



Using the *REHABDATA Thesaurus* To search NARIC's REHABDATA literature database

The REHABDATA database provides indexing and informative abstracting for documents from top rehabilitation and disability information sources. Researchers can access a continuously updated, free version of the database through the Internet at <http://www.naric.com>.

Over its 26-year life span the database has grown to be the largest general disabilities literature database, covering all disabilities and all ages, with over 72,000 records. In producing REHABDATA, the National Rehabilitation Information Center (NARIC) acquires documents from over 300 projects funded by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR), as well as over 150 peer-reviewed and scholarly journals and magazines, and a small number of newsletters. Most publishers in the disability field are aware of and contribute to this vast archive.

Topics included in REHABDATA include:
Research and development in disability and rehabilitation including:
 Health and function
 Technology
 Employment
Participation and community living
Capacity building
Demographics and statistics
Knowledge translation

NARIC staff use the REHABDATA Thesaurus to index the materials in the NARIC research and reference collections, and it can be used to assist in the retrieval of information from NARIC's other databases. In addition, the Thesaurus was used to organize the NARIC Web site's navigation system.

Version history

This is the seventh edition of the REHABDATA Thesaurus, formerly titled the Thesaurus of Descriptors and the REHABDATA Thesaurus of NARIC Descriptors. Beginning with the third revised edition (April 1988), and continuing with the fourth (June 1989), fourth revised (December 1992), fifth (December 1994), and sixth (July 1999) edition, entries include when terms were added or deleted, in the form "term added December 1994," or "term deleted December 1992." Many non-terms were added to the fifth edition to make identifying relevant descriptors easier and faster. The Thesaurus exists as a prescriptive document: rather than defining language use in disability and rehabilitation research, it dictates the grammar and definitions used to describe disability and rehabilitation. In the sixth edition several problems of parallelism among term types were corrected. With the seventh edition, terms were revised to reflect the shifting paradigm of disability and rehabilitation research, as described in NIDRR's Long Range Plan as published in 1999. This edition also includes a revised Introduction and a rotated terms listing that can be used to solve retrieval problems.

This document is modified and updated on a regular basis; users are encouraged to send comments and suggestions regarding the Thesaurus to the address in the front of this book, or via email to naricinfo@heitechservices.com. The online version of this document is available from <http://www.naric.com>.

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A sample REHABDATA record (online)

REHABDATA records are document summaries—the database does not include full text. In these summaries, information is broken up into “fields,” containing publication information, an informative abstract, and, in the **Descriptor** field, index terms from this thesaurus that allow similar records to be retrieved together.

The sample below illustrates the kinds of information contained in each field, and the page opposite describes field contents. Understanding how records are constructed will help searchers decide which parts of the record contain the information they need. The information underlined indicates “clickable” links to search for additional information

Full title including journal, proceeding, or book information.

PARTICIPATORY ACTION RESEARCH AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES: PRINCIPLES AND CHALLENGES. Canadian Journal of Rehabilitation , Volume 12(2) , Pgs. 105-112.

Accession Number

NARIC Accession Number: J36477.

ISSN/ISBN

ISSN: 8888-0827.

Author(s)

Author(s): [Balcazar, F E](#); [Keys, C B](#); [Kaplan, D L](#); [Suarez-Balcazar, Y](#).

Project Number

Project Number (click to learn more): [H133A40032](#).

Year

Publication Year: 1998.

Number of Pages

Number of Pages: 8.

Abstract

Abstract: Article presenting four principles of participatory action research (PAR) involving people with disabilities: (1) the active role people with disabilities play in defining, analyzing, and solving problems; (2) the opportunities for more accurate and authentic analysis of people with disabilities’ social reality; (3) the resulting awareness among people with disabilities about their own resources and strengths; and (4) the opportunities for improving the quality of life of people with disabilities. Challenges in conducting PAR are also discussed, including: the need for researchers to relinquish control; barriers to gaining entry to the disability community and difficulties in recruiting participants; the length of PAR; and possible unintended consequences of the research process.

Descriptors

Descriptor Terms: INCLUSION, PARTICIPATORY ACTION RESEARCH, PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES, RESEARCH METHODOLOGY.

Document availability

Can this document be ordered through NARIC’s document delivery service?: Y.

Journal or publisher information

More information about this publication:
[Canadian Journal of Rehabilitation](#).

A field-by-field look at REHABDATA

Title – title of the document or journal article; includes journal citation in some older records.

Second Title – completes the title by describing what the document is a subset of, if necessary. For journal articles, the article title appears in the title field and this field includes the journal title and volume/number/page information; for book chapters this field includes the title of the book, and for conference proceedings, it includes the title of the conference.

Accession Number – identification number added by NARIC as a call number. People ordering documents from NARIC are asked to provide the accession number of the documents they are ordering. Numbers beginning with “J” are journal articles; those beginning with “O” are usually government reports, and those beginning with “R” are usually commercially published books.

