Common Institutional Research & Higher Education Acronyms

AACC – American Association of Community Colleges [http://www.aacc.nche.edu] The AACC is the national association for community and junior colleges; it has over 1000 member institutions.

AACRAO – American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admission Officers [http://www.aacrao.org] AACRAO includes over 9000 registrar and admissions professionals from over 2300 institutions in 35 countries.

AACSB - Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business [http://www.aacsb.edu] The AACSB is a non-profit organization of educational institutions, corporations, and other organizations devoted to the promotion and improvement of higher education in business and management. Organized in 1916, AACSB is the premier accrediting agency for bachelors, masters, and doctorate degrees in business administration and accounting.

AALE - American Academy for Liberal Education [http://www.aale.org] The AALE is a national organization that accredits programs in liberal arts that meet the stringent educational, financial, and administrative requirements. A major purpose of this accreditation process is to allow them to participate in programs set forth under the Higher Education Act and other Federal programs.

AAMC - Association of American Medical Colleges [http://www.aamc.org] The AAMC is a non-profit organization that promotes the advancement of medical schools. The mission of the AAMC is to improve the health of the public by enhancing the effectiveness of academic medicine.

AASCU – American Association of State Colleges and Universities [http://www.aascu.org] AASCU is an association of public four-year colleges and universities.

AAUDE - Association of American Universities Data Exchange [http://www.pb.uillinois.edu/AAUDE] This website is limited to members of AAUDE. All tools and databases require a username and password in order to be accessed. There are a few public reports that are available online.


ABA - American Bar Association [http://www.abanet.org] The ABA is a voluntary professional organization with more than 400,000 members. The ABA provides law school accreditation, continuing legal education, information on the law, programs to assist lawyers and judges in their work, and initiatives to improve the legal system for the public.

ABET - Accrediting Board for Engineering and Technology, Inc. [http://www.abet.org] ABET serves the public through the promotion and advancement of engineering, technology, and applied science programs. ABET will accredit programs in engineering and related fields, as well as consult and assist in the development of education in engineering, technology, and applied science.
ABHE – Association for Biblical Higher Education [http://www.abhe.org] The mission of the AABC is to provide accreditation to undergraduate institutions of Bible-centered higher education within Canada, United States, and related territories. The purpose is to promote cooperation and excellence among member institutions and to communicate the organizations mission to the public.

ACE – American Council on Education [http://www.acenet.edu/] ACE is a national coordinating body for higher education, with over 1800 member institutions. ACE maintains a broad national and international agenda and seeks to advance the goals of higher and adult education.

ACCE - American Council for Construction Education [http://www.acce-hq.org] The ACCE is a non-profit corporation whose mission is to provide quality construction education programs. This is accomplished through the accreditation of construction education at postsecondary institutions.

ACCET - Accrediting Council for Continuing Educational Training (ACCET) [http://www.accet.org] The ACCET is a voluntary group of organizations committed to self-regulation through the peer-review and evaluation process. The mission is to inspire and promote quality oriented continuing education and training.

ACCSCT - Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges of Technology [http://www.accsct.org] The ACCSCT is an organization devoted to the accreditation of schools of postsecondary education. ACCSCT accredits more than 700 colleges and universities in the United States and Puerto Rico. The ACCSCT is recognized by the US Department of Education as a national accrediting agency for private, postsecondary institutions offering occupational vocational training.

ACEJMC - Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communication [http://www2.ku.edu/~acejmc/] The ACEJMC is dedicated to promoting and fostering educational programs in journalism and mass communication. In order to serve this mission the council sets academic standards and requirements and provides a process of peer review, awarding accredited status to those institutions that meet these requirements.

ACICS - Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools [http://www.acics.org] The stated mission of ACICS is to provide accreditation to independent schools, colleges, and universities. The U.S. Secretary of Education recognizes ACICS accreditation for postsecondary institutions offering non-degree and degree programs through the masters level training persons for careers in business related applications and disciplines.

ACPE - Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education [http://www.acpe-accredit.org] The ACPE is the national agency for the accreditation of professional degree programs in pharmacy and providers of continuing pharmaceutical education.

