Database thesauri help you determine what subject terms are used to describe various topics, thus allowing you to better explore your subject of interest. Below is an example of how to use the thesaurus in ProQuest’s databases.

1. When using a ProQuest database, you can connect to the thesaurus by clicking on the link in the Advanced Search screen:

2. The thesaurus will appear as a pop-up window. (If you are searching multiple ProQuest databases, you may be asked to choose which thesaurus you would like to use). You can choose to search for a term, or browse available terms:

3. For example, I am interested in business coaching. I will search for the term ‘coaching’ using the ‘contains words’ filter to see what comes up:
4. My results list contains four terms, including two related to business coaching. Terms which have a checkbox next to them are the preferred terms for a given subject:

**ProQuest thesaurus (subjects)**

Search terms: coaching

- Contains word(s)
- Begins with


Click a term in the list below to see available narrower, broader, and related terms. Learn more

Subject terms found:

- Business coaching
- Coaching, Business
- Life coaching
- Peer coaching

5. If a term appears without a checkbox, click on it to be redirected to the preferred subject term. Here is an example of what happens when I click on ‘Coaching, Business’ from the list above:

- Business coaching

  *(use for - Coaching, Business)*

**BROADER TERMS:**

- Training
6. A blue box often accompanies preferred terms in the thesaurus. Clicking on this box will bring up a list of related subject terms. You may wish to include some of these synonyms in order to **broaden your search**.

You can also use the options at the bottom of the thesaurus screen to choose how you would like to connect your synonyms (i.e. ‘AND’, ‘OR’, ‘NOT’). Using ‘OR’ is most common and will search for any of the terms you choose:

7. Once you select ‘add to search’ the thesaurus will automatically insert your subject terms into the search box: