including policy-makers, journalists, practitioners, and the general public.

Some of the strategies for accomplishing these goals included:

- ACCESS ERIC, the first new system component in over two decades, to serve as an outreach arm for ERIC, strengthening the areas of marketing, publicity, advertising, and public relations, and helping to actively disseminate ERIC's products and services (call 1-800-USE-ERIC).

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October 1991
● **Adjunct Clearinghouses** as an aid to achieving better coverage of the literature and as a source of volunteer financial support. Through 1991, ERIC has Adjunct Clearinghouses in the areas of Literacy Education for Limited-English-Proficient Adults, Art Education, U.S.-Japan Studies, Compensatory Education, and Consumer Education.

● **ERIC Partners** as an attempt to multiply ERIC’s dissemination efforts and to achieve a wider audience via the marshaling of its major users. ERIC’s network of over 500 Partners routinely receive and re-distribute ERIC materials to their own organizational members. The improved integration of ERIC with OERI’s other major programs, such as the Research and Development Centers and the Regional Educational Laboratories, has also received attention. The ERIC Clearinghouses are now actively producing publications in partnership with these units, the flow of products from these units to the ERIC database is now more routinized, and, ERIC, the Labs, and the Centers now regularly participate in joint planning and dissemination activities.

**Present Day Status and Statistical Summary (through 1991)**

Throughout the decade of the 1980s, ERIC’s annual funding stayed level at around $5 million. With the 1990s, ERIC’s annual funding has risen somewhat to around $6 million. With this sum, ERIC supports 16 Clearinghouse contractors, three support contractors, and certain systemwide services such as printing at GPO. The average Clearinghouse contract size is now approximately $300,000. The ACCESS ERIC contract is approximately $400,000. The ERIC Facility contract is approximately $750,000. The EDRS contract is basically a no-cost-to-the-Government arrangement. The consensus of reviewers is that ERIC achieves an extraordinary amount of end product for its modest funding.

ERIC has established and maintains a network of over 1,600 acquisitions arrangements with organizations that regularly send ERIC their education-related document output. These arrangements, and other acquisitions efforts, bring in approximately 30,000 documents annually for evaluation and application of selection criteria.

From the total input, approximately 14,000 documents and 18,000 journal articles are selected for the database and are processed (cataloged, indexed, abstracted or annotated, and announced). The total database through 1991 contains approximately 758,000 records and is growing at a rate of about 32,000 records annually. The two monthly abstract journals (RIE and CIJE) have approximately 2,000 subscribers each and are also distributed to over 1,000 U.S. Depository libraries and (via the Library of Congress) to nearly 85 foreign governments and institutions.
The ERIC Document Reproduction Service (EDRS) services approximately 870 regular subscribers to the entire ERIC microfiche collection. Approximately 17,000,000 microfiche cards are distributed to these subscribers annually. In addition, EDRS fulfills annually approximately 15,000 on-demand orders for microfiche or reproduced paper copy.

The Clearinghouses, in addition to their database-building efforts, produce over 200 information-synthesizing publications annually, over a million copies of which are disseminated annually to diverse audiences.

The entire ERIC network of organizations receives over 100,000 information requests annually, each of which is responded to individually.

The total ERIC activity at all online vendors combined is estimated at around 100,000 users, (from 90 countries), conducting 450,000 individual online searches, and expending approximately 100,000 connect hours. ERIC is regularly counted as around the 4th or 5th most searched bibliographic database in the world. The number of CD-ROM subscriptions serviced by all vendors is estimated at around 3,000.

The biannual Directory of ERIC Information Service Providers identifies approximately 900 locations that provide some level of service pertaining to the ERIC database (800 domestic locations; 120 foreign locations spread across 24 countries). These organizations either maintain ERIC microfiche collections, subscribe to the ERIC abstract journals and other ERIC publications, or perform computer searches of the ERIC database for clients.

**ERIC in the 1990s**

ERIC celebrated its 25th anniversary in 1991. It was a time for considering the new tasks and directions that face it as it enters its second quarter-century of service to American education. Eight program improvement initiatives have been formally identified below. These initiatives should occupy and characterize ERIC in the 1990s.

