Objective: Find research articles addressing ethics and counseling

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

Check 'ethics'
- Type **ethics** into the search box; [NOTE: to search for variations of a term, type just the root, e.g., *ethic* – do **NOT** add an asterisk (*)]
- Click on the term to expose any **Broader, Narrower, or Related** terms
- Read the **Scope Note**, if any [the entry for Ethics has none]

Check 'counseling'
- Type **counsel** into the search box
- Explore any of the terms on the list that are of interest to you. Most of the terms are in the **Counseling category**. Click on the **Counseling** link next to **Category**.
- Keep this list in mind as you move through your program. You will probably use many of these terms in future searches.
- To easily reach the categories, click **Browse Thesaurus**, and then select **Counseling**.
2. CONSTRUCT A SEARCH FOR ARTICLES

Use ERIC via ProQuest to Search for Articles Using the Checked / Discovered Vocabulary [Note: All the ProQuest databases (Social Services Abstracts, ABI/INFORM) are similar]

Be sure you are on the Advanced Search page.

1st line – ethic*
2nd line – "school counsel**"

**NOTE**: Enclose phrases in quotation marks to hold them together. Use the * at the end of the word root to search for variations of the word, e.g., counselor, counselors, counseling. BE CAREFUL, the usual limit of additional letters is 5.

Select peer reviewed to limit the results to articles in scholarly journals

There will be around 190+ results

Note the NARROW RESULTS choices on the left

Select DOCUMENT TYPE | Reports - Research

Now there will be about 45+ results

Note the graph in the Publication Date section. This can sometimes indicate when a topic entered the literature or became important.

[NOTE for ABI/INFORM Collection only]: Change the search type from Anywhere to Anywhere except full text. Your search will then be confined to citation, abstract, subject terms, and keywords.]

3. REVISING BASED ON RESULTS

You notice the word confidentiality in the abstract and/or subjects of a couple of items, and you remember that privacy was on the Related Terms list for Ethics in the Thesaurus, so you decide to add those two terms to your search as follows:

Select Modify search just below the search box

1st line – ethic* OR confidential* OR privacy

Leave the 2nd line as it was, and keep the peer reviewed box checked.

There will be around 245+ results

Select DOCUMENT TYPE | Reports - Research

Now there will be about 65+ results

4. SEARCHING BY AUTHOR NAME

Change the search type from Anywhere to Author. Click on the Look up Authors link. Enter the name, e.g., Susan Lonborg. Click the box in front of reasonable variations of the name, e.g., Lonborg, Susan D.; Lonborg, Susan; Lonborg, Suzan. Select Add to search, and then run the search.
5. GENERAL ADVICE - 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. Note authors.

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

The default SORT for results is Relevance, but you can change that to Oldest first or Most recent first. Changing the date is especially useful if you are looking for the oldest or newest articles in the database by an author.

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, use that instead of the Get it @ VCU link.

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., Social Services Abstracts, so test your topic in several databases before making a change. Also, you may find that in non-education databases searching just for counseling or counselors without the word school may produce relevant articles outside the field of education.