ADA - American Dental Association [http://www.ada.org] The Commission on Dental Accreditation serves the public by establishing, maintaining, and applying standards that ensure the quality of dental and dental-related education and reflect the continuing evolvement of dentistry. The scope of the ADA includes dental, advanced dental, and allied dental programs.
ADA - American Dietetic Association [http://www.eatright.org] The Commission on Accreditation of Dietetics Education (CADE) is the accrediting agency of the ADA for education programs preparing students for careers as registered dieticians or registered dietetic technicians.

AERA – American Educational Research Association [http://www.aera.net] AERA has over 22,000 members; its primary focus is encouraging scholarly inquiry related to education at all levels and promoting the dissemination and practical application of research results.

AIR – Association for Institutional Research [http://airweb.org] AIR is the primary organization for institutional researchers in higher and postsecondary education. AIR is dedicated to professional growth of all who participate in decision making related to higher education via management research, policy analysis and planning. The annual Forum is the primary international conference for IR professionals.

ALA - American Library Association [http://www.ala.org] The ALA provides leadership for the development, promotion, and improvement of library and information services and the profession of librarianship. They provide accreditation for colleges and universities with programs in library and information sciences.

AOA - American Optometric Association [http://www.aoa.org] The Accreditation Council on Optometric Medicine (ACOM) is the branch of the AOA responsible for the accreditation of programs in postsecondary education on optometry. It is the sole organization for the O.D. program and is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

APA - American Psychological Association [http://www.apa.org] The APA is the association dedicated to advancing the study of psychology through the promotion of research and the advancement of the methods of research, the improvement of psychologist’s qualifications through high standards of ethics, conduct, education and achievement, and the accreditation of programs of psychology in postsecondary educational institutions.

ASHA - American Speech-Language-Hearing Association [http://www.asha.org] Institutions of higher learning that offer graduate degrees in audiology and/or speech pathology can voluntarily seek accreditation by the Council on Academic Accreditation (CAA) of the ASHA. The U.S. Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation recognize the CAA as the sole agency to accredit programs focused on speech, language, and/or hearing.

ASHE – Association for the Study of Higher Education [http://www.ashe.ws/] ASHE is a scholarly society with about 1,300 members dedicated to higher education as a field of study. The Association promotes collaboration among its members and others engaged in the study of higher education through research, conferences, and publications.

ASPA - Association of Specialized and Professional Accreditors [http://www.aspa-usa.org/] The ASPA is an independent, non-profit corporation organized under the District of Colombia Nonprofit Corporation Act for educational, scientific research, mutual improvement, and professional purposes. ASPA-member accreditors set national educational standards for about 40 specialized disciplines and professions.
ATS - Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada [http://www.ats.edu] The mission of ATS is to promote the improvement and enhancement of theological schools to the benefit of the community, both the spiritual and the broader public. ATS provides services in accreditation, leadership education for administrators and faculty, development of theological education, and data and communications.

AVMA - American Veterinary Medical Association [http://www.avma.org] The mission of the AVMA is to advance the art of veterinary medicine, including its relationship to biological sciences, agriculture, and medicine. The AVMA accredits colleges of veterinary education and veterinary lab technicians in the United States and Canada. It also reviews foreign institutions and recognizes those that meet AVMA standards.

CAAHEP - Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs [http://www.caahep.org] CAAHEP is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to accredit entry-level allied health education programs. CAAHEP accredits programs in 18 allied health professions recognizing over 1900 allied health education programs in more than 1300 institutions.

CACREP - Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Education Programs [http://www.cacrep.org/] CACREP was formed in 1981 as a specialized accrediting agency for postsecondary education in counseling. Formed as an affiliate of the American Counseling Association, its mission is the same—to promote the advancement of quality educational program offerings.

CAE – Council for Aid to Education [http://www.cae.org] A subsidiary of the RAND Corporation, originally known as the Council for Financial Aid to Education, CAE was established by a group of business executives to advance corporate support of higher education. CAE's primary purpose was: "To promote a better understanding of the substantial contribution which higher education makes to the effectiveness, skill, growth, and success of American business, and to the development of the country." CAE publishes a number of reports and conducts the Voluntary Support of Education Survey, the Collegiate Learning Assessment Project and grants the Leaders for Change Awards.

CASE – Council for Advancement and Support of Education [http://www.case.org] The Council advances and supports educational institutions by enhancing effectiveness of the alumni relations, communications, and fund-raising by providing essential tools for the professional who serve them.