1. **ERIC in the Schools and Community--Achieving the National Education Goals.** In its quarter-century history, ERIC has evolved into a comprehensive system widely recognized as the premier source of information for planning education activities, developing new programs, carrying out research, and making program decisions. The ERIC Clearinghouses are now giving priority to the identification, development and dissemination of high-quality materials pertaining to the six "National Education Goals" established by the President and state Governors in 1989, and to be achieved by the year 2000.
ERIC has already begun to work with a number of schools implementing school-based management to assure that critical information is available from which to make informed decisions, e.g., ERIC CD-ROM, an EDRS collection of ERIC documents on microfiche, full-text CD-ROM products (if available), and access to other key education information sources.

2. **Full-text Delivery of Education Materials.** Long-discussed in the ERIC system, some first steps have recently been taken to provide electronic full-text access to selected materials. The ERIC Digests Online (EDO) full-text file--now available online through DIALOG, GTE Education Services, and PLATO--is one such example. (Digests are brief two-page highly compressed reports on topics of prime current interest in education.)

Also, ERIC has been working with the private sector to develop a prototype CD-ROM product containing the full text of hundreds of key education documents and journal articles, as well as complete issues of approximately 100 core education journals. The "Compact ERIC" is envisioned as containing the most important, significant, and useful documents and articles announced in ERIC. These materials are essentially of two types: first, major policy and goals papers, major commission reports, major Department of Education publications, significant evaluation reports and research syntheses. Second, it will also contain the best items in ERIC intended for practical use by teachers, principals, school district administrators, curriculum coordinators, guidance counselors, other school professionals, and parents, including carefully selected teaching-related materials, theory-into-practice research results, curricular and classroom materials, and reference and resource guides.

3. **Diversification of Funding Sources.** ERIC has long recognized the desirability of obtaining support from other components both within and outside the Department of Education (ED). Adjunct Clearinghouses--a few of which are already supported by funding from other parts of the Department and foundations, are one manifestation of how outside support can be used; however, ERIC may also seek support from specific program offices--within ED and elsewhere--to help subsidize expanded coverage and comprehensiveness in specific topic areas of interest to those programs and their constituents. In addition, ERIC is pursuing some options by which reasonable usage fees can be collected from online vendors, CD-ROM vendors, and other commercial purveyors of the ERIC database to the public (in the past, ERIC has charged no fees or royalties for use of its database).
4. **Coverage and Delivery of Non-Print Materials.** ERIC has, with some exceptions, concentrated on the document and journal literature. While ERIC has paid increasing attention in recent years to identifying and indexing some of the major education-related machine-readable statistical files, questions remain about what ERIC's role should be in acquiring, indexing and even disseminating non-print materials, including, but not limited to, videotapes, multi-media packages, computer diskettes, CD-ROMs, interactive laserdiscs, etc. While it is clear that ERIC could pay increasing attention to such materials, cost-effective procedures for copying and disseminating such materials (even assuming copyright permission could be obtained) appear much more problematic.

5. **Expanded International Activities.** ERIC has been planning or participating in several activities designed to both expand the overseas dissemination of U.S.-developed education information, and to broaden its access to foreign-produced materials. Some activities and ideas for the greater "internationalization" of ERIC include: cooperative work now underway with the International Association of Universities and UNESCO to develop a worldwide bibliography of higher education materials; discussions with the United States Information Agency (USIA) and the Agency for International Development (AID) on ways to make ERIC materials and stand-alone CD-ROM retrieval systems involving ERIC available to developing nations (all overseas British Council libraries already have ERIC available on CD-ROM); by cooperating with ERIC-equivalent organizations in other English-speaking countries in order to develop greater compatibility and less duplication among education databases; and, by establishing ERIC nodes on the major international computer networks, e.g., BITNET, INTERNET, to facilitate document and information exchange.

