Anatomy of a Thesaurus Entry

The ERIC Thesaurus is a leading authority on the language used in the field of education. Descriptors from the thesaurus are assigned to each of the 1.8 million records in ERIC to describe the main subjects of the content. Synonyms point searchers to the preferred term, or descriptor, in ERIC. The thesaurus has nearly 12,000 terms, including more than 4,500 descriptors and 7,000 synonyms.

Thesaurus entries provide information about each ERIC descriptor and synonym as an aid to searchers, with guidance on how the terms are used in ERIC. This infographic depicts entries for a descriptor and a synonym with descriptions of each element.

DESCRIPTOR

A word or short phrase representing a subject in the field of education. May contain a word or phrase in parentheses to distinguish it from a similar subject.

Broad subject group to which the descriptor belongs.

Descriptors in the thesaurus that make up the "immediate family" of the descriptor. Broader terms are more generic or represent a subject that is more comprehensive than the descriptor. Narrower terms represent a more specific example or a subject that is part of the descriptor. See the video Using Broader and Narrower Terms From the ERIC Thesaurus to learn how to use these descriptors in your search.

Units of Study

Scope Note: Subdivisions of instruction within a course, textbook, or subject field

Category: Curriculum Organization

🔛 Search collection using this descriptor 🗲

materials tagged with the descriptor.

Searches the ERIC collection for

Descriptors in the thesaurus that are associated subjects and provide additional terms for use in indexing and search.

Synonyms - terms that are equal to or very similar to the descriptor.

Defines the descriptor and its use in ERIC. May also explain a special meaning in education, provide instructions for indexing or search, clear up potential confusion with other terms, or detail the history of the term's usage in ERIC.

Related Terms

Continuing Education Units **Learning Modules**

Lesson Plans Resource Units

Use this term instead of €

Human Relations Units (1966 1980)

Lesson Units

Broader Terms

Narrower Terms

Activity Units

Courses

Programed Units (1966 1980)

Science Units (1966 1980)

Social Studies Units (1966 1980)

Units of Study (Subject Fields) (1966 1977)

Date added to the thesaurus.

Added to ERIC: 7/6/1977

SYNONYM

A word or short phrase representing a subject in the field of education. May contain a word or phrase in parentheses to distinguish it from a similar subject.

Descriptor used to tag materials on this subject in ERIC.

College Libraries Synonym

Some, but not all, synonym entries provide additional information about the term, including its history or definition.

Instead of this term use:

Academic Libraries

Libraries established, maintained, and administered by institutions of higher education to meet the needs of their students and faculty. From 1966-2019, the Descriptor "College Libraries" was used in indexing.

Date added to the thesaurus.

→ Added to ERIC: 7/1/1966

For more information about the ERIC Thesaurus, check out the ERIC multimedia page.