CCE - Council on Chiropractic Education [http://www.cce-usa.org] The CCE is the agency recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education to accredit programs and institutions offering the Doctor of Chiropractic degree. CCE seeks to insure the quality of chiropractic education through accreditation, educational improvement, and public information.

CEPH - Council on Education for Public Health [http://www.ceph.org] The CEPH is an independent organization recognized by the U.S. Department of Education to accredit programs in public health and certain public health programs in settings other than schools of public health. The CEPH advances the study of public health by preparing students for careers in these fields.
CHEA - Council for Higher Education Accreditation [http://www.chea.org] The CHEA is a private, non-profit national organization that coordinates accreditation activity in the United States. CHEA represents more than 3000 colleges and universities and 60 national, regional, and specialized accreditors.

CIDA - Council for Interior Design Accreditation [http://www.accredit-id.org/] The Council for Interior Design Accreditation is an independent, non-profit accrediting organization for interior design education programs at colleges and universities in the United States and Canada. Formerly known as FIDER, the council accredits nearly 150 interior design programs. They are recognized by the Council for Higher Education and the Association for Specialized and Professional Accreditors.

CIP - Classification of Instructional Programs [nces.ed.gov/pubs2002/cip2000/] A six-digit code in the form xx.xxxx that identifies instructional program specialties within educational institutions. A taxonomic coding scheme for secondary and postsecondary instructional programs. It is intended to facilitate the organization, collection, and reporting of program data using classifications that capture the majority of reportable data. The CIP is the accepted federal government statistical standard on instructional program classifications and is used in a variety of education information surveys and databases.

CLA - Collegiate Learning Assessment [http://www.collegiatelearningassessment.org/] The Collegiate Learning Assessment (CLA) offers an authentic approach to the improvement of teaching and learning in higher education through a continuous improvement model, and recognizes faculty as central actors in educational improvement efforts. The CLA assists faculty, department chairs, school administrators and others interested in programmatic change to improve teaching and learning, particularly with respect to strengthening higher order skills.

The CLA helps institutions improve undergraduate education through assessment, professional development, best practices and collaboration. There are two programmatic areas that support educational improvement: CLA Assessment Services and CLA Education.

COE - Council on Occupational Education [http://www.council.org] The COE is a voluntary organization serving postsecondary education and training institutions, centers, and similar entities interested in the improvement of the workforce in the United States. The COE is a national accrediting agency that is committed to quality and integrity in career and workforce development.

CORE - Council on Rehabilitation Education [http://www.core-rehab.org] CORE is accredited by the Council for Higher Education and Accreditation and the Association of Specialized and Professional Accreditors to accredit institutions providing educational programs in rehabilitation counselor education.

CREDE - Center for Research on Education, Diversity, and Excellence [http://www.crede.ucsc.edu] The mission of CREDE is to provide assistance to students at risk of educational failure. Their site contains a searchable database that has access to all CREDE reports and publications. These surveys focus on race, poverty, and geographic location as it pertains to at risk students.
CRESPAR - Center for Research on the Education of Students Placed at Risk [http://www.csos.jhu.edu/crespar/] This site is the partnership of John Hopkins University and Howard University to conduct research and evaluation of schooling for students placed at risk. A national database is available that contains reports and surveys compiled by CRESPAR. Annual Research and Development reports are also available online.

CSAB - Computer Sciences Accreditation Board, Inc. [http://www.csab.org] CSAB is the lead agency in association with the Accreditation Board of Engineering and Technology for the accreditation of programs in computer science, information systems, and software engineering, and is a cooperating agency in the accreditation of computer engineering programs.

CSWE - Council on Social Work Education [http://www.cswe.org] The CSWE is a non-profit national organization representing 158 graduate and 453 undergraduate programs in social work. The group is a partnership of educational and professional institutions, social welfare agencies, and private citizens. The group is recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation as the sole accrediting agency for social work in the United States.

CUPA-HR - College and University Professional Association for Human Resources [http://www.cupahr.org/] The CUPA-HR website has a searchable database that provides links to all surveys and publications. Examples of reports that can be obtained from the website are the National Faculty Salary Survey, and the Administrative Compensation Survey. All reports must however be purchased and cannot be viewed on the website.

