For further assistance using any of the resources in the Lab, please ask at the Curriculum Lab Information Services Desk. Visit our site through U of L Library's main page http://www.uleth.ca/lib.

DEFINE YOUR TOPIC AND CHECK BASIC SOURCES

Educational Dictionaries and Encyclopedias may assist you in defining your educational terms. There are several behind the Curriculum Laboratory Information Desk. Check E-Reference under "Basic Search Sites" on the Curriculum Laboratory Main Page. Select "Education" from the subject menu.

Special Education is a very broad topic. If you are unfamiliar with any aspect of this topic, you may want to use sources such as:


Special Education:
"The supportive services or special-needs programs designed for children who are considered to differ from the norm and do not progress effectively in regular school programs" (Spafford, 1998, p. 266).

Special Needs Children:
"The School Act specifies that school boards are responsible for determining if a child is in need of a special education program. Children with special needs, including those who are gifted and talented, require specialized learning opportunities in order to receive an education that is appropriate for their learning needs. School boards must provide programming for all school-age children, including children with special needs, who live in their district."

Handicap or Disability:
"The term disability is derived from the Latin prefix dis-, meaning negation, separation, lack of, or opposite of; and the Latin habilitas, meaning fitness, and habere, indication to have or to be easily handled. Disability today indicates the lack of power or ability to do something" (Reynolds, 2000, p. 321).

Learning Disabilities:
"Refer to a number of disorders which may affect the acquisition, organization, retention, and understanding or use of verbal and nonverbal information. These disorders affect learning in individuals who otherwise demonstrate at least average abilities essential for thinking and/or reasoning. As such, learning disabilities are distinct from global intellectual deficiency" (Alberta Education, 2003, p. 2).
Gifted student:
"Individuals who display learning styles and characteristics that allow them to acquire literacy skills at levels considered to be developmentally advanced....Demonstrated abilities and potential are evident in at least one of the following areas for gifted individuals: 1. overall intellectual ability, 2. specific academic aptitude, 3. creativity, 4. leadership, 5. ability in one of the visual and performing arts, and 6. psychomotor ability" (Spafford, 1998, p. 115).

Codes for special needs students:
See "Special Education Coding Criteria" found in the Curriculum Laboratory at “375 SpecEd Alta. Gr.EC-12 2008/09," for more information on the following codes which can be assigned to children in the classroom:

- 30 -- (ECS only) Mild to moderate communication disabilities /delay. Physical or medical disability. Multiple disability
- 41 -- severe cognitive disability
- 42 -- severe emotional/behavioral disability
- 43 -- severe multiple disability
- 44 -- severe physical or medical disability
- 45 -- deafness
- 46 -- blindness
- 47 -- (ECS only) child with severe delay involving language
- 51 -- mild mental disability
- 52 -- moderate mental disability
- 53 -- emotional/behavioral disability
- 54 -- learning disability
- 55 -- hearing disability
- 56 -- visual disability
- 57 -- communication disability
- 58 -- physical/medical disability
- 59 -- multiple disability
- 80 -- gifted or talented

GET RELEVANT CURRICULUM PUBLICATIONS

- Alberta Education’s Programs of Study mandate what must be taught in Alberta schools. They serve as a starting point for all investigations of the Alberta school curriculum. All Programs of Study for each subject and grade are available in print (See the 375 section of the Curriculum Laboratory), as well as online.

- Core Curriculum Documents (e.g. guides to implementation, illustrative examples, teacher resource manuals, curriculum guides, etc.) give teachers ideas on how to teach the learning expectations and outcomes mandated in the Programs of Studies. Older core curriculum documents are found in print only. They are shelved in the 375 section of the Curriculum Laboratory under the specific subjects (375 Art, 375 Math, 375 PhysEd. etc).

IN PRINT: The General Program of Studies for Elementary, Junior High or Senior High School includes all subjects/grades and can be found in large binders in the Curriculum Laboratory. Multiple copies are found in the 375 Gen section. If any of the core documents are shelved in a separate location, a purple sheet will direct you.
The Curriculum Publications Chart is posted on the ends of the Curriculum Publications library shelves and can guide you through the types of available curriculum documents for each subject http://www.uleth.ca/edu/currlab/handoutsnew/currchart09.pdf.

For an overview of all types of curriculum publications see "What Are Curriculum Publications", found on our web page under "Handouts."

