Tools for Taxonomies

Heather Hedden
Taxonomy Consultant
Hedden Information Management

About Heather Hedden

- Taxonomy consultant, Earley & Associates
- Indexer, Hedden Information Management
- Instructor, Continuing Education, Simmons College Graduate School of Library & Information Science
- Formerly taxonomist at Viziant Corporation and Thomson Learning (Gale)
- Author, The Accidental Taxonomist (Information Today, Inc., May 2010)

What are Taxonomy Tools?

- No authoritative industry list of taxonomy software
- "Taxonomy software" can mean different things
 - Auto-categorization vs. taxonomy management
- Existing Web lists are miscellaneous taxonomyrelated tools or out-of-date
 - http://taxocop.wikispaces.com/TaxoTools
 - www.taxotips.com/resources/tools
 - www.searchtools.com/info/classifiers-tools.html
 - www.willpowerinfo.co.uk/thessoft.htm

Taxonomy Tool Types

- 1. Thesaurus/ontology management software
- 2. Other software with thesaurus/taxonomy modules
- 3. Auto-categorization/text mining software
- 4. Other software supporting creating taxonomies
 - mindmapping or concept modeling tools
 - Cardsorting tools
 - Web analytics

- Controlled vocabularies, authority files, or synonym rings
- 2. Hierarchical or faceted taxonomies
- 3. Thesauri
- 4. Ontologies

- Controlled vocabularies, authority files, or synonym rings
 - Support correspondence between term and synonyms (equivalencies)
 - No other relationships between terms
 - Optional additional data for terms
 - Spreadsheet software suffices

Hierarchical or faceted taxonomies

- Broader/narrower (parent/child) relationships between terms
- Optional synonyms (equivalencies) or additional data for terms
- > If very small and simple, spreadsheet software
- If including synonyms and other data, then use thesaurus management software

Thesauri

- Broader/narrower (parent/child) relationships between terms
- Associative (symmetrical reciprocal related/"See also") relationships between terms
- Synonyms (equivalencies) for terms
- Other data for terms
- > Thesaurus management software

Ontologies

- Classes for terms
- Customizable semantic relationships between terms (hierarchical and associative), dependent on class
- Optional synonyms (equivalencies) for terms
- WC3 or RDF standard outputs
- High-end thesaurus management software (with ontology support features)
- Ontology software

Tools Used by "Taxonomists"

Commercial dedicated thesaurus/taxonomy management software	38.1%	24
An internally developed thesaurus/taxonomy management system	23.8%	15
Commercial software, of which taxonomy management is a feature, module or component	15.9%	10
Other commercial software that is not intended for taxonomy creation		12
Open-source ontology/taxonomy management software	3.2%	2

Thesaurus Management Software Basics

- Maintains terms and their relationships (equivalencies, hierarchical, and associative)
 - As reciprocals
 - When renaming, merging, subsuming, or deleting terms
- Disallows invalid relationships (according to standards)
- Supports term notes and other attributes for terms
- Supports candidate/approved terms; includes term creation and update dates
- Generates reports in various thesaurus display formats (hierarchical, alphabetical)
- Exports data in interoperable formats for importing into a content management, indexing, search, retrieval system
- Supports thesaurus standards: ANSI/NISO Z39.19 or ISO 2788

Thesaurus Management Software Feature Comparisons

- interface design and ease of use
- multiple taxonomy display options
- term searching
- spell-checking
- speed (limited mouse clicks) for repeated term and relationship additions
- single-step new term & relationship creation
- single-step branch (term and narrower terms) moving
- drag & drop relationship adding
- user-defined (customizable) relationships
- user-defined term notes and term attributes
- bilingual or multilingual taxonomy support
- importing and exporting formats
- connectors to enterprise search systems

Lower-end, single-user desktop software (may also have multi-user versions):

- MultiTes Pro (Windows)
- Cognatrix (Mac)
- One-2-One (Windows)
- TheW32 (Multi-platform)

Other tools have come and gone:

