

Kraus Curriculum Development Library (KCDL)

What is KCDL?

Kraus Curriculum Development Library (KCDL) is an online database that indexes over 7,000 documents relevant to teachers, administrators, education students and school librarians. KCDL makes available curriculum data and downloadable PDFs in an easy-to-use, searchable database. This service creates a direct link both to curricula and to contact information on the agencies that issue the curricula.

Included in KCDL are curricula, frameworks, and standards bringing together educational objectives, content, instructional strategies, and evaluative techniques for all subjects covered in PreK-12 and Adult Basic Education.

All of KCDL's resources are indexed online. In addition, KCDL has about 500 documents available online in PDF format, while many others can be reached via a link to an external website.

Accessing the KCDL database:

To access KCDL, you must be associated with an institution that has a KCDL license. UWM Libraries has access to the online full text documents. You can access the KCDL database in one of two ways by following these steps:

Start at the UWM Libraries Homepage: <http://www.uwm.edu/Library/>

Method One

Under the heading: **Find Articles**

Click on **Databases A-Z**

Next click on “**K**”

Click on **Kraus Curriculum Library**

Method Two

Under the heading: **Find Articles**


Click on **Subject Guides**

Next click on **Education**

Click on **Kraus Curriculum Library**

Constructing Successful Searches in KCDL

Understanding the Results Screen

Click on the page icon  to the right of a link to access the document online from within the record.

To look at a record when you are in KCDL, click on a link. Notice the terms in bold lettering. These broad subject headings are called **primary sections**. Taking note of them often helps to decide where to start browsing.


*If you need more help, select “**Search Tips**” for more information or click on “**Help**” at the top of the search screen.

Searching

Once you've accessed the KCDL database, you will be given the option of doing either a keyword search or an advanced search. Here are some useful guidelines for performing both kinds of queries.

- **Keyword Search**

Enter a search term or multiple terms. If you are searching for a multi-word concept, such as “American history,” use quotations. Use the asterisk (*) at the end of a term such as math* to truncate it; KCDL will search for math as well as words that begin with math, such as mathematics.

Clicking the box **Results With Full-Text Documents** will retrieve only items that have the full-text available online. Full text items are indicated with this icon: 

If your search results are too numerous or broad, try adding terms or use more specific terminology. Vice versa, if your results are too narrow, use search terms with a more generalized meaning, or use fewer search terms.

- **Advanced Search**

On the advanced search screen you will find ten search fields. To the right of each is a drop-down box with the Boolean operators AND, OR and AND NOT. If you want to narrow your search, leave them set at AND, the default setting; if you want to broaden the search choose OR.

The following descriptions of the search fields will help you to create a successful search:

<p>Title/Annotation: Enter a term here and KCDL will search the Title and Annotation areas.</p>	<p>the document indexed. For example, you can tell KCDL to look for documents with the term "lesson plans" in this field.</p>
<p>Primary Section: Choose one or more topics from the pull-down menu. Remember, these are broad subject headings. (To choose two or more in a row, press shift and click. To choose two or more that are not in a row, press control and click.)</p>	<p>Grade Level: Using this drop-down menu you choose grade level(s). Since such designations can be very subjective, KCDL almost always includes several grade levels in each record.</p>
<p>Subject: As above, choose one or more topics from the pull-down menu. These subject headings, drawn from the Thesaurus of ERIC Descriptors, are more precise, and most records include more than two. (To choose two or more in a row, press shift and click. To choose two or more that are not in a row, press control and click.)</p>	<p>Publication Year: This drop-down menu allows you to search by publication date.</p>
<p>Educational Content: From this drop-down menu you choose terms that describe the type of educational material in</p>	<p>KCDL Edition: This term refers to the year KCDL indexed a document. If you wish to limit your search to online material, you do it here by choosing the most recent editions. However, be aware that documents indexed in earlier years could also be available online, but there is no way to search for them exclusively</p>