"Curriculum In a Nutshell," found on the web page under "Handouts," provides a brief overview of the main online curriculum resources. Alberta Education's Programs of Study mandate what must be taught in Alberta schools. They serve as a starting point for all investigations of the Alberta school curriculum. All Programs of Study for each subject and grade are available in print (See the 375 section of the Curriculum Laboratory), as well as online.

IN PRINT: The General Program of Studies for Elementary, Junior High or Senior High School includes all subjects/grades and can be found in large binders in the Curriculum Laboratory. Multiple copies are found in the 375 Gen section. If any of the core documents are shelved in a separate location, a purple sheet will direct you.

- Normally, one would start this step by consulting the Elementary, Junior High and Senior High School Program of Studies binders. However, the General Program of Studies does not contain information on Special Education.
- As defined in the Curriculum Publications Chart, many specific topics are covered through a 10 volume series:
  Programming for Students With Special Needs 375 SpecEd Alta
  Elabore pour les eleves ayant des besoins speciaux (French edition)
  v.1--Teaching for student differences
  v.2--Essential and supportive skills for students with developmental disabilities
  v.3--Individualized program plans (Rev.)
  v.4--Teaching students who are deaf or hard of hearing
  v.5--Teaching students with visual impairments
  v.6--Teaching students with learning disabilities
  v.7--Teaching students who are gifted and talented
  v.8--Teaching students with emotional disorders and/or mental illness
  v.9--Teaching students with autism spectrum disorders
  v.10--Teaching students with fetal alcohol spectrum disorder

- Alberta Education also publishes: "Essential components of educational programming for ... 
  • ... students who are blind or visually impaired"
  • ... students with behaviour disabilities"
  • ... students with autism spectrum disorders"
  • ... students who are deaf or hard of hearing"

Other curriculum documents of interest (beyond those mentioned already):
Check Alberta Education’s Special Education Resources Section for a complete list of the most current Alberta Education publications on this topic.

You will also find print materials in the Curriculum Lab:

Behavior disorders in schools : a practical guide. 375 SpecEd Alta.

An educational unit on deafness for hearing students. 375 SpecEd (H) Alta.

Focusing on success : teaching students with attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder, grades 1 to 12. 375 SpecEd Alta. Gr.1-12

Modifying the Curriculum

There is no specific subject curriculum mandated for special education students. Teachers must modify the existing curriculum in order to meet the needs of specific students with special needs. For example, teachers might look at the Knowledge and Employability (formerly Integrated Occupational Program) curriculum in grades 7-12. New programs of study are being developed for the KE academic core subjects.

For other grades and subjects, there are many strategies that can be used to modify the instruction such as: oral exams; tip sheets for different types of exams; clear homework assignments sent home; extra assignment time; use other student's notes; peer tutoring; and, individual instruction.

- The curriculum assignments can be modified in many ways, such as: adapting textbooks by highlighting the key concepts; letting the students do reports in some other format than the traditional report (such as a movie, skit, poster, etc.); have students develop their own word bank or personal dictionary; learning templates such as a paragraph study sheet listing, “who, what, when, where, why, how,” etc..

More practical ideas for modifying instruction can be found using the catalogue and Internet searches suggested below outlined in the rest of this handout. The following books are a starting point:


- Edmonton Public Schools Resource Development Branch (1999). Combined grades manuals. Edmonton, AB. CURLB 372.242 Com. Contains a section on Instructional and Organizational Strategies, including adapting presentation and evaluation methods, etc.

- Edmonton Public Schools Resource Development Branch (2004). Critical learnings for students with special needs. Edmonton, AB. CURLB 371.9 Cri. The most critical curricular elements are identified for the major subjects, which are useful for developing IPP objectives, assessments etc. for special needs students.
FIND BASIC AND SUPPORT RESOURCES RECOMMENDED BY ALBERTA EDUCATION

IN PRINT:

- Alberta Education maintains an Authorized Resources Database. Resources are available in three categories:
  - Student Basic: Comprehensive resource that covers most objectives (i.e. textbook).
  - Student Support: Covers one or some of the topics for that grade/subject.
  - Teaching: Supports evaluation and implementation & is intended for teachers.

- A link to the Resource Database is found under Basic Sites on the upper right of the Curriculum Laboratory main webpage.

- Searching for recommended resources: You can choose “Authorization Status”, depending on whether you want Basic, Support or Teaching Resources.