DETC - Distance Education and Training Council [http://www.detc.org] The Accrediting Commission of DETC is a duly consisted accrediting body, which operates within the incorporated association of the DETC, and it has complete autonomy to make accrediting decisions. The Commission establishes educational, ethical, and business standards; it examines and evaluates distance education institutions in terms of those standards; and accredits those who qualify.

DFR - Data Feedback Report [http://nces.ed.gov/ipedspas/ExPT] The Data Feedback Report contains analyses of IPEDS data submitted by the subject institution and comparison institutions. The purpose of the report is to demonstrate to institutions the utility of IPEDS data for institutional trend and comparative analyses, and encourage the use of the new IPEDS Executive Peer Tool and the IPEDS Peer Analysis System. Providing each institution an analysis of its own IPEDS data along with comparable data for comparison institutions helps to improve both the utility and quality of data and information to support decision-making at the institutional level.

EDUCAUSE [http://www.educause.edu] EDUCAUSE is a nonprofit association whose mission is to advance higher education by promoting the intelligent use of information technology. Membership is open to institutions of higher education, corporations serving the higher education information technology market, and other related associations and organizations.
EHAC - National Environmental Health Science and Protection Accreditation Council [http://www.ehacoffice.org/] The purpose of the council is to enhance the education and training of students who intend to become environmental health science and protection practitioners/professionals. The council has established specific criteria for undergraduate and graduate program accreditation, which includes standards for curriculum, faculty, management, enrollment, and program funding aspects of the institution.

ExPT - Executive Peer Tool [http://nces.ed.gov/IPEDSPAS/expt/] The Executive Peer Tool (ExPT) allows comparisons between a focus institution and peer institutions using all of the data available in the printed IPEDS Data Feedback Report (DFR) and additional variables from the latest collection year.

FEDSTATS [http://www.fedstats.gov] FEDSTATS is a government database that contains statistics from over 100 U.S. Federal agencies. The site contains a topic index, as well as a search engine for all government departments.

FASB - Financial Accounting Standards Board [http://www.fasb.org/home] Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) is recognized by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) as the body authorized to establish accounting standards. In practice it defers to the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) for the setting of accounting standards for local and state government entities.

GASB - Governmental Accounting Standards Board [http://www.gasb.org/] The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) establishes accounting standards for local and state entities including governmental colleges and universities.

HERI – Higher Education Research Institute [http://www.gseis.ucla.edu/heri/heri.html] The Higher Education Research Institute is based in the Graduate School of Education and Information Studies at the University of California, Los Angeles. The Institute serves as an interdisciplinary center for research, evaluation, information, policy studies, and research training in postsecondary education. It is the home of the CIRP (Cooperative Institutional Research Program) Freshman Survey, the nation’s oldest and largest study of higher education.

IPEDS - Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System [http://surveys.nces.ed.gov/ipeds] IPEDS is a federal data collection system administered by the National Center for Education Statistics. IPEDS gathers data about students, faculty and finances across the postsecondary education spectrum.

MACTE - Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education [http://www.macte.org] MACTE is a non-profit, autonomous, accrediting agency for Montessori teacher education programs. The commission accredits postsecondary educational institutions that offer comprehensive Montessori teacher education. It also works with programs within an institution already accredited by another agency.

As adapted from the document *Higher Education Alphabet Soup*, 2006.
MSA-CHE - Middle States Association – Commission on Higher Education [http://www.msche.org/]
The Commission on Higher Education is the unit of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools that accredits degree-granting colleges and universities in the middle states region. It examines the institution as a whole rather than each specific program. The region includes Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

NAAB - National Architectural Accrediting Board [http://www.naab.org] The NAAB is the sole organization authorized in the United States to accredit professional degree programs in architecture. State registration boards require any applicant for licensure to have graduated from an NAAB accredited program, obtaining such a degree is vital for a career in architecture.

NAACLS - National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences [http://www.naacls.org] The NAACLS is the premiere agency for accreditation and approval of educational programs in the clinical laboratory services in the United States. NAACLS, in collaboration with its professional organizations, provides comprehensive services including program accreditation, program approval, consultation, and continuing education.


NACUBO – National Association of College and University Business Officers [http://www.nacubo.org] NACUBO is an association for chief administrative and financial officers at more than 2,100 colleges and universities across the country. NACUBO’s mission is to promote sound management and financial practices at colleges and universities. NACUBO annually prepares an Endowment Study as well as a Tuition Discounting Survey.

