TERMINOLOGY CORNER

Editors note: We presented in the last number the definitions of thesaurus-related terms from D. Soergel's handbook and textbook: "Indexing languages and thesauri. Construction and maintenance" without prior checking with the author. His corrections are as follows:

"ad 3.2 *Lead-in vocabulary* – vocabulary consisting of all terms not used as descriptors, i. e. non-preferred terms (which are synonymous or quasi-synonymous to a preferred term) and preferred terms that are not used as descriptors (e. g. a preferred term designating a compound concept that can be expressed by a combination of descriptors).

ad 3.3 *Thesaurus*

3.3.1 *Simple definition* (for systems using terminology control in indexing): A thesaurus consists of an indexing language or a system vocabulary, including all the relationships among descriptors, and a lead-in vocabulary that includes all the relationships among the lead-in terms and that leads from the terms not used as descriptors to the appropriate descriptors in the indexing language, possibly specifying the nature of the relationships between lead-in term und descriptor.

3.3.2 *General definition* (for any system):
A thesaurus in the field of information storage and retrieval is a list of terms and/or of other signs (or symbols) indicating relationships among these elements, provided that the following criteria hold:
(a) the list contains a significant proportion of non-preferred terms not used as descriptors;
(b) terminological control is intended.

3.4 *Terminology control*
Any measure or device to avoid or lessen the negative effect of terminological confusion on the performance of an ISAR system, i. e., any measure or device which will assure (or increase the chance of) retrieval of all documents (or other retrieval objects) relevant for a certain concept no matter how this concept is initially expressed by the searcher. Terminology control can be exerted in indexing: Only preferred terms are allowed as descriptors, and a lead-in vocabulary leads the indexers and searchers to the descriptors to be used in document representations and search request formulations, respectively. Terminology control can also be exerted in searching: In the search request formulation, a concept is represented by the OR-combination of all the synonymous terms designating the concept."

Although we stated our policy in the last issue to concern ourselves only with terms and definitions as used in the publications on classification (as against artificially created term systems), we agreed to let one of the first European thesaurus-builders have a chance to present his definitions here instead of in a Letter-to-the-Editor, pointing out though, that these following definitions are on his own responsibility.

Concerning Thesaurus Terminology – II

In the second issue of 1975 the Editor of International Classification invited readers to comment on the selection and the formulation of definitions presented in that issue. The Editor also proposed two approaches possible in terminology work: empirical and normative.

Having had some experience of thesaurus work, I wish to propose a number of definitions – in three languages – which form a consistent set. I thus hope to accomplish a combination of the two approaches, merging empirically obtained definitions into a potentially normative system.

In that they notably differ from the definitions proposed in the second 1975 issue, they in fact constitute a commentary to these definitions, and I should appreciate the opinion of further readers about the value – relative and intrinsic – of both sets of definitions.

Loll Rolling, Luxembourg

1. *Thesaurus*

E Controlled and dynamic vocabulary of descriptors and non-descriptors linked by hierarchical and other semantic relationships, comprehensively covering a field of knowledge, for the unambiguous representation of concepts contained in documents and queries of an information system.

Thésaurus

F Vocabulaire contrôlé et dynamique de descripteurs et de non-descripteurs, reliés entre eux par des relations sémantiques, hiérarchiques ou autres, couvrant complètement un domaine de connaissances, utilisé dans un système d'information pour représenter sans ambiguité les concepts contenus dans les documents et dans les questions.

Thesaurus

D Kontrolliertes, dynamisches Vokabular von durch hierarchische und andere semantische Relationen verbundenen Deskriptoren und Nichtdeskriptoren, das ein Wissensgebiet vollständig abdeckt und in einem Informationssystem zur eindeutigen Darstellung der in Dokumenten und Suchfragen enthaltenen Begriffe verwendet wird.

2. *Macrothesaurus*

E Thesaurus covering a broad subject field on a rather general level of specificity, containing descriptors having identical meanings in every part of the subject field.

Macrothésaurus

F Thésaurus couvrant un large domaine à un niveau élevé de généralité et composé de descripteurs ayant la même signification dans chaque domaine partiel.

Macrothesaurus (Dachthesaurus)

D Thesaurus, der einen weiten Sachbereich durch allgemeinere Deskriptoren abdeckt, welche in jedem Teilbereich dieselbe Bedeutung haben.

3. *Multilingual thesaurus*

E Thesaurus containing descriptors representing identical or similar concepts in two or more languages.

