

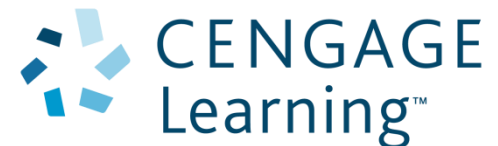
Synonyms, Alternative Labels, and Non-preferred Terms

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Indexing and Vocabulary Services

Gale | Cengage Learning



About Heather Hedden

- Controlled vocabulary editor at a library database vendor, Gale/Cengage Learning, 1996 – 2004, 2014 – present
- Previous taxonomy consultant
- Continuing education instructor
Simmons College School of Library and Information Science
- Author of *The Accidental Taxonomist* (Information Today, Inc.)
- Freelance back-of-the-book indexer
- SLA Taxonomy Division board member
- American Society for Indexing board member

Outline

- Introduction: Definition, Examples, Usage
- Different Designations and Models
- Creation and Implementation
- Different Types
- How Many to Create
- User Interface and Search
- Variations and Customizations

Synonyms, Alternative Labels, Non-preferred Terms

- **Defined:** Approximately synonymous words or phrases to refer to an equivalent concept, for the context of the taxonomy and the set of content.
- **Purpose:** To capture different wordings of how different people might describe or look up the same concept or idea.
 - Differences between that of the author and the user/reader
 - Differences between that of the indexers and the end-users
 - Differences among different users/readers
- Serving as “multiple entry points” to look up and retrieve the desired content.
- Enabling consistent indexing/tagging

Introduction

Examples (from Gale Subject Thesaurus)

Conflict management

Conflict resolution

Managing conflict

Wills

Codicils

Last will and testament

Testaments (Wills)

Influenza

Flu

Grippe

Movies

Cinema

Films (Movies)

Motion pictures

Movie genres

Telecommunications industry

Communications industry

Digital transmission industry

Interexchange carriers

Telecommunications services industry

Telephone holding companies

Telephone industry

Telephone services industry

Environmental management

Adaptive management (Environmental management)

Environmental control

Environmental stewardship

Natural resource management

Stewardship (Environmental management)

Piano music [no variants]

When to Use

Not needed:

- A very small, browsable taxonomy, where all can be seen or easily scrolled to (such as in facets) *and* tagging is manual

Needed:

- If taxonomy is too large to be all seen in one view with minimal scrolling.
- If taxonomy will be searched upon and not just browsed.
- If automated indexing/auto-classification/auto-categorization is implemented.

Whether it's called a taxonomy or thesaurus does not matter.

Synonym

- Simple, non-expert, widely understood.
- Associated with a *Term*.
- Not entirely accurate, because most are *not* synonyms (not exact equivalents, not single words).
- May use this designation with varied stakeholders.
- If used, better to use *in combination* with a more accurate term, such as alternative label or non-preferred term.

Alternative Label

- Formal designation for SKOS (Simple Knowledge Organisation System) vocabularies.
- Shortened as *altLabel*.
- Associated with a *Preferred label*.
- Intuitively understood by non-experts and varied stakeholders.
- May be used in non-SKOS vocabularies, but could confuse information experts who associate it with SKOS.

Non-preferred Term

- Formal designation in thesauri, in accordance with ISO 25964 and ANSI/NISO Z.39-19 standards.
- Shortened as *NPT*.
- Associated with a *Preferred term*.
- Not intuitively understood by non-experts.
- Understood and preferred by taxonomists trained on the thesaurus model.

Different Designations and Models

Even more designations:

Aliases
Alternate labels
Alternate terms
Alternative terms
Cross-references
Entry terms
Equivalent terms
Non-descriptors
Non-postable terms
See references
Use for terms
Use references
Used for terms
Variants

Found mostly in:

Taxonomies
SKOS vocabularies
SKOS vocabularies
SKOS vocabularies
Indexes in print
Thesauri
Thesauri
Thesauri
Thesauri
Indexes in print
Thesauri
Thesauri
Thesauri
Taxonomies

Different Designations and Models

Thesaurus non-preferred/preferred term model

- Considered a kind of “relationship” of the Equivalency type.
- Reciprocity of relationship, pointing in both directions: USE and UF (*use* and *used for/use for*).
- Both preferred terms and non-preferred terms are “terms.”

SKOS vocabulary model

- Instead of terms, there are concepts.
- Concepts have multiple labels.
- Concepts have a preferred label (for each language).
- Concepts have any number of alternative labels and hidden labels (for each language).
- Alternative and hidden labels are part of a concept’s attributes, not equivalent terms and not connected by “relationships.”