NAICU - National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities [http://www.naicu.edu] NAICU serves as the voice for independent higher education institutions. With nearly 1,000 members nationwide, NAICU reflects the diversity of private, nonprofit higher education in the United States. Members include traditional liberal arts colleges, major research universities, church- and faith-related institutions, historically black colleges and universities, women’s colleges, performing and visual arts institutions, two-year colleges, and schools of law, medicine, engineering, business, and other professions.

NASAD - National Association of Schools of Art and Design [http://nasad.arts-accredit.org] NASAD is an organization of schools, colleges, and universities that offer art and design studies. Institutional membership is maintained and continued through the peer-review process of accreditation. NASAD provides statistical information, professional development, and policy analyses services.

NASD - National Association of Schools of Dance [http://nasd.arts-accredit.org/index.jsp] The NASD is an organization of schools, colleges, and institutions that offer programs in dance. Institutional membership is obtained and maintained through the peer-review process of accreditation. NASD provides statistical data, professional development, and policy analyses.
NASM - National Association of Schools and Music [http://nasm.arts-accredit.org/index.jsp] NASM is an association of schools, colleges, and universities that offer music studies. Institutional membership is obtained and continued through the peer review process of accreditation. NASM provides statistical information, professional development, and policy analyses.

NAST - National Association of Schools of Theatre [http://nast.arts-accredit.org/index.jsp] NAST is an organization of schools, colleges, and universities that offer theatre studies. Institutional membership is obtained through a peer-review accreditation process. NAST provides statistical information, professional development, and policy analyses services.

NCA HLC - North Central Association of Colleges and School [http://www.northcentralassociation.org/] The Higher Learning Commission is associated with the NCA. CIHE and is one of six regional higher education accrediting associations in the United States. Through its Commission it accredits, and thereby grants membership, to educational institutions in the nineteen state North Central regions.

NCATE - National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education [http://www.ncate.org] NCATE is the profession’s mechanism to help establish high quality teacher preparation. Through the process of professional accreditation of schools, colleges, and departments of education, NCATE works to enhance the quality of teaching and teacher preparation.

NCCCRP – National Community College Council for Research and Planning [http://www.nccrp.org/] NCCCRP is the only professional organization dedicated to serving institutional research professionals in community colleges. The organization is an affiliate of the Association for Institutional Research (AIR) and a council of the American Association of the Community Colleges (AACC). Sessions for members are conducted at the annual conferences of AACC and AIR. Resources include an active listserv and the Journal of Applied Research in the Community College, published twice per year.

NCCBP – National Community College Benchmark Project [http://www.nccbp.org/] The NCCBP collects outcome and effectiveness data from subscribing institutions and provides a national aggregate report. Participating institutions can access the NCCBP website to identify peer institutions and create benchmark comparisons. In 2006, 152 community colleges participated in the NCCBP.

NCES - National Center for Education Statistics [http://www.nces.ed.gov] The NCES site contains a database filled with surveys and statistics compiled by the center. There is also an Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, which collects data and surveys from all postsecondary education providers. NCES also provides the Postsecondary Education Quick Information System, or PEQIS, which provides the user with “issue-oriented” data and other facts that could not be obtained through other surveys quickly.

NCPI - National Center for Postsecondary Improvement [http://www.stanford.edu/group/ncpi/] The NCPI website has a searchable database divided into six areas: Organizational Improvement, Education and Work, Employment Outcomes, Professional Development, Student Learning and Assessment, Productivity, and National Surveys. They also provide NCPI publications in text form online.

NEASC - New England Association of Schools and Colleges [http://www.neasc.org] The NEASC serves the public and educational community through establishing and maintaining high levels of excellence through self-evaluation and peer review. NEASC serves 1,800 public and private schools, colleges, and institutions in six states of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Rhode Island.

NLN - National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission, Inc. [http://www.nlnac.org] The NLN is responsible for the specialized accreditation of nursing schools and programs. The commission has the responsibility to carry out the application of standards and criteria, accreditation process, management, and policy making of the NLN.

