Let's say you are looking for research articles addressing the teaching of reading. You decide to use the ERIC Thesaurus to check and find search terms and then use those terms to search ERIC itself.

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

Check teaching reading

- Type teaching reading into the search box; there will be zero results because those two words are not a phrase in the ERIC Thesaurus (dictionary of subjects)
- Try reading; [NOTE: to search for variations of a term, type just the root, e.g., read – do NOT add an asterisk (*)]
- The closest term on the lengthy list appears to be reading instruction; click on it to expose Broader, Narrower, and/or Related terms
- Note the Narrower Terms; they are all types of reading instruction
• Click on **Content Area Reading** in the Narrower terms list
• Note the description in the **Scope Note**

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.

1st line – "**content area reading**", [NOTE: Use quotation marks to search for phrases]
Select peer reviewed to limit the results to articles in scholarly journals
There will be around 1985+ results

3. **REVISING BASED ON RESULTS**

   a. **Preview** -- Click on **Preview** to reveal the entire article abstract and the subjects used for the item.
      Note significant words used in the abstract. You may want to incorporate words you find into your searching, e.g., adding specific content areas such as mathemat*, “social studies”, science.

   b. **Document type** -- Select **Document type | Reports – Research** on the left. Note that the number of results displays in parentheses, e.g., 535+. Research articles tend to describe studies that involved a hypothesis, population, methodology, and result. The methods may be quantitative, qualitative, or mixed. Select **Document type | Reports – Descriptive** OR **Reports – Evaluative**. There will be about 465+ results or 105+ results respectively
      • **Descriptive** articles tend to describe theories; or methods, interventions, or stratagems employed, but without a research component.
      • **Evaluative** articles tend to review past research, interventions, methods, and often provide implications for further research.

   c. **Sort** – Default is **relevance**, but you can choose **oldest first** or **most recent first** instead. Make a selection and click on **Sort**. You may find some early authors or theorists this way.
d. **Date** – Select *Enter a date range* under **Publication date** on the left and enter a range of years, say 2012-2018.

e. **Educational level** – Consider limiting to grade level using a general level, e.g., middle schools; or a specific grade, e.g., grade 8. **Caveat**: Not all articles have been assigned an educational level.

4. **EXAMINING AND EVALUATING ARTICLES**
   Click on **PREVIEW** to reveal the entire article abstract. Click on the **title** to reveal the entire record for the item.

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

5. **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 link first. If it fails, try the Get it @ VCU button.