Different Designations and Models

Thesaurus standards/guidelines

- ISO or BS ISO 25964-1 Information and documentation - Thesauri and interoperability with other vocabularies Part 1: Thesauri for information retrieval [2011]
- ANSI/NISO Z39.19-2005 (R2010) Guidelines for the Construction, Format, and Management of Monolingual Controlled Vocabularies
http://www.niso.org/apps/group_public/download.php/12591/z39-19-2005r2010.pdf

SKOS model recommendation

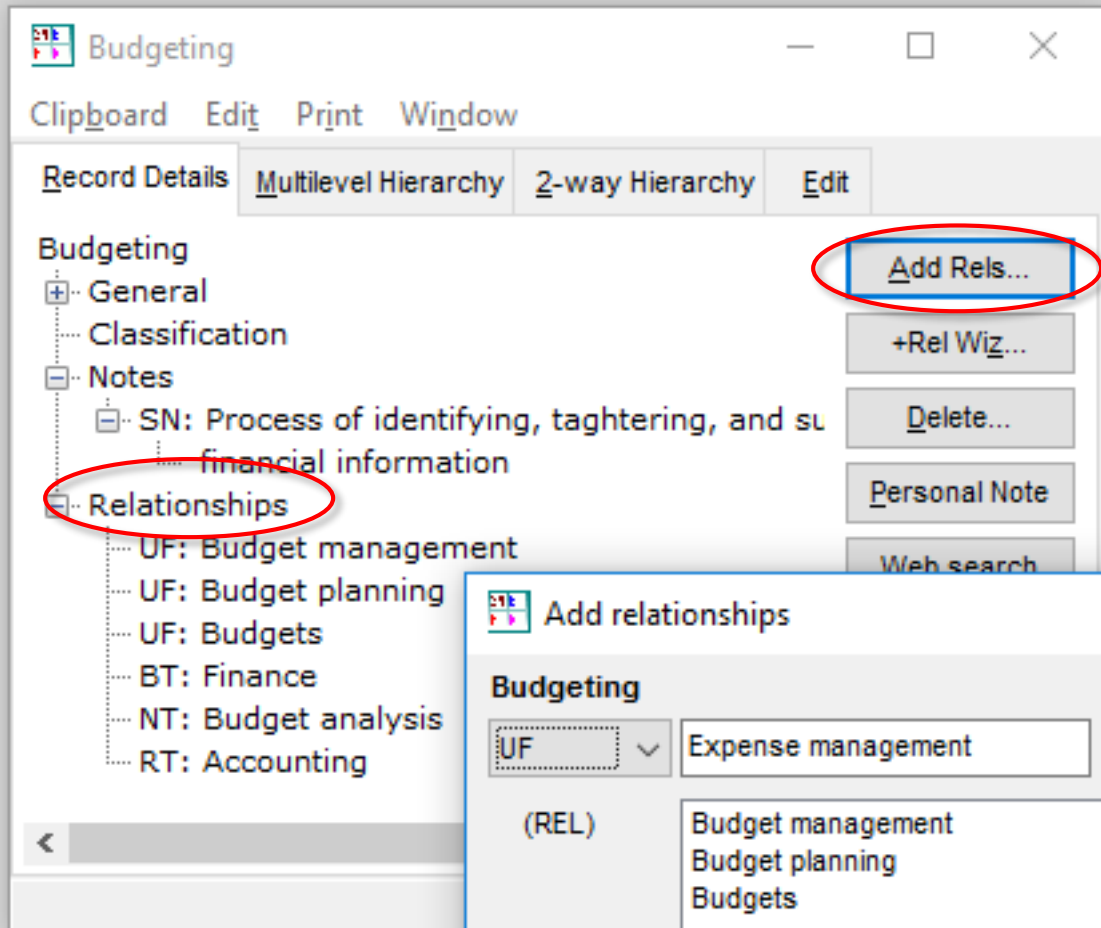
A World Wide Web (W3C) recommendation

“A common data model for sharing and linking knowledge organization systems via the Web”