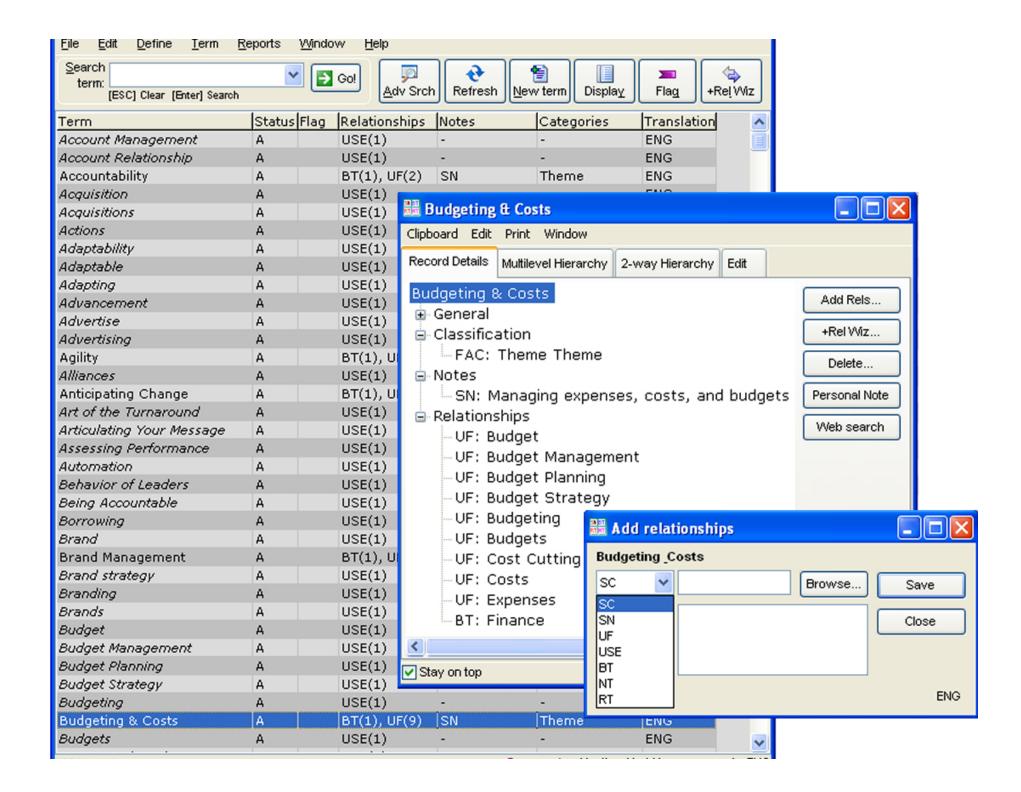
http://www.willpowerinfo.co.uk/thessoft.htm

MultiTes Pro

Multisystems (Miami, FL)

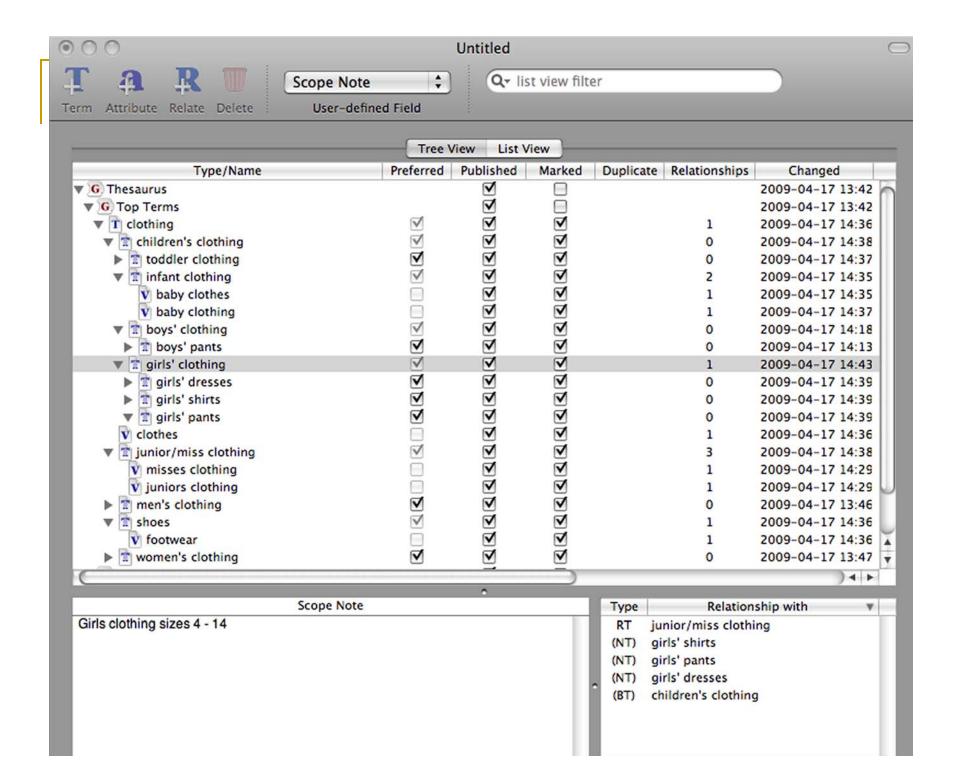
www.multites.com

- Since 1983. Hector Echeverria, president.
- \$295 single user; \$1295 for 5 users\$2495 for 10 users; \$3950 enterprise deployment
- Add-on products: web development kit, enterprise development kit
- Imports text; exports text, HTML (as a web page), XML, CSV
- Free limited-time downloadable trial and online tutorial
- Online discussion group for tips