6. **ERIC Research and Development Partners.** While many commercial and academic organizations use ERIC products for their own purposes, few have established any meaningful collaborative R&D projects with the ERIC system. Over 125 documents, articles, and study reports about the ERIC system have been produced in the past six years, but they are rarely done in collaboration or even consultation with either OERI or the ERIC components. This element of collaboration would be a valuable step toward ensuring that research and development activities related to ERIC products and services will have a direct and positive effect on improving access and use of education information in the schools. In conjunction with the ERIC system components, "ERIC R&D Partners" can help to develop targeted new products and services, applications of new technologies to improve the selective dissemination of education information, and enhanced coverage of the education field.

7. **Greater Comprehensiveness of Bibliographic Coverage.** With ERIC's limited resources, ERIC Clearinghouses have always had to make difficult decisions about which documents and journal articles would be indexed for inclusion in the ERIC database. For instance,
though *Current Index to Journals in Education* claims to cover about 800 journals, very few of those are actually indexed cover-to-cover. Most journals are indexed selectively; that is, not all of the education-related articles are cited in the ERIC database. Under discussion is a list of "core education journals" that will be uniformly indexed cover-to-cover in the future. A related issue concerns the published book literature; that is, monographic materials generally produced commercially and accessible through regular library systems: should ERIC expand its coverage to such materials?

8. *Value-added Services.* In contributing to the prototype Compact ERIC full-text product on CD-ROM, ERIC Clearinghouses were asked to determine which materials from the ERIC database should be included in a highly-selective compilation of practice and policy-oriented materials. On an ongoing basis, the Clearinghouses are continuing to identify these "best" materials. How can ERIC most constructively continue this emphasis on assessing the quality of documents and journal articles selected for the database?
Selected Bibliographic Resources:

1. Bencivenga, James J.; And Others. 

2. Brandhorst, Ted, Ed. 
   Bibliography of Publications About ERIC. ERIC Processing and Reference Facility, 
   Rockville, MD. 
   Issued irregularly; issues to date are as follows: 
   ED 169 955 1964 - 1978 269 Citations 
   ED 262 784 1979 - 1984 131 Citations 
   ED 308 874 1985 - 1988 107 Citations 
   (This is the best source of information concerning what has been written about ERIC.)

   "What are the Possibilities for Coordinating Education Information Databases?" 
   Knowledge in Society; v3 n2 p.45-57 Summer 1990.

4. "Educational Resources Information Center". 
   Report appearing annually in The Bowker Annual Library and Book Trade Almanac. 
   R.R. Bowker Co., New Providence, NJ. (This is a condensed version of the ERIC Annual 
   Report, appearing in a widely available reference book.)

5. ERIC Processing and Reference Facility, Rockville, Maryland. 
   ERIC Processing Manual. Rules and Guidelines for the Acquisition, Selection, and 
   Technical Processing of Documents and Journal Articles by the Various Components of the 
   ERIC Network. 1980-. Looseleaf, approximately 800 pages. (ED 219 082). Published 
   in ten chapters and two appendices: Introduction, Acquisitions, Selection, Handling and 
   Shipping, Cataloging, Abstracting/Annotating, Indexing, Vocabulary Development and 
   Maintenance, Data Entry, Database Changes (Post Publication), ERIC Clearinghouse Scope 
   of Interest Guide (Appendix A), Glossary (Appendix B). (The best source of information 
   about the interaction of ERIC's components and the rules followed in building its database.)

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1The "ED" accession number identifies documents in the ERIC database. Items with an ED 
number can be found in the ERIC microfiche collection and can be ordered from EDRS.

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October 1991
6. Hoover, Charles and Brandhorst, Ted.  
Development and Current Status of the Educational Resources Information Center (ERIC).  
A Model Bibliographic Control System Covering the Literature of Education in the United States.  

7. Office of Educational Research and Improvement.  
Issued annually; available from Central ERIC.  
ED 301 192/193 covers 1987  
ED 313 057 covers 1988  
ED 322 934 covers 1989  
(This is the best source of current statistical information concerning ERIC.)