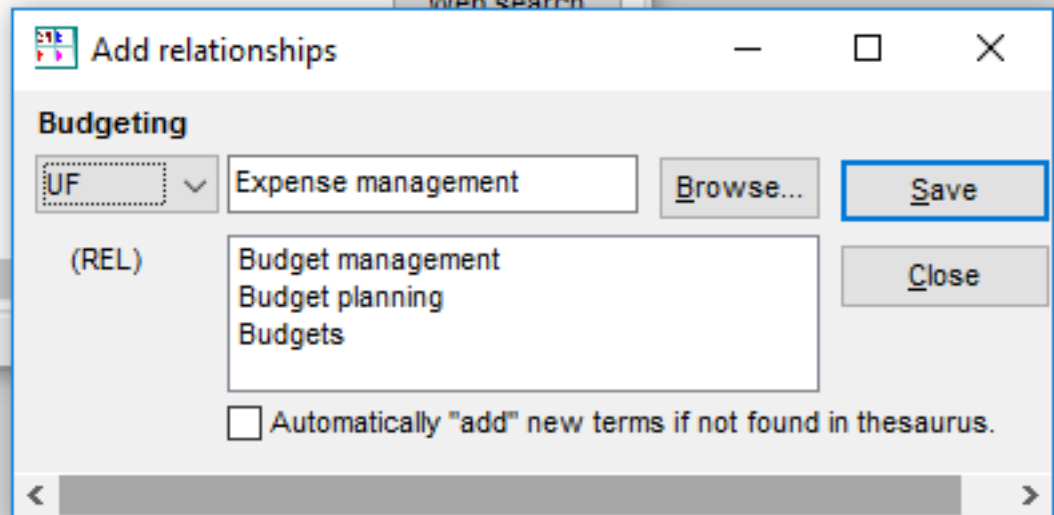
<https://www.w3.org/TR/skos-reference/>

Different Designations and Models

Taxonomy management software's management of variants



Thesaurus model:
MultiTes



Different Designations and Models

Thesaurus model: Synaptica

Item Summary

Descriptor Budgeting
Object Hedden_Thes
Categories
Status Active; Candidate; Preferred; Unlocked
UID 18665
Created hhedden 10/7/2016 7:57:34 PM
Modified hhedden 10/7/2016 7:58:19 PM

Save	Add New	Subsume
Refresh	Categories	History
Deactivate	Delete	Restore
	Copy	

Sub-Elements

Descriptor: Budgeting

Scope:

History note:

Search for related terms

Search phrase: Expense planning

Smart Begins Contains Exact [Object Class](#)

Searching all permissible object classes

Expense planning (Hedden_Thes)

Assign relationship:

- Use
- BT
- NT
- RT
- UF
- Use

Add Relationship

Cancel

Current Relationship

Limit to Taskview Show All

- ~~DEL~~ **UF** [Budget management](#) (Hedden_Thes)
- ~~DEL~~ **UF** [Budget planning](#) (Hedden_Thes)
- ~~DEL~~ **UF** [Budgets](#) (Hedden_Thes)
- ~~DEL~~ **BT** [Finance](#) (Hedden_Thes)
- ~~DEL~~ **NT** [Budget analysis](#) (Hedden_Thes)
- ~~DEL~~ **RT** [Accounting](#) (Hedden_Thes)

Different Designations and Models

Thesaurus model: Synaptica

Item Summary

Descriptor Budgeting
Object Hedden_Thes
Categories
Status Active; Candidate; Preferred; Unlocked
UID 18665
Created hhedden 10/7/2016 7:57:34 PM
Modified hhedden 10/7/2016 8:01:10 PM

Save

Add New

Subsume

Refresh

Categories

History

Deactivate

Delete

Restore

Copy

Sub-Elements

Descriptor: Budgeting

Scope:

History note:

Relationships

Add/Edit Relationships

Tree View

Visualize

Limit to Taskview Show All

Budgeting

Top Level Parents

TT [Finance](#) (Hedden_Thes)

Parents

[BT Finance](#) (Hedden_Thes)

Children

[NT Budget analysis](#) (Hedden_Thes)

Associations

[RT Accounting](#) (Hedden_Thes)

Variants

[UF Budget management](#) (Hedden_Thes) (NPT)

[UF Budget planning](#) (Hedden_Thes) (NPT)

[UF Budgets](#) (Hedden_Thes) (NPT)

Different Designations and Models

Budgeting

<http://advanced.poolparty.biz/FoodandRecipes/94>

SKOS model: PoolParty

Collection

Delete Concept

Details Notes Documents Linked Data Triples Visualization Quality Report History

SKOS

Relations

Add to Blacklist Linguistics

Broader Concepts

[Finance](#)



Narrower Concepts

[Budget analysis](#)



Related Concepts

[Accounting](#)