Cognatrix LGOSystems Pty. Ltd. (Australia) www.cognatrix.com

- For Mac OS X 10.4.5 and later
- US \$499, or \$199 for an "Education" version limited to 500 terms.
- Imports from plain text with tab separations.
 With CognatrixImporter add-on, imports from various XML schemas: Cognatrix, MultiTes, Term Tree, and Zthes.
- Exports to XML and HTML.
- Free limited-time downloadable trial and manual



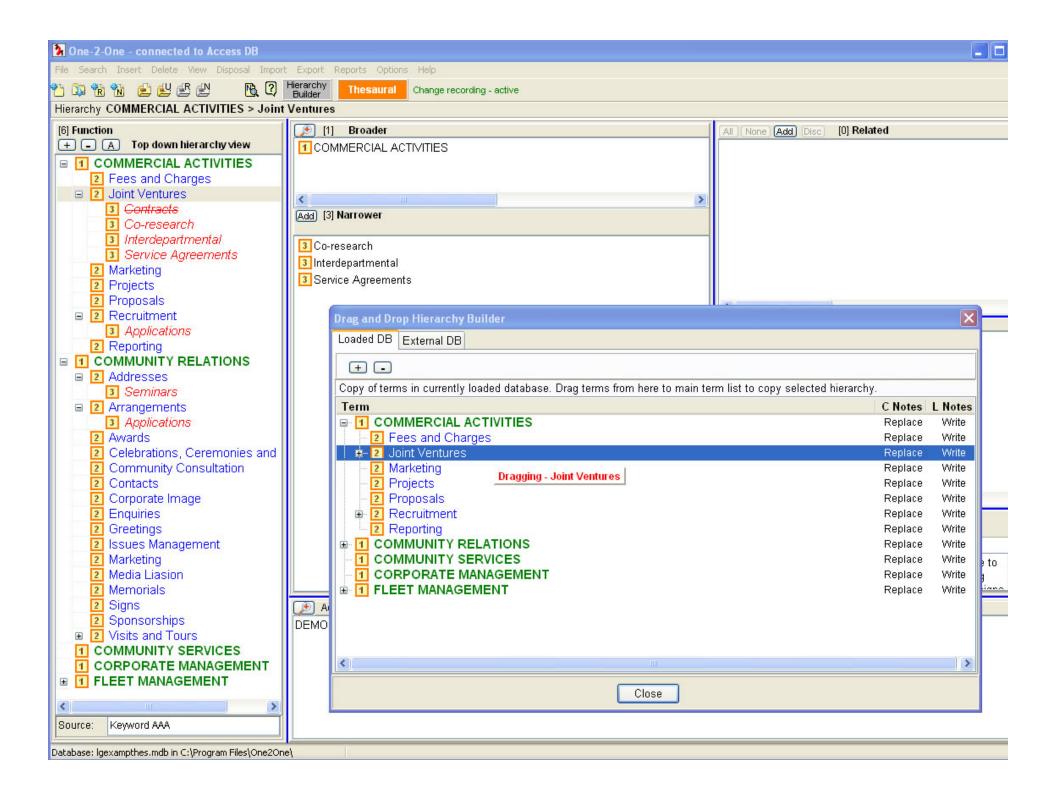
One-2-One

This to That Pty. Ltd. t/a A.C.S.

Active Classification Solutions (Australia)

www.acs121.com

- Price: \$800 Australian (approximately \$700-750)
- For thesauri and classification systems, but also has features and connectors for records management
- Replaces a previous thesaurus-only product, Term Tree
- Drag-and-drop hierarchy feature
- Free limited-use and limited-size trial

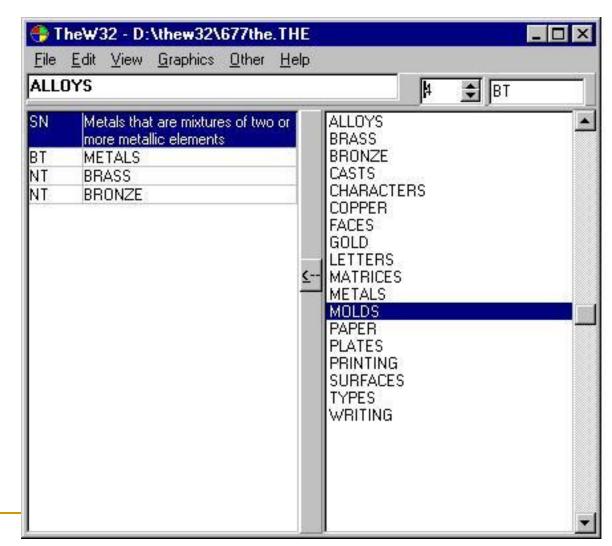


TheW32

Tim Craven Freeware (Ontario, Canada) http://publish.uwo.ca/~craven/freeware.htm

- Started as thesaurus feature in his TEXNET auto-abstracting tool in early 1990s.
- Free
- Also provides web site indexing software XRefHT and machineaided indexing and abstracting software