Author(s) – Author, editor, or compiler names, with last name listed first and initials for first name; middle initials are used when available. First names are NOT included and are therefore not retrievable through REHABDATA searches.

Project Number – sponsoring agency code, grant, or contract number. *Used only when the document was created by a project funded by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research.*

Year – publication date and copyright (C) designation. If the date has been approximated a \$ (dollar sign) appears after the year to indicate the approximation.

Number of Pages – the page count.

Abstract – a brief, informative overview of the key points discussed in the document, designed to provide enough information to allow the user to independently evaluate the usefulness of the item.

Journal or Publisher – name of the journal or book publisher, or a continuation of the affiliation of the author(s) when further explanation is required.

Descriptors – subject terms appropriate to describing the document, chosen from the controlled vocabulary in this *REHABDATA Thesaurus*.

Document Availability – Whether the document is available and NARIC is allowed to photocopy the document for patrons. *Documents may be removed from the collection or restricted by copyright.*

Availability – where the document can be obtained. May indicate document format; may display a sponsoring agency code, grant, or contract number. Internet addresses are added when available (not shown).

Descriptor Usage

General terms such as “Rehabilitation Research,” “Disabilities,” and “Vocational Rehabilitation” are used primarily for documents providing either an overview of the subject or covering many disability- or rehabilitation-related topics. Users should select more specific terms when possible. Additionally, the terminology in the *Thesaurus* is in “lay” terms rather than technical terms; for example, “Cancer” rather than “Oncology.”

Sample *Thesaurus* entries

Descriptor term
Scope note

Work adjustment
Includes programs or training designed to help persons with disabilities form a work personality that will help them increase their productivity and handle the day-to-day demands of competitive employment by developing self-confidence, self-control, work tolerance, ability to handle interpersonal relationships, and an understanding of work; includes job adjustment and on-the-job work behavior.

Broader term(s)
Narrower term(s)
Related term(s)

Broad term(s): Adjustment
Narrow term(s): Work hardening
Related term(s): Employment
 Vocational evaluation
 Vocational training
 Work attitudes
 Work environment

‘Use for’ term(s)

Use for: Personal adjustment
 Vocational adjustment
 Work evaluation

Not shown:
Antonym descriptors

(a non-term)
Use this term

Work
Use term(s): Employment

Cross-references in the *REHABDATA Thesaurus*

The following examples illustrate how descriptors are cross-referenced.

Use term(s)– Terms in boldface are descriptors; terms in regular face lead the user from common terms to authorized descriptors through a **use** reference:

Problem behavior
Use term(s): Behavior problems

Problem behavior is a commonly used term. However, in the *Thesaurus*, the term **Behavior problems** is used to classify documents relating to the topic.

Under that descriptor a ‘use for,’ reference exists:

Behavior problems
Use for: Problem behavior

Four other types of cross-references are used in this *Thesaurus*.

Antonym – leads the user between terms with opposite meanings:

Institutionalization
Antonym: Deinstitutionalization

Deinstitutionalization
Antonym: Institutionalization

Broad term(s) – leads the user from a more specific term to a more general term:

Counselor education
Broad term(s): Education

Narrow term(s) – the reverse of a broad term, leads the user from a more general term to a more specific term:

Education
Narrow term(s): Counselor education

Related terms – leads the user between terms that have some unspecified level or type of relationship between them:

Pilot projects
Related term(s): Model cities

Model cities
Related term(s): Pilot projects

Scope notes are included with many descriptors to define the meaning and range of use of the term:

Abstracts
Brief summaries of the major points of a document, usually giving a summary or outline of contents or findings.

References

Many sources of information aided in the development of the REHABDATA Thesaurus. Of special note were the Texas Rehabilitation Commission's list of indexing vocabulary; Rehabilitation Literature, formerly published by the National Easter Seal Foundation; and the RSA Research Information Thesaurus, compiled by Claire K. Schultz, sponsored by the Medical College of Pennsylvania under contract to RSA.

Information on special areas came from many sources including the Educational Media and Materials for the Handicapped, Ohio State University; Guidelines for Descriptive Cataloging of Reports, the Committee on Scientific and Technical Information, Federal Council for Science and Technology, Washington, DC; the Thesaurus of ERIC Descriptors, 8th Edition, Onyx Press; the Medical Subject Headings Annotated Alphabetical List (MeSH), National Technical Information Service, Springfield, VA; and the Medical Subject Headings (MeSH), National Library of Medicine, Bethesda, MD.

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Part 1: Thesaurus of Controlled Vocabulary

The DESCRIPTOR field of REHABDATA (and most other NARIC databases) and the structure of the NARIC Web site rely on the approximately 700 terms featured here. Because controlled vocabulary provides a common language for the retrieval of information, searching or browsing with controlled vocabulary is an excellent way to find information in NARIC resources.