



Search Tips

- Use "quotation marks" to search for exact phrases.
- 2 word searches (such as **state standards**) are searched as an exact phrase by default.
- 3 or more word searches (such as **national board certification**) are searched as words that need to appear in proximity to each other by default.
- Use special characters and operators (below) to focus your query.
- ProQuest is not case sensitive
- To browse available index terms, subjects, or descriptors in ERIC, use the **Thesaurus** link in the Tools bar above the search entry box. The Thesaurus provides access to scope notes, broader, narrower, related terms, and other functionality that is not available using the alphabetically structured Browse lists.

Truncation and Wildcard Characters

*

The symbol * is used as a right-handed truncation character only; it will find all forms of a word. For example, searching for **teach*** will find **teach**, **teachers**, **teaching**, **teacher's**, etc.

?

The symbol ? is used to replace any single character inside the word. For example, searching for **wom?n** will find **woman** and **women**.

Operators

Boolean, proximity and adjacency operators are used to broaden and narrow your search.

AND	Find <u>all</u> the words. <i>Example:</i> internet AND education
AND NOT	Find articles which have the first word, but not the second word. <i>Example:</i> Internet AND NOT surfing
OR	Find <u>any</u> of the words. <i>Example:</i> Internet OR intranet
WITHIN	Find articles where the first word appears some number of words before or after the second word. <i>Example:</i> assessment W/3 strategies

Search Field Syntax

The following fields are available for searching within ProQuest's implementation of ERIC. You can use these fields as mnemonic entries as described here, or you can look for browse or drop-down menus for the specific search fields within Advanced Search.

Abstract	Explode	Personal Name
Article Title	Identifier	Publisher Location
Author	Intended Audience	Record Type
Citation & Abstract	Journal Announcement	Report Number
Corporate Author	Journal Title	Sponsoring Agency
Descriptor	Language	Standard Number
Document Type	Major Subject Heading	Subject Terms
Eric Digest	Notes	Year

Abstract

Search article abstracts for your terms.

Valid Forms:

ABS
AB
ABSTRACT

Examples:

ABS(language arts)
ABS(manipulatives)

Article Title

The title of an article, such as "Location Variation in American Sign Language." This search field locates the occurrence of search words in the title of the article.

Valid Forms:

TITLE
TI

Examples:

TITLE(sign language)
TI(location and language)
TI("American sign language")

Author

Use to find articles written by an author or reviewer.

Valid Forms:

AUTHOR
AU

Examples:

AUTHOR(bonnie ericson)
AU(Richard Willis)

Citation and Abstract (ERIC)

When you select **Citations and abstracts** from the drop-down menu, ProQuest searches the following fields:

- Article Title
- Abstract
- Notes
- Subject
- Source

Corporate Author

Used to search **Corporate Author** index. This field contains the Corporate names of the institution or group that authored the original document.

Use **a phrase or truncated phrase** to search this field.

Valid Form:

CA

Example:

CA(educat*)

Descriptors

Approved subject headings which appear in the thesaurus. They are assigned to consistently describe the concepts included in the content of an article or document. Record may contain descriptors in major/minor fields as well as within the subject field.

Valid Forms:

DE

Example:

DE(hearing impairments)
DE(databases)
DE("knowledge base for teaching")

Document Type

Use this search field to look for search words or phrases in documents of a certain type.

The only options are Journal and Document (items other than journal articles.)

Valid Forms:
DT

Examples:
DT(document)
DT(journal)

ERIC Digest

Used to search **ERIC Digest Text** index. This field contains the full text of the original document. It appears in ERIC digest records only.

Use **keyword(s)** to search this field.

Valid Forms:
EF

Examples:
EF(ADHD)
EF(gifted or talented)

Explode

This field is used to search for the main term and its narrower terms. If a main term has no narrower terms, then the search is made only for the main term.

Valid Forms:
EXP

Examples:
EXP(culture)
EXP(peer groups)

Identifier / Key Concepts

The Identifier concisely summarizes the content of the original document and lets you search terms and concepts beyond those in the controlled vocabulary. Use **keyword(s)** to search this field.