TheW32 Interface

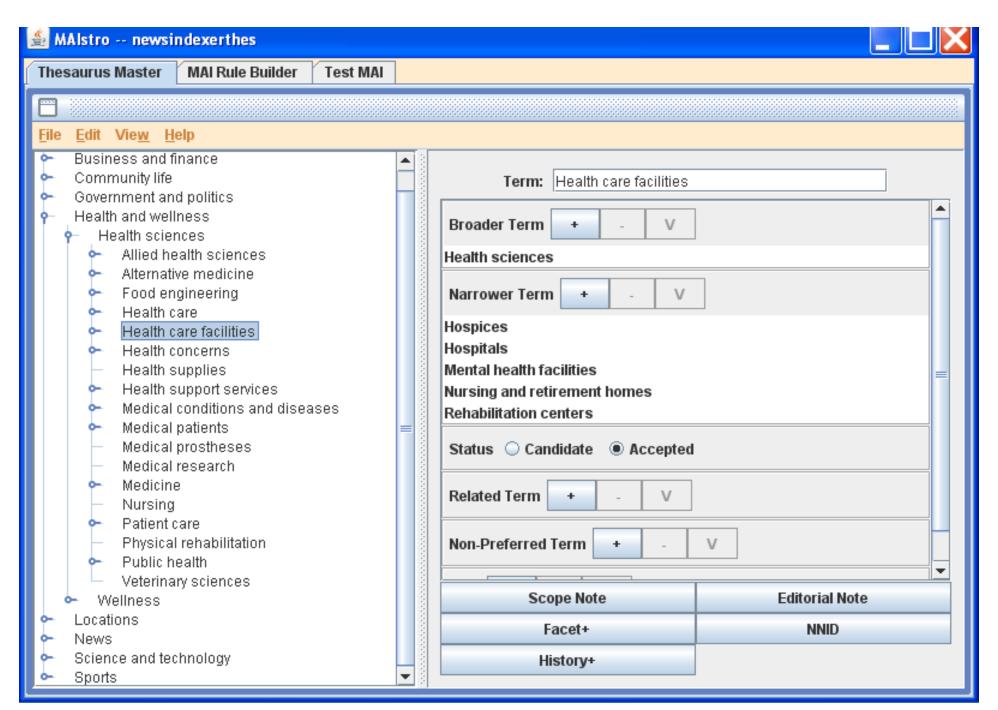


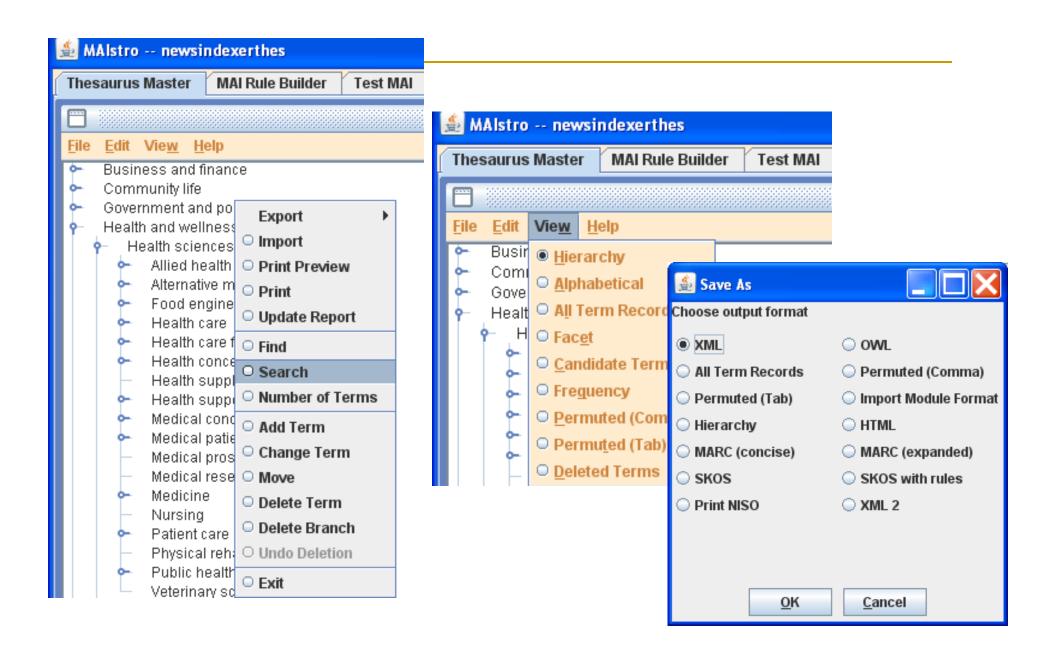
High-end, multi-user client-server, large scale systems (\$3000/single user - \$75,000+; or annual hosted options)

- Data Harmony
- Synaptica
- Smartlogic
- Wordmap
- SchemaLogic
- STAR/Thesaurus
- SoutronTHESAURUS
- Mondeca ITM T3
- PoolParty
- TheMa
- a.k.a.

Data Harmony Thesaurus Master Access Innovations (Albuquerque, NM) www.dataharmony.com

- Indexing services since 1978, commercial software (originally used in-house) offered since 1998.
- Multi-platform java-based (used on Windows, Mac, Solaris, Linux). Client software allows remote access.
- All standard thesaurus displays types as view options
- User defined associative and equivalence, but no user-defined hierarchical relationships
- Sold separately or combined with M.A.I. (Machine Aided Indexer) as MAIstro. Other software extensions available.



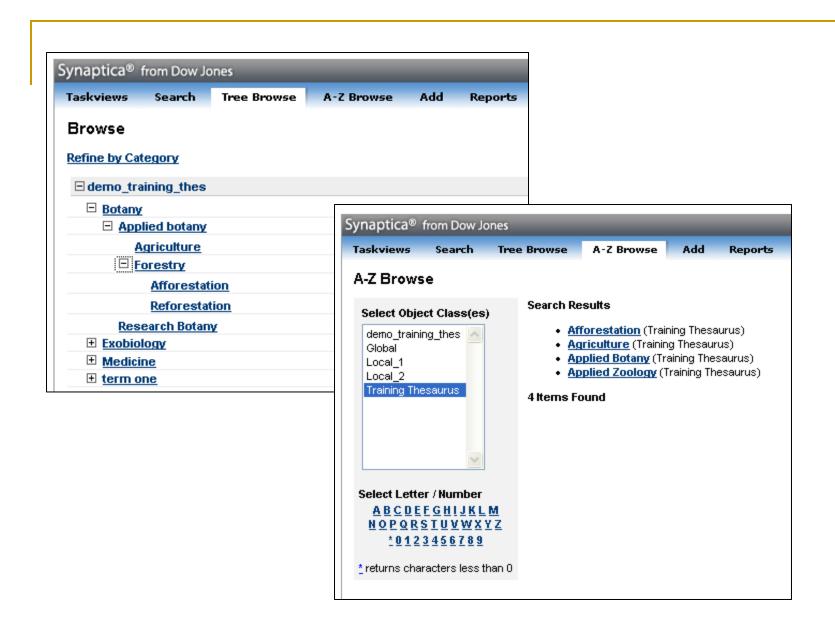


Synaptica

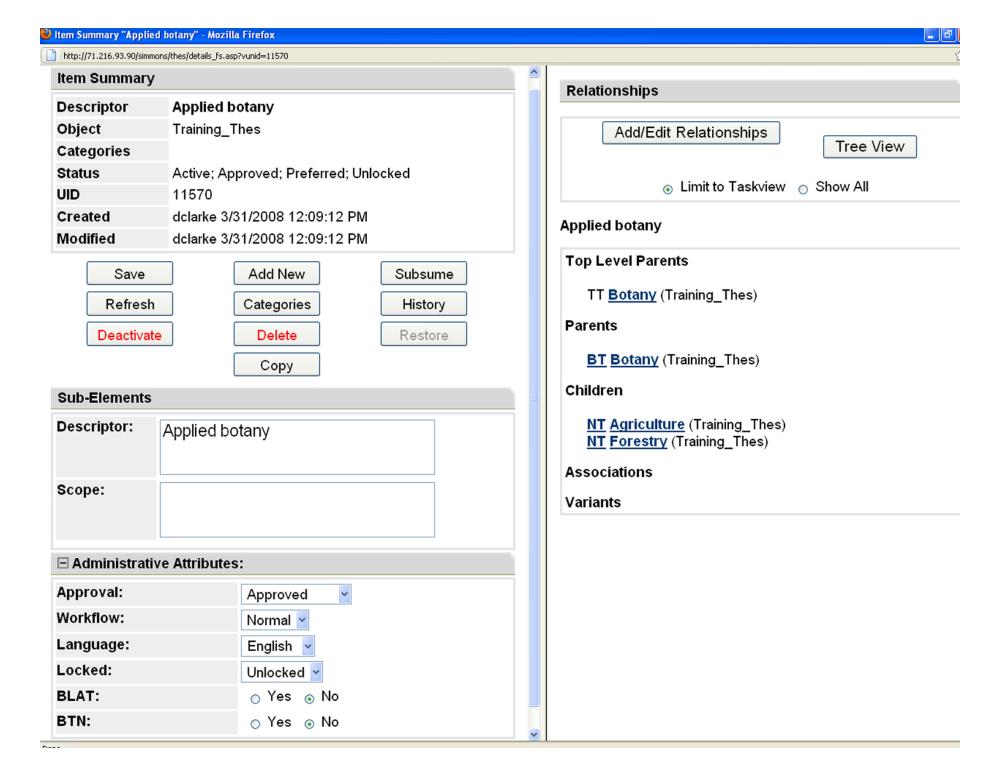
Synaptica Software LLC (Franktown, CO)

http://synapticasoftware.com

- Since 1995. Owned by Dow Jones 2005-2009.
- Web browser-based, priced per user, per year, per vocabulary
- 12 graduations of permission levels
- Can assign relationship weights
- Global term and relationships editor, creating a list of terms to edit
- Side-by-side editor with drag-and-drop
- Imports: CSV, text, MS Excel, XML (including schemas of ZThes, RDF, SKOS, and OWL)
- Exports: CSV, HTML, MS Word, MS Excel, XML (including schemas of ZThes, RDF, SKOS, and OWL)

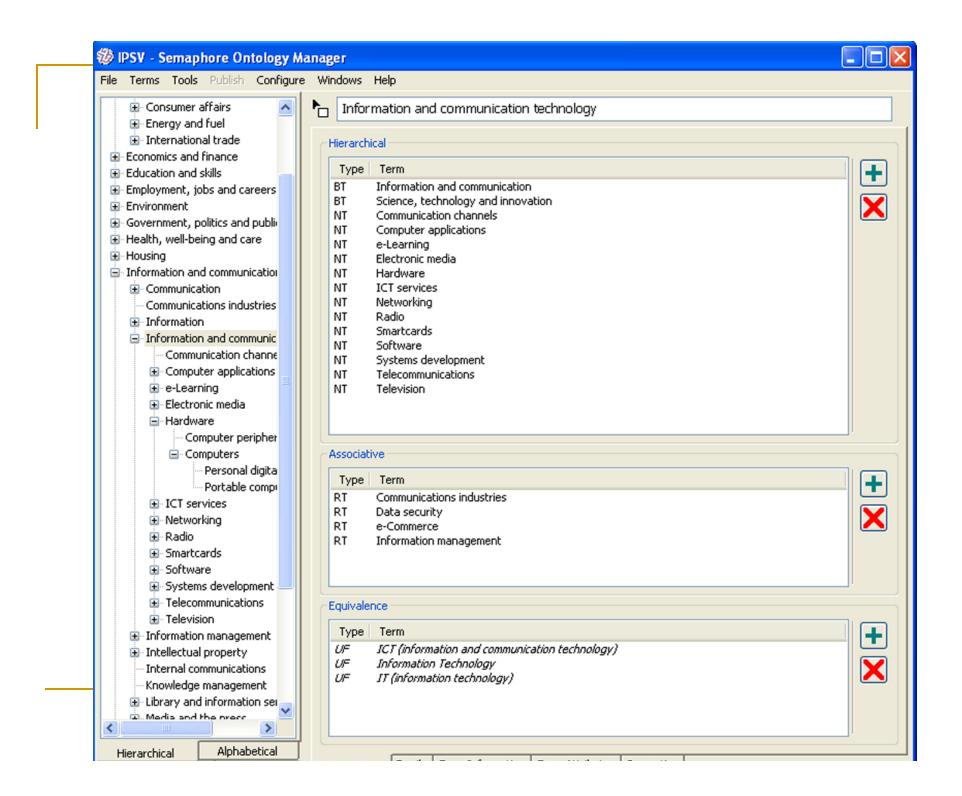


There are also browse options including a Tree Browse and Alpha-numeric browse option to review terms. $_{\odot~2010~Heather~Hedden}$



Semaphore Ontology Manager Smartlogic Semaphore Ltd. (London, UK) + US office www.smartlogic.com

- Supports creating thesauri according to ISO 2788 standard
- Supports creating ontologies, through customizable relationships and user-created classes
- User-defined term attributes and metadata
- Multiple user access/privilege levels
- Imports/export in CSV, XML, Zthes, SQL databases, and MultiTes files
- Related products:
 - Classification Server for automated classification
 - Ontology Service for a navigation system