NPEC – National Postsecondary Education Cooperative [http://www.nces.ed.gov/npec] Authorized by Congress, NPEC is a voluntary cooperative of postsecondary education data users. The mission of NPEC is to identify and communicate on going and emerging issues germane to postsecondary education, and to promote the quality, comparability and utility of postsecondary data and information that support policy development, implementation, and evaluation.

NRC – National Research Council [http://www.nationalacademies.org/nrc/] The NRC is a part of the National Academies (e.g., National Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Engineering) and is the principal operating agency of both the National Academy of Sciences and National Academy of Engineering. The NRC conducts a study of Research Doctoral programs every ten years, which has produced rankings for graduate education.

NRPA - National Recreation and Park Association [http://www.nrpa.org] The NRPA works in association with the American Association of Leisure and Recreation to accredit programs and institutions in the field of parks and recreation. Accreditation is voluntary and may be submitted by any four-year institutions offering a program in recreation education.

NSC – National Student Clearinghouse [http://www.nslc.org] The National Student Clearinghouse (formerly known as the National Student Loan Clearinghouse), a non-profit association founded by the higher education community, streamlines the student record verification process for colleges and universities, students and alumni, lending institutions, employers, and other organizations. The Clearinghouse maintains a comprehensive electronic registry of student records that provides a single, highly automated point-of-contact for organizations and individuals requiring timely, accurate verification of student enrollment, degree, and loan data.

As adapted from the document Higher Education Alphabet Soup, 2006.
NSF - National Science Foundation [http://www.nsf.gov] The NSF has several databases available online for researchers. The first is the Computer-Aided Science Policy Analysis and Research (WebCASPAR). This system provides information on individual fields of science and engineering from institutions across the country. The Scientists and Engineers Statistical Data System (SESTAT) is a system, which provides employment, demographic, and educational characteristics of scientists and engineers in the United States.

NSSE – National Study of Student Engagement [http://nsse.iub.edu] The College Student Report provides data to colleges and universities to use for improving undergraduate education, inform state accountability and accreditation efforts, and facilitate national and sector benchmarking efforts.

OSDS - Occupational Supply Demand System [http://www.occsupplydemand.org/] The Occupational Supply Demand System provides information and resources that will assist with the analysis and discussion of supply and demand issues relevant to today’s labor market.

SAF - Society of American Foresters [http://www.safnet.org] SAF is a national scientific and educational organization representing the forestry profession in the United States. The mission of SAF is to promote the science of forestry through creation and implementation of educational programs and the accreditation of postsecondary education in forestry.

SACS - Southern Association of Colleges and Schools [http://www.sacs.org] SACS accredits more than 12,000 institutions, from kindergarten through the university level, in eleven southeastern U.S. and Latin America. Members regularly provide self-examinations to ensure their constant improvement and to provide the public with assurance of their overall quality. The region includes Alabama, Louisiana, Texas, Mississippi, Georgia, Tennessee, Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, and Florida.

SCUP – Society for College and University Planning [http://www.scup.org] SCUP is focused on the promotion, advancement, and application of effective planning in higher education. Members include those who deal with strategic planning and with physical plant planning, development and management.

SREB - Southeast Regional Education Board [http://www.sreb.org] The SREB Data Library allows one to access the same databases used to prepare the SREB Fact Book on Higher Education, Educational Benchmarks, and other SREB publications. The information is divided into four categories: Population and Demographics, Economic and Government Data, Elementary and Secondary Education, and Higher Education. Information such as enrollment, faculty and administrators, and finance can be found within these categories.

USDOE – United States Department of Education [http://www.ed.gov] The national database is called the Cross-Site Indexing Project. This allows one to search information from multiple education websites at one time. The Department of Education website has a subject index for researching information contained on their site. The Office of Educational Research and Improvement (OERI) can also be accessed from this site.
WASC - Western Association of Schools and Colleges [http://www.wascweb.org] WASC is one of the six regional agencies responsible for the accreditation of public and private schools, colleges, and universities. The area covers California, Hawaii, Guam, American Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Palau, Commonwealth of Northern Marianas Islands, the Pacific Basin, and East Asia, and areas of the Pacific and East Asia where American/International schools or colleges may apply for its services.

WICHE – Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education [http://www.wiche.edu] WICHE is a regional organization created by the Western Regional Education Compact, adopted in the 1950s by Western states. It is an interstate compact created to facilitate resource sharing among the higher education systems of the west. Fifteen states are members.