Preferred Label

Budgeting

en

Alternative Labels

Budgets

en

Budget management

en

Budget planning

en



Hidden Labels

Add Alternative Label

Alternative Label: Expense management

OK

Cancel

Different Designations and Models

The screenshot displays the Semaphore Ontology Editor interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Smartlogic logo and menu items: Home, IPSV, Master, and a grid icon. On the right of the navigation bar, it says 'Logged in'. Below the navigation bar is an 'Edit Model' header with a search bar and icons for adding, filtering, and menu. The left sidebar shows a tree view of categories, with 'e-Commerce' selected and highlighted in blue. The main content area is titled 'e-Commerce' and shows it is a 'Concept Class' with 'No user class defined'. Below this, there are three sections: 'Preferred Labels' (with a '+ Create a preferred label' button and 'e-Commerce (en)') and 'Alternative Labels' (with a '+ Create an alternative label' button and 'alternative label > Electronic Commerce (en)') which is circled in red. The 'Metadata' section has a '+ Metadata' button. On the right side, there are three panels: 'Related Concepts 5' with a 'Select a related concept' prompt and links for 'Communications industries', 'Data security', 'Information and communication technology', 'Internet', and 'Retail trade'; 'Broader Concepts 1' with a 'Select a broader concept' prompt and a link for 'Business practice and regulation'; and 'Narrower Concepts 1' with a 'Select a narrower concept' prompt and a link for 'Internet shopping'.

Smartlogic Home IPSV Master

Logged in

Edit Model

Search...

Business and industry

- Business people
- Business practice and regulation
 - Business advice services
 - Business development
 - Business management
 - Business studies
 - Business travel
- e-Commerce** + x
 - Internet shopping
 - Ethical business practices
 - Fair trading
 - Health and safety at work
 - Insolvency
 - Marketing
 - Regulation and deregulation
- Business sectors
- Companies
- Consumer affairs
- Energy and fuel
- International trade

Economics and finance

Education and skills

Employment, jobs and careers

Edit History

e-Commerce

Concept Class

No user class defined

+ Preferred Labels

Create a preferred label

e-Commerce (en)

+ Alternative Labels

Create an alternative label

alternative label > Electronic Commerce (en)

+ Metadata

Related Concepts 5

Select a related concept

has related > [Communications industries](#)

has related > [Data security](#)

has related > [Information and communication technology](#)

has related > [Internet](#)

has related > [Retail trade](#)

Broader Concepts 1

Select a broader concept

[Business practice and regulation](#)

Narrower Concepts 1

Select a narrower concept

[Internet shopping](#)

Different Designations and Models

SKOS model: Alternative labels and other languages

AGROVOC Content language English Search

Alphabetical Hierarchy

- canned vegetables
- deep frozen products
- dried products
 - dried fish
 - dried fruits
 - prunes
 - raisins
 - dried meat
 - dried milk
 - dried vegetables
 - dried whey
- freeze dried products
- soup mixes
- fermented products
- fresh-cut produce
- frozen products
- geotextiles
- prepared foods
 - icecream
 - infant foods**
 - instant foods
 - soyfoods
- processed animal products
- processed foods
 - desserts
 - intermediate moisture foods
 - reconstituted foods
- processed plant products
 - cereal products

products > foods > prepared foods > infant foods
products > processed products > prepared foods > infant foods

PREFERRED TERM	infant foods	
BROADER CONCEPT	prepared foods	
ALTERNATIVE LABEL	<i>baby foods</i> <i>infant formulas</i> <i>weaning foods</i>	
IN OTHER LANGUAGES	أغذية الأطفال	Arabic
	婴儿食品	Chinese
	婴幼儿食品	
	离乳食品	
	婴儿配方食品	
	kojenecká výživa	Czech
	výživa pro děti	
	dětská strava	
	výživa pro kojence	
	Aliment pour nourrisson	French
	Aliment pour bébé	
	Aliment infantile	
	Lait infantile	
	Aliment de sevrage pour enfant	
	Kindernahrungsmittel	German
	Kleinkindernahrung	

Guidelines for using variants

- A concept may have any number of (multiple) variants, or it may have only a single preferred name (no variants).
- A variant points to only a single preferred term.
(Thesaurus standards permit using a “multiple-use” reference, but for simplification, most software does not permit it.)
- Variants may be displayed to the end-user or they may not be.
- Variants may point (re-direct) to the preferred term, or they can point directly to the content.