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Thésaurus multilingue

F Thésaurus comprenant des descripteurs représentant des notions identiques ou similaires dans deux ou plusieurs langues.

Mehrsprachiger Thesaurus

D Thesaurus von identische oder ähnliche Begriffe darstellenden Deskriptoren in zwei oder mehr Sprachen.

4. *Source thesaurus*

E Thesaurus used as a basis for the creation of a multilingual thesaurus.

Thésaurus-source

F Thésaurus qui sert de point de départ pour l'élaboration d'un thésaurus multilingue.

Ausgangsthesaurus

D Thesaurus, der als Grundlage für die Erstellung eines mehrsprachigen Thesaurus benutzt wird.

5. *Target thesaurus*

E A version of a multilingual thesaurus, established on the basis of a source thesaurus in another language.

Thésaurus-cible

F Version d'un thésaurus multilingue, établie à partir d'un thésaurus-source dans une autre langue que celui-ci.

Zielthesaurus

D Eine Fassung eines mehrsprachigen Thesaurus, die auf der Grundlage eines Ausgangsthesaurus in einer anderen Sprache erstellt wurde.

6. *Microthesaurus*

E Thesaurus subset comprising all descriptors and non-descriptors pertaining to one sector of the subject field covered by the whole thesaurus.

Microthésaurus

F Thésaurus partiel comprenant tous les descripteurs et non-descripteurs correspondant à un secteur du domaine couvert par le thésaurus entier.

Mikrothesaurus

D Teilthesaurus, der sämtliche zu einem Teilbereich des Gesamtthesaurus gehörenden Deskriptoren und Nichtdeskriptoren umfaßt.

7. *Auxiliary thesaurus*

E Special vocabulary used in conjunction with a thesaurus.

Thésaurus auxilaire

F Vocabulaire indépendant utilisé conjointement avec un thésaurus.

Hilfsthesaurus

D Mit einem Thesaurus zusammen verwendetes, in sich geschlossenes Vokabular.

8. *Descriptor*

E A term (in a thesaurus) selected from a set of equivalent terms to represent unambiguously a concept contained in a document or a retrieval query.

Descripteur

F Elément d'un thésaurus, choisi parmi un ensemble de termes équivalents pour représenter sans ambiguité une notion contenue dans un document ou dans une demande de recherche documentaire.

Deskriptor

D Element eines Thesaurus, aus einer Anzahl gleichwertiger Begriffsbezeichnungen ausgewählt zur eindeutigen Darstellung eines in einem Dokument oder in einer Suchfrage enthaltenen Begriffes.

9. *Non-descriptor*

E A thesaurus term belonging to an equivalence class represented by a descriptor; this descriptor is used as an indexing term instead.

Non-descripteur

F Elément d'un thésaurus, appartenant à un ensemble de termes équivalents représenté par un descripteur; ce descripteur le remplace à l'indexage.

Nichtdeskriptor

D Thesauruselement aus einer durch einen Deskriptor dargestellten Aequivalenzklasse; wird beim Indexieren durch diesen Deskriptor ersetzt.

10. *Equivalence class*

E Set of thesaurus terms representing a concept (one of these terms is a descriptor, the others are non-descriptors).

Classe d'équivalence:

F Ensemble des terms représentant la même notion dans un thésaurus (l'un de ces termes est un descripteur, les autres sont des non-descripteurs).

Aequivalenzklasse

D Alle denselben Begriff darstellenden Thesauruselemente (eines davon ist ein Deskriptor, die übrigen sind Nichtdeskriptoren).

11. *Concept coordination* (post-coordination)

E Representation of documents (coordinate indexing) and queries by a combination of descriptors representing concepts.

Coordination de notions (post-coordination)

F Représentation de documents (indexage coordonné) et de questions par une combinaison de descripteurs représentant des notions.

Begriffskoordinierung (Postkoordinierung)

D Darstellung von Dokumenten (koordiniertes Indexieren) und Fragestellungen durch eine Kombination von Begriffsbezeichnungen (Deskriptoren).

12. *Coordinate indexing*

E Document representation by juxtaposition of descriptors representative of its conceptual facets.

Indexage coordonné

F Caractérisation d'un document par la juxtaposition de descripteurs représentant les notions contenues dans le document.

Koordiniertes Indexieren

D Dokumentdarstellung durch Aneinanderreihen von Deskriptoren als Begriffsbezeichnungen.

13. *Precoordination*

E Representation of a combination of concepts by one descriptor in a thesaurus. This descriptor can be written in one or more words.

