Difference between **Keyword** searching and **Subject Term** searching

* **Keyword searching** asks the search engine to look for every article that has the keywords in it, so an article may, or may not, be on the subject you are interested in researching.
* **Subject Term** searching (using Descriptors or Subjects) asks the search engine to look for every article that is related to the concept represented by the subject terms you are using.

**ERIC**

* [www.spu.edu](http://www.spu.edu)
* Click on **Library** Link (top of the web page)
* Click on **Subject Guides** link (on the left)
* Click on the **Education** link
* Select **ERIC** **via EBSCO Host** (if working remotely you will need to authenticate yourself as an SPU patron using your SPU username and password—same as for Banner and Webmail)
* Type some keywords from a research statement or hypothesis into the search box. Start general. Don’t use all of your keywords at one time.
* Check **Peer Reviewed** in the **Limit Your Results** section of the page, and click **Search** tab. Do not check the **Full Text** box.
* Find a germane article, click on the link and read the abstract and examine the **Descriptors** section of the record for appropriate controlled vocabulary. If the list of articles does not seem to be on your topic, you will need to try a different set of keywords.
* List the appropriate **Descriptor(s)** on a piece of paper
* Once you have a good number of **Descriptors,** you can use some combination of these to perform a more focused search. Make sure you select the **SU Descriptors** field in the “Select a Field” drop down menu.
* Make sure the **Peer Reviewed** box is checked
* Examine list of articles
* Further limit search by
	+ Click on the small **Show more** link in the **Refine your results**  link on the left side of page in the  **Limit Your Results** section and select:
	+ **Publication type of**
		- **Numerical/quantitative** and **Report-Research**
		- HINT: holding down the **CTRL** key which selecting options from a list allows you to pick multiple options in the list.
* Click **Search**

**PsycINFO**

* [www.spu.edu](http://www.spu.edu)
* Click on **Library** Link (top of the web page)
* Click on **Subject Guides** link (on the left)
* Click on **PsycINFO** link
* In the **Limit your results** section, find the **Classification Codes** box and select (hold down CTRL key to select multiple items) **3500, 3530, 3550, 3650, 3570, 3575, 3580**



* Check **Peer Reviewed** in the **Limit Your Results** section of the page.
* Type some of your keywords in to the search box. Start general. Don’t use all of your keywords at one time.
* Find a germane article and read the abstract and examine the **Subjects** section of the record for appropriate controlled vocabulary
* List the appropriate **Subjects** on a piece of paper
* Once you have a good number of **Subjects** you can use some combination of these to perform a more focused search
* Make sure the **Peer Reviewed** box is checked
* Add other germane keywords and click **Search**
* Examine list of articles
* Further limit search by
	+ Click on the small **Show more** link in the **Refine your results**  link on the left side of page in the  **Limit Your Results** section and select:
	+ **Methodology**
		- **Empirical study** (includes Experimental Replication, Follow-up Study and Longitudinal Study) **Mathematical model** (includes Meta Analysis, Nonclinical Case Study, Qualitative Study, and Quantitative Study)or **Literature review**
		- HINT: holding down the **CTRL** key which selecting options from a list allows you to pick multiple options in the list.
* Click **Search**