TEDU 657 – SEARCHING ERIC
These examples and tips are very close to the examples used in class

Let’s say you are looking for some general articles on learning theories as they are applied to mathematics instruction in the K-8 classroom. These should be research articles if possible.

1. USE THE ERIC.ed.gov THESAURUS TO CHECK AND DISCOVER SEARCH VOCABULARY

Check learning theories
• Type learning theor into the search box; [NOTE: to search for variations of a term, type just the root, e.g., theor – do NOT add an asterisk (*)]
• Click on Learning Theories to expose any Broader, Narrower, or Related terms
• Read the Scope Note, if any [Note: Learning Theories does not have a Scope Note]
• After examining some of the terms, you decide to stay with the general learning theories

[Image of the ERIC thesaurus with examples of broader and narrower terms]

Back to Search Results

Learning Theories
Category: Research and Theory

Search collection using this descriptor

Broader Terms
- Theories

Narrower Terms
- Constructivism (Learning)

Use this term instead of
- Transformation Theory (Adult Learning)

Related Terms
- Behaviorism
- Cognitive Processes
- Cognitive Restructuring
- Conditioning
- Context Effect
- Generalization
- Learning
- Learning Processes
- Mnemonics
- Multiple Intelligences
- Paired Associate Learning
- Piagetian Theory
- Primacy Effect
- Role Learning
- Schemata (Condition)
- Self Efficacy
- Serial Learning
- Transformative Learning
Check *mathematics*
- Type *math* into the search box
- Explore *elementary school mathematics*. Note the grade range in the Scope Note.

![ERIC search interface](image)

2. **CONSTRUCT A SEARCH FOR ARTICLES**

*Use ERIC via ProQuest to Search for Articles Using the Checked / Discovered Vocabulary*

Be sure you are on the Advanced Search page.

![Advanced search interface](image)

1st line – *mathematics*
2nd line – "*learning theor*" [enclose phrases in quotation marks; use * to search for all forms of the word]
Select **Add a row**
3rd line – "*elementary school*" OR "*middle school*"
Select **peer reviewed** to limit the results to articles in scholarly journals

There will be around 215 results
Note the **NARROW RESULTS BY** choices on the left
Select **DOCUMENT TYPE | Reports - Research**
Now there will be about 75 results

3. **FEATURES TO AID IN REVISING/REFINING SEARCHES**
   a. Click on **PREVIEW** to reveal the entire article abstract. Click on the **title** to reveal the entire record for the item.
      - Note the subjects used for the item.
      - Note significant words used in the abstract.
      - You may want to incorporate words you find into your searching.
      - Note authors.

   b. Look for **Cited by** and **References** links. **Cited by** will be articles written after the reference; **References** will be articles written before the reference.

   c. Change the order of results by changing the default **Relevance** to **Most recent first** or **Oldest first**; click **Sort** after making your selection

4. **OBTAINING ARTICLES - GET IT @ VCU**
   *Get it @ VCU* will get you as close to the article in one click as the publisher allows. Many times you will land at the article. Other times you will land at the Table of Contents of the issue, or at a listing of available issues. In these cases, you will have to drill to the article. **NOTE:** When you see a **PDF** link or **Link to ERIC full text**, try that first. If it does not work, use the Get it @ VCU button.

   If VCU Libraries does not have the article at all, there will be prompts for you to enter an interlibrary loan request. You will usually receive the article in PDF format within 1-7 business days after you submit your request.

   **FINAL NOTE:** Be open to changing your topic and/or emphasis based on your findings. REMEMBER, your topic might be better covered in another database, e.g., Web or Science, so test your topic in several databases before making a change.