Find Formal or Technical Terminology
PsycINFO Database
Search Term help for Psychology

Go to the PsycINFO database and login using your Portal Name and Password:
http://www.twu.edu/library/databases.asp#

STEP 1: Click the Thesaurus link.

STEP 2: Type a search term into the 2nd textbox.

Example Topic: psychological issues related to reading problems

STEP 3: Explore options to get the exact word.
Below, the note in read shows our search term ‘reading problems’ is not a formal search term. Look down the list for alternate search terms that might work better.

“Reading Readiness” is a link. Let’s click on it to see what we get.
Formal Search Term: Reading Readiness

ADVICE: Read the database definition of your term. Make sure it means what your topic is about.

Reading Readiness is not right for our topic. Let’s try clicking on ‘Reading’ instead.

We could explore several of the formal terms listed. They do relate to our topic.
Let’s go with Dyslexia first. Click on the Dyslexia link.

Read the definition. Dyslexia is a reading disability that is less severe than ALEXIA.

At this point we have uncovered several formal search terms that might return articles about the psychological issues related to reading problems.

Possible search terms:
- Dyslexia
- Alexia
- Reading Disabilities
- Remedial Reading
- Etc.

Let’s search the term Dyslexia now.
1. Put a checkmark in the checkbox beside the term: Dyslexia.
2. Click the Add button.
3. The database will type your search into the top box the way it needs to be. Now click SEARCH.
We found over 5,000 articles on the psychology of reading problem called Dyslexia.