TEDU 561 – USING ERIC
Research Project
These examples and tips reinforce what was discussed in class

Let’s say you have chosen phonemic awareness for your research project. 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

![ERIC Thesaurus](image)

Check phonemic awareness
- Type phon into the search box; [NOTE: to search for variations of a term, type just the root, e.g., phon – do NOT add an asterisk (*)]
- Notice that phonemic awareness and phonological awareness appear on the list
- Click on each of these terms. Note that a broader term for phonemic awareness is phonemes and a broader term for phonological awareness is language skills.
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 – "phonemic awareness" OR "phonological awareness"; [NOTE: Use quotation marks to search for phrases]
Select peer reviewed to limit the results to articles in scholarly journals
There will be nearly 2640+ results

3. REVISING BASED ON RESULTS

Note the Narrow results by choices on the left
Select Document type | Reports - Research
Now there will be about 1865+ results

Enter a Date range, e.g., 2012-2018
Now there will be around 750+ results

You may want to try choosing an Educational level, e.g., Grade 1 will produce about 125+ results. Or you might add an additional search term, e.g., adding “teaching methods” will produce about 290+ results. Although you need just a few articles for your annotated bibliography, do not limit the pool of possibilities too much. You should find suitable articles within the first 40 results.
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.
   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.

   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 first. If it does not work, use the Get it @ VCU button.

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