Shrewsbury and Telford
Health Libraries

ERIC (Education Resources Information Centre)
http://eric.ed.gov

Quick Reference Guide

What is ERIC?

ERIC is produced by the US Institute of Education, and covers a number of journals, and non-journal material, in all fields of education.

How can I access it?

Access ERIC at http://eric.ed.gov/

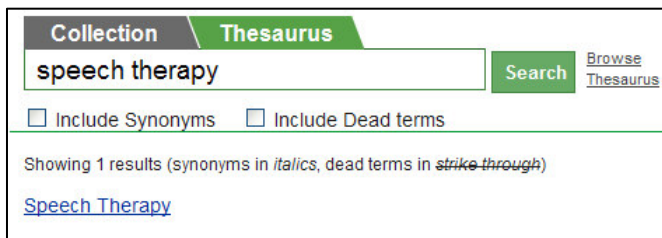It is freely available, so no OpenAthens password is required.

How do I search?

ERIC uses a simple Google-style search box, and you could search by entering all the words you are looking for in the box.

However, we would recommend where possible using a thesaurus terms along with free-text where necessary.

How to use thesaurus terms

To see if a term is included in the subject thesaurus, click the 'Thesaurus' tab and enter a subject.
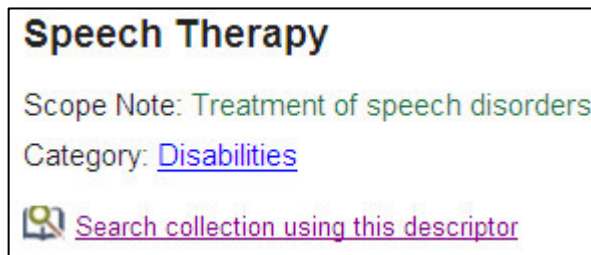
ERIC will then show whether that term (or similar) is available in the Thesaurus.

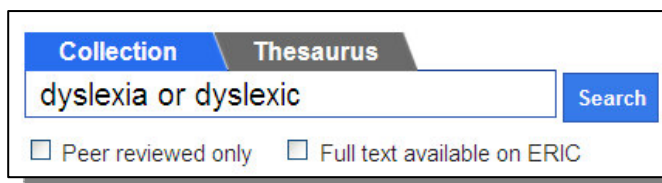To search using the thesaurus term, click the term and then click on 'Search collection using this descriptor'.

If ERIC says there is no thesaurus term available, you may need to try synonyms of your search term, or try searching for it using free-text.

How to search using free-text

You can simply type your search in the search box on the 'Collection' tab.

For example, to search for articles containing the words dyslexia or dyslexic, simply enter:

You can also use the following operators to create advanced searches:

An asterisk (*) can be for truncation e.g. university***** will search university, universities etc.

Brackets can be used to groups terms e.g. **(**bullying or cyberbullying**)**

Double-quotes can be used to search for a phrase e.g. **"**cognitive deficit**"**

Boolean operators (and, or, not) can be used to create complex searches e.g. *depression* **and** *(bullying* **or** *cyberbullying)*

Combining thesaurus and free-text terms

If you know that a thesaurus term exists in ERIC, it can be used in conjunction with free-text terms.

To create a search using a known thesaurus term, prefix it with '**descriptor:**'.

For example, to find articles about speech therapy and frequency or intensity of treatment, try:

descriptor:"speech therapy" and (frequency or intensity)

(speech therapy needs to be in double-quotes to make it work as it is a phrase)

Displaying results

Results are displayed in relevance order. It is not possible to change this.

There are links on the right-hand side ('Direct link') that will take you to the publisher's website to check if full-text is freely available. If not, it is possible that full text may be available via the NHS Journal Collection and this can be checked at www.library.nhs.uk/booksandjournals/journals/

Filtering results

Once a search has been run, results can be filtered using the options in the left-hand column.

There are also filters on the search page for peer-reviewed journals, and articles with full-text available within ERIC.

PUBLICATION DATE	
In 2015	8
Since 2014	186
Since 2011 (last 5 years)	2112
Since 2006 (last 10 years)	5393
Since 1996 (last 20 years)	7690
DESCRIPTOR	
Depression (Psychology)	9005
Adolescents	2744
Symptoms (Individual...	2286
Anxiety	2074