Creation and Implementation

Sources for variants

- Same sources as for concepts and preferred terms
 - Survey/audit of the content and terms used
 - Search query logs and other internal usage data
 - External sources: websites, Wikipedia, other taxonomies and controlled vocabularies, book tables of contents, etc.
- Creative changes of terms (after verification of variant term usage in search)
- Not to be used as a source:
Dictionary-type thesaurus, such as *Roget's Thesaurus of English Words and Phrases* or thesaurus-dictionary websites

Synonym Rings

- No preferred term/preferred label; only an associated set of labels/variants for each concept.
- An option only if terms are never displayed to end-users.
- Used to support search, where there is no browsing the taxonomy.
- Sometimes called “search thesaurus.”

Different Types

Types include:

- synonyms
- quasi-synonyms
- variant spellings
- lexical variants
- foreign language names
- acronyms/spelled out
- scientific/popular names
- antonyms (for characteristics)
- older/current names
- phrase variations (in print)
- narrower terms that are not preferred terms

Different Types

Types include:

- synonyms: **Cars** / **Automobiles**
- quasi-synonyms: **Politics** / **Government**
- variant spellings: **Taoism** / **Daosim**; **Email** / **E-mail**
- lexical variants: **Selling** / **Sales**; **Hair loss** / **Baldness**
- foreign language names: **Ivory Coast** / **Côte d'Ivoire**
- acronyms/spelled out: **GDP** / **Gross domestic product**
- scientific/popular names: **Neoplasms** / **Cancer**
- antonyms (for characteristics): **Flexibility** / **Rigidity**
- older/current names: **Near East** USE **Middle East**
- phrase variations (in print): **Unions, labour** USE **Labour unions**
- narrower terms that are not preferred terms:
Genetic engineering USE **Biotechnology**

Different Types

Narrower terms as variants

Examples: Genetic engineering USE Biotechnology
Hand gestures USE Body language
Laptops USE Computers

Correct, because the preferred term is used for the narrower concept and fully encompasses the narrower variant term.

Can be problematic if:

- the non-preferred/preferred term relationship is not displayed to the end-users, *and*
- there are multiple narrower concepts as variants

Computers

- *Laptops*
- *Desktops*
- *Servers*
- *Supercomputers*

Different Types

Narrower terms as variants

Problematic scenario:

- Indexer indexes document on **Supercomputers** with **Computers**.
- End-user looks up term **Laptops**, and is taken directly to result set of documents indexed with **Computers**.
- Result set includes documents on supercomputers and other computers that are not laptops, in addition to documents on laptops.
- End-user thinks the indexing is wrong by retrieving documents on other kinds of computers besides the selected laptops.

Different Types

Acronyms as variants

Acronyms alone can be ambiguous.

In large, multi-subject taxonomies/thesauri, it's better to include both acronym and spelled out together.

Examples:

DRM (Digital rights management)
USE **Digital rights management**

Or

DRM (Digital rights management)
USE **Digital rights management (DRM)**

Or no variant and just **Digital rights management (DRM)**

Depending on search functionality and preferred style.

How Many to Create

How many variants to create?

If users may input text in search box,

- Do include variants that are alphabetically close (unlike in browsable A-Z index).

Ethnic groups

UF **Ethnic communities**

How Many to Create

If system supports “smart” search on words within terms,

- Do *not* include simple inversions or words within phrases.

Debt financing

~~UF Financing debt~~

Health care products industry

~~UF Health products industry~~

Tax credits

~~UF Tax credit~~

How Many to Create

If system supports “smart” search with grammatical stemming,

- Do *not* include simple plurals and lexical variants.

Epidermal Cyst

(MeSH)

~~UF Epidermal Cysts~~

Gatehouses

(LC Thesaurus for
Graphic Materials)

~~UF Gate houses~~

Agricultural facilities

~~UF Agriculture facilities~~

How Many to Create

With automated indexing / auto-categorization

- More variants are needed than for manual indexing.
- Human indexers will hunt and try different variants.
- Machines need exact matches (if not stemming rules).
- Both statistical and rules-based auto-categorization make use of variants.
- Variants should anticipate possible text strings in the content.

Example for the preferred term **Presidential candidates**:

Presidential candidacy

Candidate for president

Candidacy for president

Presidential hopeful

Running for president

Campaigning for president

Presidential nominee

User Interface and Search

Need to know how the user interface will display variants

- Are there search options to choose from?
Exact, Begins, with, Words within the term, Fuzzy/Smart search
- Are the search options different for indexers vs. end-users?
- Are the search capabilities different for indexers vs. end-users?
- Is there stemming on words? If so, to what extent?
- Is there a type-ahead/auto-suggest display of preferred terms?
- Is there a type-ahead/auto-suggest display of both preferred and variant terms?

