

Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library Research Guide

A Short Guide to Using the Communications Thesaurus

by *Renée Goodvin, Education Coordination Librarian*
rgoodvin@sulross.edu (432) 837-8414

Like most subject-specific databases, Communication and Mass Media Complete assigns one term to describe and define a concept. These terms are called subject headings or descriptors and are assigned to all related articles... no matter what other terms are used.

Therefore in order to search Communication and Mass Media Complete effectively, it is imperative to determine which term Communication and Mass Media Complete uses for a concept. This is done by using the *Communications Thesaurus*.

1.) Browse the Communications Thesaurus

1. Choose "Thesaurus" from the blue menu bar at the top of the page.
2. Type a keyword in the "Browsing:" box. (e.g., telecommunications)
3. Make sure the "Relevancy Ranked" radio button is selected and click "Browse."

2.) Identify the Communications Thesaurus's Descriptors

1. The results may show the keyword and the assigned descriptor with the term "use." (e.g., TELECOMMUNICATIONS Use TELECOMMUNICATION)
2. If so, click the hyperlinked descriptor. (e.g., TELECOMMUNICATION)
3. Clicking the Communication Thesaurus's Descriptor provides additional information such as other terms the descriptor is used for or related terms to qualify the search if needed.

3.) Search the Communications Thesaurus's Descriptors

1. Use the check box to select the preferred descriptor.
2. From the drop down menu choose "and" and click "Add."
3. In the "Find" box, a descriptor now appears.
(e.g., **DE "TELECOMMUNICATION"**)
4. Click "Search." A page with the search and a results list will appear. If the results are too numerous, the search may need to be refined or limiters may need to be set.

4.) Refine/Limit the Search

1. To the right of the results list choose "Search Options."
2. Set the appropriate limiters.
3. Click "Search" to apply the limiters.