- The Curriculum Laboratory orders almost all of these resources from the LRC (Learning Resources Center). You can search to see if we have them in the Library Catalogue.

ONLINE:

- Find a wealth of curriculum-related information through Alberta Education’s LearnAlberta.ca* (including audiovisual clips, lesson plans, games, experiments etc.)

- Click on “Programs of Study” to find resources for a specific outcome. Browse through the learner outcomes and look for these symbols:
  - Backpack symbol = student resource
  - Apple symbol = teacher resource or lesson plan

*You will need a username and password. Refer to the “Digital Resources Subscriptions Passwords” handout distributed in PS I and PSII.

- Click on “Online Resource Centre” to find subscription sources that give related content or can be used for student-led research (eg. Encyclopedias, interactive books, atlases)
FIND RELATED ASSESSMENT MATERIALS

IN PRINT:

Check the titles you have already located (in step 3). Many teaching materials include a section on evaluation.
Look up the title in the catalogue to see if there are additional assessment volumes.
For textbooks, check the teacher’s manual (or the additional volumes) for assessment materials.

ONLINE:

Visit The Alberta Assessment Consortium (AAC)* for assessment foundations, materials, unit plans, assessment templates, performance assessments etc.
*You will need a username and password. Refer to the “Digital Resources Subscriptions Passwords” handout distributed in PS I and PSII.

Review our handout on Evaluation of Students, found in the “Handouts” section of the Curriculum Laboratory’s main page.

SEARCH THE LIBRARY CATALOGUE

Use the library catalogue to find other teaching materials:

- fiction and picture books
- eBooks
- non-fiction books for K-12
- manipulatives and interactive kits
- maps, posters, audio sets
- DVDs
- books with teaching ideas

Hint: Limit your search to U of L Curriculum Laboratory for practical teaching material by using the “Modify Search” option at the top of the results page or using the “Advanced Search”.

Suggested Catalogue Searches for Special Education (Remember to limit your search to the Curriculum Lab)

“Individualized instruction,” or “mainstreaming in education,” or “mixed ability grouping in education” will give you access to many titles with strategies to modify your curriculum materials for different types of students.

“... with disabilities” seems to be the new preferred term used by the Library of Congress for library subject searches. For example, the two broadest headings are, "children with disabilities" and "people with disabilities."

For the best results, type in terms that are as specific as possible, i.e. "Attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder," rather than "behavior disorders" Only when more specific terms are unfruitful should you then try broader terms.

Relevant subject headings are:

Agraphia (for dysgraphia)
Amputees
Anorexia nervosa
Aphasic children
Asperger’s syndrome
Attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADD, ADHD)
Autism in children
Autistic children
Behavior disorders in children
Blind
Brain damaged children
Bulimia
Cerebral palsy
Children with mental disabilities
Children with social disabilities
Children, Blind
Deaf
Deaf children
Depression in children
Developmentally disabled children
Down syndrome
Dyslexic children
English language—study and teaching as a second language (for ESL)
English language—study and teaching—foreign speakers (for ESL)
Exceptional children
Fetal alcohol syndrome
Gifted children
Hearing-impaired children
Language disorders in children
Learning disabilities
Learning disabled children
Learning disabled youth
Manic-depressive illness (for Early onset bipolar disorder)
Mentally handicapped
Mentally ill children
Oppositional defiant behavior in adolescents
Oppositional defiant behavior in children
Parents of exceptional children
People with mental disabilities
People with visual disabilities
Physical education for children with disabilities
Tourette syndrome
Vision disorders in children

It can be very useful to integrate children's and young adult literature on any topic currently being taught in the classroom. You can find relevant fiction on a specific topic by typing into the Library Catalogue the topic PLUS the word "fiction" behind it. For example, "people with disabilities fiction," or "blind fiction." One of the other ways to find fiction about people with special needs is to use one of the bibliographical tools, such as:


BROWSE THE SHELVES

Get familiar with the Dewey Decimal numbers (000-999) for your subjects of interest. Once you know the numbers, you can also use them to browse in a school library. Find lists of relevant Dewey numbers on the Specific School Subject Handouts.

Signs on the ends of the Curriculum Lab's shelves break down the Dewey Decimal System into its broad categories.