Example on the following screenshot slides:

Education standards USE **Educational standards**

User Interface and Search

User interface of the taxonomy editor: Begins search

Search Form

either **enter a search phrase**

education standards

Smart Begins Contains Exact

or **select an alphabetical range**

Range a thru. Z

or **enter a specific item uid**

Item UID

select search criteria

Obj Subjects

Cat All Categories

Act Active

display batching

1000 Items per batch

Start Search

Search Results

Elapsed Time for Query: 0.019 seconds

1 Items Found

- [Education standards](#) (Subjects) (NPT)

User Interface and Search

User interface of the taxonomy editor: Smart search

Search Form

either enter a search phrase

education standards

Smart Begins Contains Exact

or select an alphabetical range

Range a thru. z

or enter a specific item uid

Item UID

select search criteria

Obj

Cat

Act

display batching

1000 Items per batch

Start Search

Search Results

Elapsed Time for Query: 0.068 seconds

5 Items Found

- [Education standards](#) (Subjects) (NPT)
- [Educational standards](#) (Subjects)
- [State education standards](#) (Subjects) (NPT)
- [State educational standards](#) (Subjects) (NPT)
- [State standards \(Education\)](#) (Subjects)

User Interface and Search

User interface of the indexer: Alphabetical browse

The screenshot shows a web application interface for browsing education standards. At the top, there are several buttons: Validate, Override, Add, Update, Delete, Detail, and Clear. Below these is a search bar containing the text "education standards" and a dropdown menu with "D" selected. To the right of the search bar are buttons for "A", "S", "H", and "Sub", with the "A" button circled in red. Below the search bar is a "TSD" label and a browser window titled "Alpha Browsing - Google Chrome". The browser window shows the URL "mifhgpmsprdap1.gpms.cengage.info:7003/Per_iMania/brAbrowse.jsp?..." and a list of education standards. The list includes "Education standards", "Education tax credits", "Education volunteers", "Education vouchers", and "Educational ability", each with a red minus sign icon to its right. The list also includes several "SEE" and "SEEN FROM" relationships.

Validate Override Add Update Delete Detail Clear

D education standards A S H Sub

TSD Alpha Browsing - Google Chrome

mifhgpmsprdap1.gpms.cengage.info:7003/Per_iMania/brAbrowse.jsp?...

- Education standards -
 - SEE: Educational standards
- Education tax credits -
 - SEE: Tuition tax credits
- Education volunteers
 - BROADER TERM: Volunteers
 - SEE ALSO: Educators
 - SEE ALSO: Library volunteers
 - SEE ALSO: School personnel
 - SEEN FROM: Educational volunteers
 - SEEN FROM: School volunteers
 - SEEN FROM: Volunteer teachers
 - SEEN FROM: Volunteer workers in education
- Education vouchers -
 - SEE: Educational vouchers
- Educational ability -
 - SEE: Academic ability

User Interface and Search

User interface of the indexer: Smart search

The screenshot displays a web application interface with a search results window. The main interface has a top navigation bar with buttons: Validate, Override, Add, Update, Delete, Detail, and Clear. Below this is a search bar containing the text 'education standards' and a dropdown menu with 'D' selected. To the right of the search bar are buttons labeled 'A', 'S', and 'H'. The 'S' button is circled in red. A search results window titled 'Smart Search - Google Chrome' is open, showing the URL 'mifhgpmsprdap1.gpms.cengage.info:7003/Per_iMania/brSbrowse.jsp?ter'. The search results are as follows:

- Education standards
- SEE: Educational standards
- Educational standards
 - NARROWER TERM:** Carnegie units
 - NARROWER TERM:** Common European Framework of Reference for Languages
 - NARROWER TERM:** Curriculum standards
 - NARROWER TERM:** State standards (Education)
 - SEE ALSO:** Academic eligibility (School sports)
 - SEE ALSO:** Accreditation (Education)
 - SEE ALSO:** Competency based education
 - SEE ALSO:** Educational accountability
 - SEE ALSO:** Educational assessment
 - SEE ALSO:** Grades (Scholastic marks)
 - SEE ALSO:** Grading (Education)
 - SEE ALSO:** Graduation requirements
 - SEEN FROM:** Academic standards
 - SEEN FROM:** Education standards
- State education standards
- SEE: State standards (Education)

