

Australian Thesaurus of Education Descriptors

Structure and format

The *Australian Thesaurus of Education Descriptors* contains a structured listing of terms designed for indexing and searching Australian education literature. Alphabetisation of the Thesaurus entries is word-by-word according to the following sequence:

- letters in the usual order; and
- numerals in the usual order

Thus, for example, all the **Education** terms precede the **Educational** terms.

Multi word terms containing parenthetical qualifiers are interfiled alphabetically by word, disregarding the parentheses, i.e. Family (**Sociological unit**) precedes **Family status**.

Word form

All spellings follow the form preferred by the Macquarie Dictionary. However, in order to simplify online retrieval, hyphens and apostrophes have been removed from all main terms and references, e.g.

Childrens literature

Nonprint media

Anti discrimination legislation *USE* **Civil rights legislation**

Terms may not begin with a numeral, e.g. **Year 4** not 4th year.

Multi word terms reflect direct, natural word order, as found in the literature, thus **Aboriginal education**, not Education of Aboriginal people.

Inverted entries (e.g. Awards, Academic) are not used. Instead, **Academic awards** is used.

Abbreviations and acronyms are generally avoided and if they do appear in the *Thesaurus*, are usually non-indexable *USE* references. One exception to this rule is the use of the term **TAFE** instead of Technical and further education, which is also used in multi word terms such as **TAFE teachers**. The second major exception is ICT instead of Information and communications technologies, which is used in the term **ICT in education**. Information and communication technologies are becoming more and more interconnected, and the abbreviation ICT is commonly being used in research literature as an accepted term.

Gender neutral terms are preferred when a concept refers to both sexes, e.g., **Homemakers** not Housewives.

Term display

Information relating to each term can include:

For preferred terms

- Term
- Scope note
- Used for
- Broader terms
- Narrower terms
- Related terms
- Subject category
- Date added

Example:

Nongovernment schools

Scope Note

Schools owned and controlled by private bodies - generally they are conducted by religious denominations but are sometimes non-denominational and administered by corporate bodies

Used For

Independent schools (1984 2013)
Nongovernment school systems #
Nonpublic schools
Private schools
Public schools (Nongovernment)

Broader Term

Schools

Narrower Term

Christian schools
Islamic schools
Jewish schools

Related Term

Government schools
International schools
Primary secondary schools
Private education
Private school aid
School choice
School systems
Secondary schools
Single sex schools
Socioeconomic status

Subject Category

340 Educational levels, qualifications and organisations

Date Added

Jan 84

For non preferred terms

- Term

- Use references (*USE*)

Example:

Public schools (Nongovernment)

Use

Nongovernment schools

Scope note

A scope note is a brief statement of the intended usage of a term. It may be used to clarify the meaning of an ambiguous term or to restrict the usage of a term. Special indexing notes are often appended which may also advise on the use of the term, in relation to other terms, documents formats or subject identifiers.

Grounded theory

Scope note: A qualitative research method that offers a systematic set of procedures to develop an inductively derived theory about the phenomenon studied

Educational institutions

Scope note: Includes schools, colleges and universities and other educational establishments (Note: use a more specific term if possible)

Doctoral theses

Scope note: Written presentations on the results of an investigation or piece of research, submitted in whole or partial fulfilment of doctoral degree requirements (Note: do not use except as the subject of a document)

Used for

The **Used for** reference is usually employed to solve problems of synonymy occurring in natural language. Terms following the **Used for** notation must not be used in indexing. They most often represent:

Synonymous or variant forms of the main term

Whole school approach

Used for: School based approach

Specific terms that, for the purposes of storage and retrieval, are indexed under a more general term

Motor vehicles

Used for: Motorcycles

Discontinued terms

ICT in education

Used for: Computer uses in education (1995 2003)

Sometimes a **Used for** needs more than one term to represent it adequately. In such cases a hash sign (#) following the **Used for** term signifies that two or more main terms are to be used in coordination. The term's main entry shows the appropriate coordination.

Accents (Dialects) USE **Dialects AND Pronunciation**

Dialects

Used for: Accents (Dialects) #

Pronunciation

Used for: Accents (Dialects) #

Broader term / Narrower term

Broader term/Narrower term indicate the existence of a hierarchical relationship between a class and its subclasses. Narrower terms are included in the broader class represented by the main entry. For example:

Academic awards

Narrower term: Degrees (Academic)
Educational certificates

Sport

Narrower term: Aquatic sports
Athletics
Golf
Gymnastics
Team sports
Winter sports

The **Broader term** is the mandatory reciprocal of the **Narrower term**. Broader terms include as a subclass the concept represented by the main (narrower) term.

Degrees (Academic)

Broader term: Academic awards

Team sports

Broader term: Sport

Sometimes a term may have more than one broader term:

Women teachers

Broader term: Employed women
Teachers

The use of a broad term will not automatically retrieve documents represented by the concepts of its narrower terms, unless those narrower terms have also been assigned to the documents in indexing (e.g. searching Nongovernment schools will not automatically also retrieve literature on Catholic schools or any of the other narrower terms to Nongovernment schools).

Related term

These terms have a close conceptual relationship to the main term, but not the direct class / subclass relationship described by broader and narrower terms. Part-whole relationships, near-synonyms and other conceptually related terms, which might be helpful to the user, appear as **Related terms**.

Schools of the air

Related terms: Computer mediated communication
Correspondence schools
Distance education
Educational radio
Isolated students
Online education
Rural education
Rural students

Indoctrination

Related terms: Adoption (Ideas)
Attitude change
Beliefs
Change strategies
Persuasive discourse
Political attitudes
Political influences
Propaganda
Religion
Student teacher relationship
Teacher influence
Values

Subject category

All terms are assigned to broad subject groups. These groupings are discussed and details given in Subject categories.

Date added

An inclusion date is shown underneath each preferred term. The **Date added** for terms from the first edition is 1984; 1995 for the second edition; 2003 for the third edition; 2005 and 2008 for minor revisions in those years; and 2012 for the fourth edition.

USE

The *USE* reference, the mandatory reciprocal of the UF, refers the indexer or searcher from a non-usable (non-indexable) term to the preferred or indexable term or terms. In the

examples below, there is only one *USE* term for each entry. This means that there is a direct, one-to-one correlation in the Thesaurus from the **Used for** to the *USE* term.

Work sharing *USE* **Job sharing**

Enquiry learning *USE* **Inquiry**

Doctrines *USE* **Ideologies**

Australian Aboriginal students *USE* **Aboriginal students**

A coordinate or multiple *USE* reference (the reciprocal of the 'double **Used for**' above) looks a little different. The following example illustrates the use of two main terms together to represent a single concept, both for indexing and searching:

Folk music # *USE* **Folk culture AND Music**

Parenthetical qualifiers

A parenthetical qualifier is used to clarify the meaning of homographs, or in other words, to discriminate between two terms (either preferred terms or *USE* references) that might otherwise be confused with each other. Examples include Letters (Alphabet) and Letters (Correspondence), and Conservation (Concept) and Conservation (Environment). NOTE: The qualifier is an integral part of the term, and must be use with the term in indexing and searching.