8. Stonehill, Robert M.  

9. Trester, Delmer J.  

# Chronology of Selected Major ERIC Events

## (1960-1991)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1959-60</strong></td>
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| 1959-60 | Conceptualization and Feasibility Studies  
| 1961 | Thesaurus Concept development (Western Reserve University)  
| 1964 | ERIC Founded  
| 1965 | ERIC Funded (ESEA)  
| 1966 | Clearinghouses 1-12 Established  
| 1967 | Clearinghouses 13-18 Established  
| 1969 | Research in Education put on GPO Linotron  
| 1970 | ERIC Facility Contract to Leasco Systems & Research Corp.  
| 1971 | EDRS Contract to LIPCO  
| 1972 | Rand Report on ERIC's Structure and Organization (ED 058 508)  
| 1973 | Clearinghouse on Career Education Established  
| 1974 | Clearinghouse on Information Resources Established  
| 1975 | RIE File achieves 100,000th ED Number Accession  
| 1976 | ERIC Converts to Optical Character Recognition (OCR) for Data Entry  
| **1961** |  
| 1971 | EDRS Contract to LIPCO  
| 1972 | ERIC Database Goes Online with Lockheed (DIALOG)  
| 1974 | First Revision and Expansion of the ERIC Processing Manual Completed  
| **1964** |  
| 1972 | Thesaurus Concept: Development (Western Reserve University)  
| 1973 | Clearinghouses on Languages and Linguistics; Reading and Communication Skills Established. (Both Amalgamations of Two Existing Clearinghouses)  
| 1974 | ERICs Name Changed to "Educational Resources" (July)  
| 1975 | RIE File Achieves 100,000th ED Number Accession  
| 1976 | ERIC Converts to Optical Character Recognition (OCR) for Data Entry  
| **1965** |  
| 1972 | ERIC Facility Contract to Bell & Howell (November)  
| 1973 | Clearinghouse on Career Education Established  
| 1976 | ERIC Converts to Optical Character Recognition (OCR) for Data Entry  
| **1966** |  
| 1973 | Clearinghouse on Career Education Established  
| 1976 | ERIC Converts to Optical Character Recognition (OCR) for Data Entry  
| **1967** |  
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| **1968** |  
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| **1975** |  
| 1976 | ERIC Converts to Optical Character Recognition (OCR) for Data Entry  
| **1976** |  

*Note: The table is a condensed version of the chronology of selected major ERIC events.*
## Chronology of Selected Major ERIC Events (1960-1991)

### 1977
- Vocabulary Improvement (VIP) Initiated -- Complete Revision of *Thesaurus*
- National Dissemination Forum Subsumes ERIC Users Conference
- ERIC Technical Steering Committee Formed
- UMI Reprint Service for CIJE Articles Inaugurated

### 1978
- State Technical Assistance Trips Initiated (Fostering Compatibility with ERIC Files)
- ERIC Document Reproducibility Guidelines Completed
- Complimentary Distribution of Microfiche to Authors Begun
- New Data Elements for Geographic Source, Language, and Government Level Begun
- ERIC Clearinghouse Information Analysis Products (IAP) Annual Bibliography Series Begun by Facility

### 1979
- NIE/OPA Reference Correspondence Assigned to ERIC Facility (20,000 Letters per Year)
- RIE Produced via Videocomp Photocomposer (Replaces Linotron)
- Oryx Press Becomes CIJE Contractor (Replaces Macmillan)
- Price Codes Replace Specific Prices in RIE
- Publication Type Index Added to RIE
- ERIC Database Achieves One-Third of a Million Accessions

### 1980
- Vocabulary Improvement Project Completed (New *Thesaurus* Published)
- Last ERIC Users Conference Held at American Library Assoc. (ALA) Annual Conference
- NBS Study of *Technology-Based Improvement of ERIC System* Completed (Treu Report) (ED-190 127)
- *History of ERIC* Completed (ED 195 289)
- NIE Moves Into New Department of Education
- ERIC Processing Manual (EPM) totally revised and expanded edition begins publication (as sections are completed) (ED 219 082)
- Direct online transmission of bibliographic data from Clearinghouses to Facility begins to replace OCR (as Clearinghouses acquire equipment)
- RIE Highlights pages initiated
- "Submitting Documents to ERIC" acquisitions brochure developed