User Interface and Search

User interface of the end-user: Search on Subjects

The screenshot displays the Academic OneFile search interface. At the top, there is a dark navigation bar with the 'GALE' logo on the left and 'Academic OneFile' in the center. To the right of the logo is a search input field containing the text 'Search...'. Below this, a larger search bar is visible, also with the 'GALE' logo and 'Academic OneFile' text. To the right of this search bar is a dropdown menu labeled 'Basic Search' and an orange square button. Below the search bars, there is a section titled 'Browse by Discipline'. Underneath, there is a link 'Back to previous page'. The main content area is titled 'Subject Terms' and 'Results'. A table lists search results:

Subject Terms	Results
Education standards	5465
See Educational standards	
Australia. Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency Act 2011	1

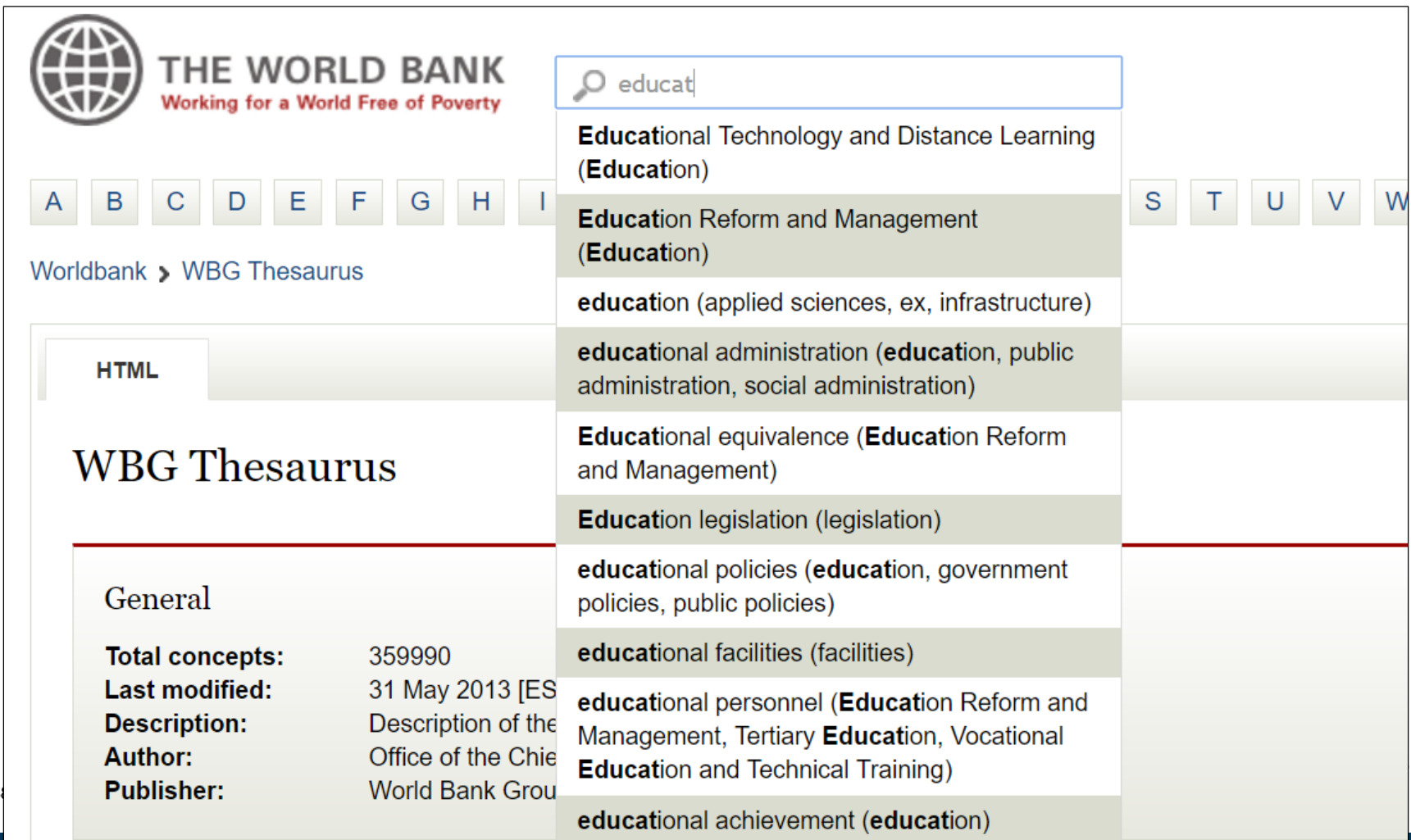
User Interface and Search

User interface of the end-user: Autosuggest enabled

The screenshot displays the Gale Academic OneFile search interface. At the top left, the 'GALE' logo is visible. The main header area contains 'Academic OneFile' and a search type selector set to 'Basic Search' with a dropdown arrow. To the right of the search type selector is the text 'Advanced'. Below the header, there is a 'Browse by Discipline' link. The main content area features two search tabs: 'Subject Guide Search' (which is active and underlined in red) and 'Publication Search' (underlined in blue). Below the tabs, the title 'Subject Guide Search' is displayed. A search input field contains the text 'education sta', and a blue 'Search' button is positioned to its right. A dropdown menu is open below the search field, listing three suggestions: 'Education Statutes and Regulations of Ontario 1998 Consolidation (Nonfiction work)', 'Educational standards', and 'United States. National Center for Education Statistics'. A vertical scrollbar is visible on the right side of the dropdown menu.

User Interface and Search

User interface of the end-user: Default “begins with” type-ahead search (<http://vocabulary.worldbank.org/thesaurus.html>)



The screenshot displays the World Bank's WBG Thesaurus search interface. At the top left is the World Bank logo with the tagline "Working for a World Free of Poverty". A search bar contains the text "educat". Below the search bar is a list of suggestions, with the first two highlighted in a light green box: "Educational Technology and Distance Learning (Education)" and "Education Reform and Management (Education)".

Navigation tabs for letters A through W are visible. Below the search bar, the breadcrumb "Worldbank > WBG Thesaurus" is shown. A "HTML" tab is selected. The main heading "WBG Thesaurus" is displayed. On the left, a "General" section provides metadata:

Total concepts:	359990
Last modified:	31 May 2013 [ES]
Description:	Description of the
Author:	Office of the Chief
