

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 Basic Search interface. At the top, there are three tabs: 'Basic Search', 'Advanced Search', and 'Search the Thesaurus'. The 'Basic Search' tab is active. Below the tabs, there is a 'Search Term(s):' input field containing the text 'reading AND pe:t'. Below this, there is a link that says 'Use Thesaurus to help find Descriptors...'. Underneath that is a 'Search In:' dropdown menu currently showing 'Descriptors (from Thesaurus)'. At the bottom of the search area, there is a note: 'For additional search criteria, go to [Advanced Search](#)'. At the very bottom, there are two buttons: 'Search' and 'Clear'.

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 record type subset, rather than find all ED (document) or EJ (journal) records: 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.