

Quick Tips for Searching ERIC – Using Field Codes

The ERIC Web site at www.eric.ed.gov provides two easy-to-use search forms for locating education-related materials in the ERIC digital library: Basic Search and Advanced Search. These forms provide standardized selections for submitting search terms and limiting your searches.

The ERIC record contains more fields than those provided in the drop-down lists of these search forms. You can use the following field codes – two-letter codes assigned to searchable fields of the ERIC record – to create a more precise search.

Field Code	Field Name	Field Code	Field Name
ab	Abstract	jn	Journal Name
ta	Audience**	Kw	Keywords
au	Author	Ln	Language
ch	Clearinghouse Number**	nt	Note
de	Descriptors	pe	Peer Reviewed
el	Education Level**	rt	Publication Type**
no	ERIC #	sd	Publication Year: Start Date
ft	Full Text in ERIC	ed	Publication Year: End Date
id	Identifiers	pb	Publisher
co	Institution	re	Record Type
bn	ISBN	si	Source Information
sn	ISSN	sp	Sponsor
		ti	Title

**See "Description of ERIC Fields" in the Help section of the ERIC Web site for terms searchable in these fields.

To format your search, simply enter the two-letter code for the field you wish to search, then add a colon and your search term. For example, use **ta:teachers** to locate all records indexed with *teachers* in the Audience field. Do not place field code searches within quotes. Doing so makes the field code part of a keyword phrase, and achieves zero search results, e.g., "ta:teachers" is processed as (kw:"ta teachers").

You can also create a search using both the drop-down list and a field code, such as the following search for records about reading that have been peer reviewed:

The screenshot shows the ERIC search interface with the following details:

- Navigation tabs: Basic Search, **Advanced Search**, Search the Thesaurus
- Search Term(s):
 - Link: [Use Thesaurus to help find Descriptors...](#)
- Search In: (dropdown menu)
- Text: For additional search criteria, go to [Advanced Search](#).
- Buttons:

Field-Specific Tips

- Tip 1:** To search for materials available in full text in ERIC, use **ft:y** (y = yes). You *cannot* exclude records containing full-text materials from a search, i.e., searching **ft:n** and *NOT ft:y* are not permitted.
- Tip 2:** To search for peer-reviewed journal articles and Department of Education publications, use **pe:t** (t = true). You *cannot* exclude peer-reviewed records, i.e., searching **pe:f** and *NOT pe:y* are not permitted.
- Tip 3:** When searching for a publication year, use both a start date and an end date, whether searching for a single year or a range of years, e.g., **sd:1999 ed:1999**, or **sd:2005 ed:2008**.
- Tip 4:** To search a particular record type, use *journal* and *non-journal* to locate materials indexed 2005 and forward; use *CJJE* [for journal records] and *RIE* [for non-journal records] to find materials indexed prior to 2005.