Publisher:	World Bank Group

Additional suggestions in the list include "education (applied sciences, ex, infrastructure)", "educational administration (education, public administration, social administration)", "Educational equivalence (Education Reform and Management)", "Education legislation (legislation)", "educational policies (education, government policies, public policies)", "educational facilities (facilities)", "educational personnel (Education Reform and Management, Tertiary Education, Vocational Education and Technical Training)", and "educational achievement (education)".

Variations and Customizations

Displayed vs. non-displayed variants

Non-displayed variants are useful:

- For common misspellings, slang, or deprecated, or potentially offensive terms not displayed to users but can match searches
- For auto-categorization support but not intended for manual indexing
- For search support but not intended for type-ahead display

SKOS model also has **Hidden Label** (hiddenLabel) for these uses.

Non-SKOS thesaurus management software allows relationship customization, such as designating a non-displayed USE/UF.

- As a reciprocal relationship, such as IUS/IUF (internal use/internal used for)

Variations and Customizations

Internal Use/Internal Used for (IUS/IUF)

Typically for changed terms to ensure that records indexed with the old term will be retrieved with the new term, but the old term is inappropriate as a variant.

Examples:

Bars, saloons, etc. IUS Bars (Drinking establishments)

Mixers (Cookery) IUS Mixers (Food preparation)

Pates (Food) IUS Pates

Soap trade IUS Cleaning agents industry

Spaying IUS Spaying and neutering

Example of two narrower terms that were removed:

Proposal writing in public contracting IUS Proposal writing

Proposal writing in research IUS Proposal writing

Variations and Customizations

More specific customized variations

Most thesaurus software permits full customizing the equivalence relationship for multiple sub-types.

SKOS-based software may also permit customization, but not in accordance with the SKOS model for data exchange.

Examples

- An acronym or abbreviation, corresponding with the spelled out form
- A misspelling or alternate spelling, corresponding with the preferred spelling
- An obsolete/legacy term, corresponding with the current term.

Summary

- Variants are different wordings that refer to the same general concept, for the context.
- Variants are useful in many taxonomies, not just in thesauri.
- Variants may be of the equivalence model in thesauri or as alternative labels in SKOS vocabularies.
- Variants are of different kinds, not just synonyms.
- Search features and user interface need to be taken into consideration when deciding how many variants to create.
- Consider using the SKOS Hidden Label or customized equivalence relationships in thesauri, if you don't want all variants to display to all users.

Questions?

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