### 1981
- "Pocket Guide to ERIC" brochure developed
- *Identifier Authority List (IAL) -- new ERICTOOL* developed
- "Cost and Usage Study of the ERIC System" (King Report) (ED 208 902)
- State Technical Assistance visits during previous 3 years summarized (total of 19 visits)

### 1982
- Department of Education prepared or sponsored documents provided by ERIC to GPO on monthly basis (for GPO Monthly Catalog and depository library system). ED numbers and EDRS availability provided.
- National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)--ERIC arranges to input all NAEP-produced and NAEP-related documents and to code for special NAEP retrieval needs

### 1983
- Practice File Project--practitioner-oriented documents identified in ERIC database (backfile and current) and emphasized in current acquisitions
- ERIC database achieves 500,000th (one half million) accessions
- National Commission on Excellence in Education (and "spinoff" commissions/committees) begins to issue reports. ERIC makes special effort to collect, control, and disseminate "Excellence" reports
- IBM-PC/XT microcomputers acquired by Facility for electronic mail, word processing, online files, and other applications

### 1984
- New Publication Types added to the ERIC database: "Multilingual/Bilingual Materials (171); Computer Programs" (101); *ERIC Clearinghouse Publications* (071)
- "Target Audience" data element officially added to ERIC database, as a major outcome of the Practice File Project
- Electronic mail system (Based on MULTILINK) made operational for ERIC Clearinghouses, using ERIC Facility's IBM-PC/XT
- Direct online transmission of bibliographic data (RIE and CIJE) to Facility completed for all Clearinghouses

### 1985
- ERIC participates in IBE meeting on International Network for Educational Documentation (INED), May 20-24, 1985, Geneva, Switzerland
- ERIC begins work with NCES on "Locator" file dealing with education-related numeric/statistical databases
- ERIC begins work on coordinating with BEBA (Bilingual) database; analyzes degree of overlap with ERIC database
- Internal NIE/OERI staff review of ERIC initiated (resulting in "ERIC Redesign" project, with external panel, in 1986)
- Practitioner-oriented documents in ERIC determined, through two independent analyses to be between 26% and 31% of input
- NIE reorganization
Chronology of Selected Major ERIC Events

(1960-1991)

1960
- **ERIC** (new ERIC component for outreach) contract awarded to Aspen Systems Inc. (May)

1965
- **Chronology of Selected Major ERIC Events**
  - (1960-1991)

1966
- ACCESS ERIC (new ERIC component for outreach) contract awarded to Aspen Systems Inc. (May)

1967
- **Directory of ERIC Information Service Providers** (June 1966) (combination of prior directories of microfiche collections and search services)

1969
- Social Science/Social Studies Clearinghouse shifts to Indiana University

1970
- National Institute of Education (NIE) changes name to Office of Educational Research and Improvement (OEI)

1971
- First ERIC Redesign project starts (May)
  - (resulting in "ERIC in its Third Decade" report in December) (ED-278-429)

1972
- "ERIC Redesign" generates broad array of reaction papers and public response (hundreds of letters)--analysis of reactions modified plans

1973
- ERIC Review inaugurated by ACCESS ERIC in 1990

1974
- ERIC achieves first budget increase in a decade (from $5.7 to $6.5 million)

1975
- Congressional oversight hearings on ERIC (July 30) (ED-287-519)

1976
- RIE 'Trademark' renewed

1977
- **ERIC Thesaurus (11th edition)** published (January)

1978
- EDRS initiates "ERIC After Hours" ordering service

1979
- ERIC Digests Online (EDO) full-text file prepared initially by PS Clearinghouse (shifted later to ERIC Facility)

1980
- "ERIC Annual Report" initiated (first issue covers 1987)
# ERIC DIRECTORS, 1965-1991*

(Central ERIC, Clearinghouses, and Support Contractors)

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