Précoordination

F Représentation d'une combinaison de notions par un seul descripteur dans un thésaurus. Ce descripteur peut être écrit en un ou plusieurs mots.

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Präkoordinierung

D Darstellung einer Begriffskombination im Thesaurus durch einen einzigen Deskriptor. Dieser Deskriptor kann aus einem oder mehreren Wörtern bestehen.

14. *Relational structure*

E All semantic relations between descriptors and between descriptors and non-descriptors in a thesaurus.

Structure relationnelle

F Ensemble des relations sémantiques liant les descripteurs d'un thésaurus entre eux et avec les non-descripteurs.

Relationsstruktur

D Gesamtheit der semantischen Beziehungen zwischen Deskriptoren und zwischen Deskriptoren und Nicht-Deskriptoren in einem Thesaurus.

15. *Semantic relation*

E Any relation between thesaurus terms based on their meanings. Semantic relations comprise equivalence relations, hierarchical relations and associative relations.

Relation sémantique

F Toute relation entre termes d'un thésaurus basée sur leur contenu conceptual. Les relations sémantiques comprennent les relations d'équivalence, les relations hiérarchiques et les relations associatives.

Semantische Beziehung

D Jede auf dem Begriffsinhalt fussende Beziehung zwischen Thesauruselementen. Die semantischen Beziehungen umfassen Aequivalenzbeziehungen, hierarchische Beziehungen und assoziative Beziehungen.

16. *Equivalence relation*

E Relation between a descriptor and a non-descriptor belonging to the same equivalence class.

Relation d'équivalence

F Relation entre un descripteur et un non-descripteur appartenant à une classe d'équivalence.

Aequivalenzbeziehung

D Beziehung zwischen einem Deskriptor und einem Nichtdeskriptor derselben Aequivalenzklasse.

17. *Hierarchical relation*

E Relation between two descriptors one of which is subordinate to the other in a thesaurus. Hierarchical relations comprise generic and partitive relations.

Relation hiérarchique

F Relation entre deux descripteurs dont l'un est subordonné à l'autre dans un thésaurus. Les relations hiérarchiques comprennent des relations génériques et des relations partitives.

Hierarchische Beziehung

D Beziehung zwischen zwei Deskriptoren, von denen einer dem anderen im Thesaurus untergeordnet ist. Hierarchische Beziehungen umfassen generische und partitive Beziehungen.

18. *Generic relation* (genus-species relation)

E Relation between two concepts in which one represents the genus and the other the species.

Relation générique (relation genre – espèce)

F Relation entre deux notions dont l'une représente le genre et l'autre l'espèce.

Generische Beziehung

D Beziehung zwischen zwei Begriffen, von denen der eine die Gattung und der andere die Art darstellt.

19. *Partitive relation* (part-whole relation)

E Relation between two descriptors or concepts in which one represents one of the elements of the other.

Relation partitive (relation tout-partie)

F Relation entre deux notions ou descripteurs dont l'un représente un des éléments de l'autre.

Partitive Beziehung

D Beziehung zwischen zwei Deskriptoren oder Begriffen, von denen der eine einen Bestandteil des andern darstellt.

20. *Polyhierarchy*

E Property of a thesaurus in which each descriptor may be subordinate to several other descriptors at a given level.

Polyhiérarchie

F Propriété d'un thésaurus dont chaque descripteur peut être subordonné à plusieurs autres descripteurs à un niveau donné.

Polyhierarchie

D Eigenschaft eines Thesaurus, in dem jeder Deskriptor mehreren anderen Deskriptoren untergeordnet sein kann.

21. *Associative relation*

E Non-hierarchical relation between two descriptors in a thesaurus.

Relation associative

F Relation non-hiérarchique entre deux descripteurs d'un thésaurus.

Assoziative Beziehung

D Nichthierarchische Beziehung zwischen zwei Deskriptoren eines Thesaurus.

Meetings of The Classification Society

The *European Branch* of The Classification Society held a meeting on April 14, 1976 at University Botanic Garden in Cambridge, England, the topic of which was "The Classification of Words". The following four papers were delivered:

Karen Sparck-Jones: Automatic word classifications – evaluations by use.

Kevin P. Jones and *Colin L. M. Bell:* Classifying words in (almost) context-free information retrieval system languages.

Susan Jones: The use of collocation as a principle of classification.

Margaret Masterman: Message structures: the classification of units above the word.

The *American Branch* invited for a meeting on May 24–25, 1976 at Rochester, N. Y.

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