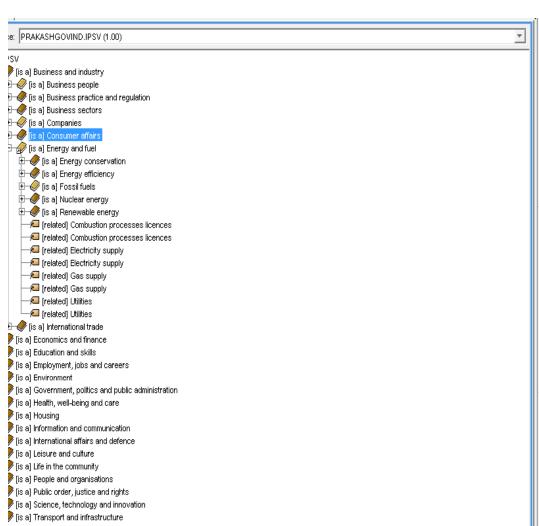


Wordmap Designer

Wordmap Inc. (Concord, MA)

www.wordmap.com

- In UK since 1998. Acquired by Earley & Associates in 2007.
- Multi-platform java-based
- One of a suite of products: Wordmap Navigator, Wordmap Content Author (for manual indexing), Wordmap Intelligent Text Classifier, Wordmap Taxonomy + Search.
- User-defined relationships; can also turn on or off relationship name display.
- Can display two taxonomies side by side and drag and drop.
- User access/privileges can be set at the individual node level.
- Imports: text, CSV, XML; Exports: CSV, XML



Members				
Pos	Text	Langua		
1	Consumer affairs	en		
2	Consumer law	en		
3	Shopping	en		

Features			
Feature	Value	Language	
A to Z	true		
Added in version	1.00		
Category	true		
Concept Id	500		
ld	500		
Last updated in version	1.00		
Obsolete	false		
Preferred	true		
Scope notes			
WM ITL	LGCL/409		
'			