F -- Fiction section

The three main areas for Special Education material in the Curriculum Laboratory are:

- 305.908 Persons with disabilities and illnesses
- 371.9 Special education
- 375 SpecEd Alberta Education publications on Special Education

Other areas of interest are:

- 616.326861 or 618.3268--FAS
- 616.836--Cerebral Palsy
- 616.852--Neuroses (e.g. bulimia, anorexia nervosa, depression)
- 616.855--Speech and language disorders
- 616.853--Epilepsy
- 616.8588--Developmental and learning disorders
- 616.85882 or 616.8982--Autism
- 616.8589--ADD/ADHD
- 616.89--Mental disorders

One excellent resource for making students aware of what it is like to have a disability is the kit, "What if you couldn't?" Oversize 362.1 Wha v.1-10

Main library collection: The materials in the main collection tend to be more theoretical in nature.

- BF 727--Developmental psychology of the handicapped
- HV 1494-3024--Protection, assistance, and relief of the handicapped
- LC 3950-4806.5--Education of handicapped & exceptional children and youth
- LC 4812-4827--Handicapped adults

The Vertical File contains pamphlets with hints for teachers on dealing with special needs children in the classroom.

For example, if you look up "People With Disabilities" in the Vertical File, you will find materials that do not fit another Vertical File subject heading, such as "A Teacher's Guide to Learning Disabilities in the Classroom," or "Muscular Dystrophy." There are also similar pamphlets under specific disabilities such as "Autism."
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Digital Resource Subscriptions, including:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Reading activities and support materials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Audio and video clips with lesson plans and teacher guide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Career planning tools for students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Worksheet libraries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Assessment tools</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Teacher’s sites:** lists many of the main Internet sites used by teachers.

- **Lesson Plans**
- **Specific School Subject websites**

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- **The ATA Library Catalogue** has many special education materials, including online links, that will be useful for classroom assignments. It can be searched by author, title, subject or keyword. If you have registered with the ATA library staff and obtained a library user number, you can select materials directly from the catalogue by using the "reserve" function." Materials that you have reserved will be sent to you immediately. You must be an ATA member to use this specialized library. (You can also access this catalogue by searching for the "ATA Library Catalogue" through the Library Catalogue.)

- **B.C. Ministry of Education Special Education Resource Documents** -- Links to practical websites helping teachers support special education students in the classroom, including specific I.P.P. examples, adapting curriculum for special needs students, etc.

- **Council for Exceptional Children** has a rich set of links to other associations and divisions, including the Canadian Council for Exceptional Children, as well as a search engine to search their site.

- **J.P. Das Developmental Disabilities Centre** -- Sponsored by the Faculty of Education, University of Alberta. Includes inclusive education links, as well as teacher resource materials.

- **Internet Special Education Resources** -- "ISER is a nationwide directory of professionals who serve the learning disabilities and special education communities."

- **Yahoo Special Education Directory**

- **Eric Clearinghouse on Disabilities and Gifted Education**
Library Databases will be especially useful when you are asked to investigate educational issues, theories, and trends. You should consult the databases for any essays assigned during your coursework. Practicing teachers can search the databases for information to shape and validate the strategies they use in their own classrooms.

Beside the “Find Articles” tab on the library home page, click on the “Databases by subject” tab and scroll to “Education”. These databases are a great place to start:

- **ERIC**: the world's largest source of information on educational research and practice.
- **ERIC Digests.org**: short reports which give a brief overview of any educational topic or issue.
- **CBCA Complete**: An interdisciplinary database providing access to the principal literature published in Canada, including education.
- **ProQuest Education Journals** or **Academic Search Complete**

For additional sources on Special Education, try some of the psychology and/or nursing journal indexes:

- PsycINFO
- Ovid Medline
- CINAHL

or try some of the sociology journal indexes:

- Social Services Abstracts
- Sociological Abstracts
- Academic OneFile.

### OTHER RESOURCES

- **LethSD Ed. Links**: Browse by grade level or search by keyword from hundreds of websites recommended by Lethbridge School Division.
- **Other School Jurisdictions** with links to their web pages.
- **Community resources**: such as libraries, associations, businesses, museums, guest speakers, etc.
- **Still have questions and/or need more resources?**: Ask a virtual question through the Comments and Questions link on the curriculum laboratory’s Home Page.

- Special education consultants
- Government departments (municipal, provincial, federal)
- Free material catalogues
- Medical personnel, counselors, psychiatrists, special education consultants, etc.
- Make use of Inter-library loan.