Valid Forms:
ID

Examples:
ID(mediated)
ID(knowledge acquisition)

Intended Audience

This field contains a description of the intended audience of the document. Searching in this field limits your results to post-1983 records. Use **keyword(s)** to search this field. The valid audience types are:

- administrators
- community
- media
- staff
- parents
- policymakers
- practitioners
- researchers
- students
- support
- teachers

Valid Forms:
TA

Examples:
TA(administrators)
TA(researchers)

Journal Announcement

This represents the date the record was added to the ERIC database.

Valid Forms:
JA

Examples:
JA(CIJSEP1999)

Journal Title / Source

Used to search by a specific publication or publications.

Valid Forms:
SO

Examples:
SO(adult) – retrieves all publications with “adult” in the title
SO(adult education quarterly)

Language

Used to search **Language** index. This field contains the language in which the document was published originally. You can also select from the list of languages in the Language field dropdown list in the More Search Options tab on the Advanced search screen.

Valid Forms:

LN

Examples:

LN(german)

LN(german or italian)

Main Subject Heading / Major Descriptors / Major Index Terms

Used to search **Major Descriptors/ Main Subject Headings**. These subject headings are the focus of the document.

Use **keyword(s)** or **quoted phrase** to search this field.

Valid Forms:

MJ

Examples:

MJ("tactile stimuli")

MJ(calculators)

Notes

This field index contains miscellaneous information such as thesis notes, relation to other records, pages, etc.

Valid Forms:

NT

Examples:

NT(annual meeting and family relations)

NT(Phi Delta Kappa)

Personal Name (ERIC)

Used to search **Author and Subsequent Author** index. This field enables you to browse for a specific author. Use **quoted phrase** to search this field. You can browse names in the Author dropdown in the More Search Options area of the Advanced search screen.

Valid Forms:

PN

Examples:

PN("wachs Theodore d")

PN(aach susan)

Publisher Location

Used to search **Place of Publication, Publisher Address** and **Producer Address** index.

Use **keyword(s)** to search this field. Search for state/province and country names

Valid Forms:

PL

Examples:

PL(louisiana)

PL(australia)

Record Type (ERIC)

This field can be searched using three-digit record type codes or their associated descriptive labels, which classify the format of the original record. A dropdown lists all the Record Types available in the More Search Options area of the Advanced search screen.

Valid Forms:

RT

Examples:

RT(historical)

RT(legal)

RT(041)

Report Number

This field contains the identifying number assigned to the document by the organization that produced or supported it. Use hyphens when searching for report numbers. You can choose numbers from the Report Numbers field specific index.

Valid Forms:

RN

Examples:

RN(1-1985e)

RN(1-243-ag63-3500-48613)

Sponsoring Agency

This field contains the information about the Sponsoring Agency. You can choose names from the Sponsoring Agency field specific index. Your search will run against the name and location of the Sponsoring Agency

Valid Forms:
SP

Examples:
SP("jesse stuart foundation ashland ky")
SP(indianapolis)

Standard Number

Used to search **ISSN** and **ISBN** index. Use the **hyphen** when searching for ISSN. Search for ISBN **without hyphens**.

Valid Forms:
SNUM
SNO

Examples:
SN(0009-2479)

Subject Terms

Use the Subject search field the Major Descriptors, Minor Descriptors, and Identifiers.

Valid Forms:
SU

Examples:
SU(elitism)
SU(income level)

Year

Used to search **Publication Year** index.

Valid Forms:
YR

Examples:
YR(1986)
YR(1986-1987)
YR(>1998)
YR(<1998)

Stop Words

ProQuest ignores the following frequently-used words. To use them as part of a search phrase, enclose them with quotation marks: e.g. "the sound and the fury".

about	make	was	has	their	between	our
can	should	any	no	which	is	this
just	to	from	that	because	or	would
out	an	most	what	if	these	by
those	each	such	at	of	will	
after	many	we	have	them	both	
could	so	are	not	while	it	
like	use	had	the	been	other	
said	and	much	when	into	they	
through	for	than	be	only	with	
also	more	were	how	there	but	
do	some	as	now	who	its	