[is a] Energy conservation

[is a] Energy efficiency

[is a] Fossil fuels

Children

[is a] Nuclear energy

[is a] Renewable energy

[related] Combustion processes licences

[related] Combustion processes licences

[related] Electricity supply

[related] Electricity supply

[related] Gas supply

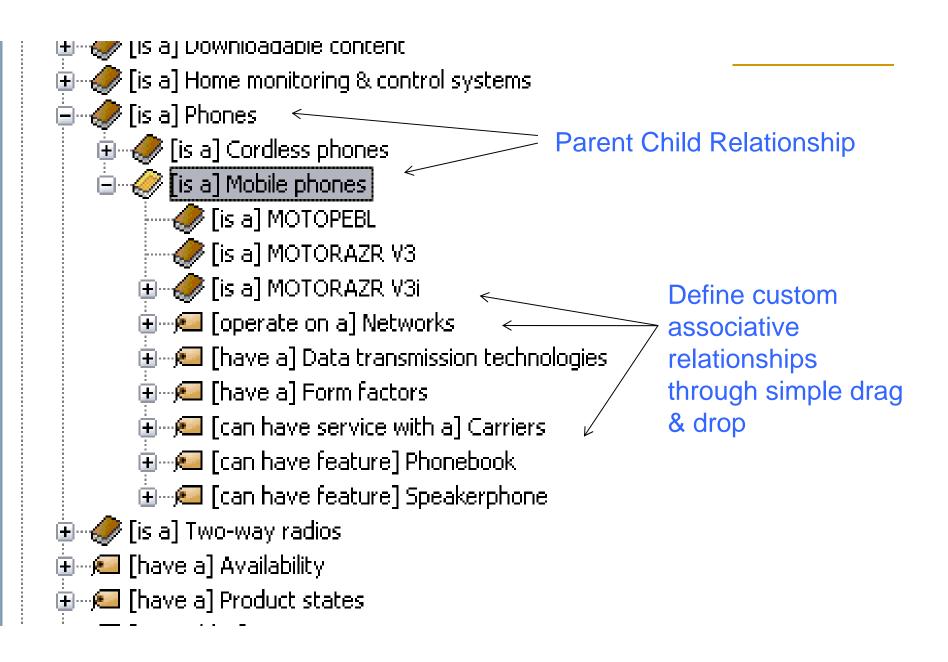
[related] Gas supply

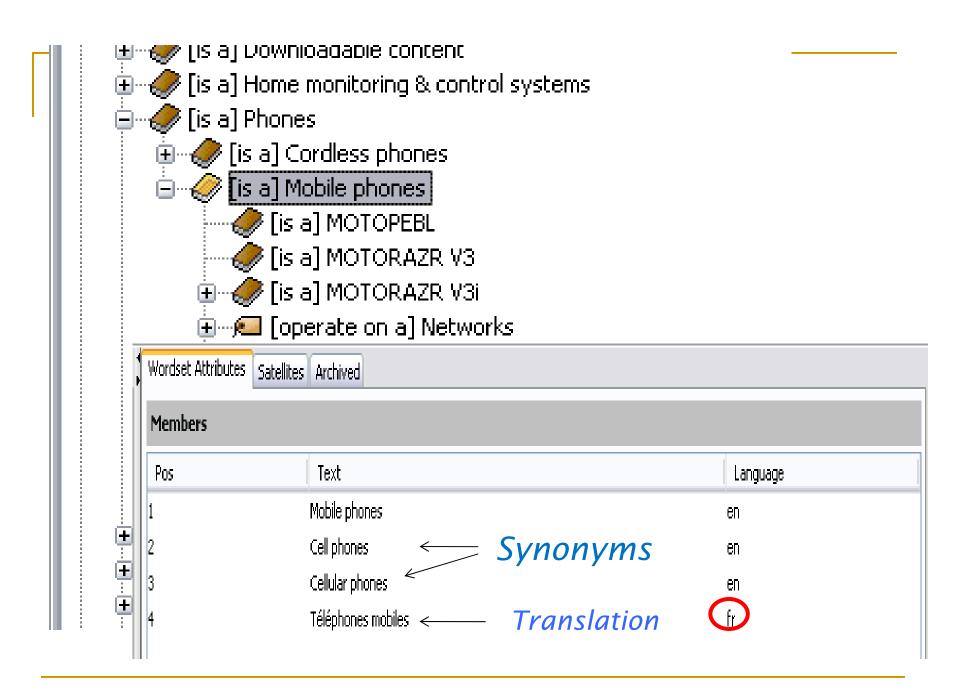
Other Locations

IPSV > Business and industry > Energy and fuel

IPSV > Environment > Energy and fuel







SchemaLogic Enterprise Suite SchemaLogic Inc. (Kirkland, WA) www.schemalogic.com

- Provides thesaurus management according to ANSI/NISO standards, plus broader structural metadata support
- Can create customizable relationships
- Can assign various permission levels to vocabularies or terms
- Classification module supports 3rd party auto-indexing
- Connectors to SharePoint, EMC Documentum, and FAST ESP
- Can import CSV or XML files

STAR/Thesaurus

Cuadra Associates, Inc. (Los Angeles)

www.cuadra.com

- Stand-alone or integrates with STAR family of products for records mngmt, collections mngmt, archives mngmt, DAM
- Supports standard thesaurus relationship but not customizable relationships
- Supports unlimited user-defined notes and categories
- Various output report display formats
- Import/export ASCII text and CSV, but not XML

Thesaurus Management Software

SoutronTHESAURUS

Soutron Ltd. (United Kingdom)

www.soutron.com

- Markets in the U.S. through partnership with InMagic
- Stand-alone or integrates with SoutronGLOBAL or SoutronSOLO library management systems, or with InMagic Presto social knowledge management software
- Supports standard thesaurus and user-defined relationships
- Supports term merging
- Imports from XML; exports to XML or CSV

Thesaurus Management Software

Mondeca ITM T3 (Intelligent Topic Manager: Thesaurus, Taxonomies, Terminologies)

Mondeca S.A. (Paris, France)

www.mondeca.com

- Since 2008, addition to Intelligent Topic Manager set of products for knowledge management, semantic portals, and e-catalogs
- web-based collaborative application
- conforms to both SKOS vocabularies and OWL-standard ontologies
- connectors to text mining, classification, and search tools
- Imports/exports XML, RDF, and SKOS

Thesaurus Management Software

PoolParty

punkt. netServices GmbH (Vienna, Austria)

http://poolparty.punkt.at

- A new thesaurus tool built on W3C Semantic Web Standards: SKOS, RDF, OWL, SPARQL
- Installed server or web-hosted options
- Can link domain-specific thesauri to Linked Open Data
- Wordpress plugin to build glossaries for blogs
- Imports ZThes XML, CSV
- Integrated text extraction and semi-automatic tagging to enable semantic search

Ontology Software

Tools for ontologies, not thesauri

- TopBraid Composer, www.topquadrant.com
- Altova SemanticWorks, www.altova.com/semanticworks.html
- Protégé, http://protege.stanford.edu
- SMORE, www.mindswap.org/2005/SMORE/
- SWOOP, http://code.google.com/p/swoop
- CMAP Tools Ontology Editor, http://cmap.ihmc.us

Other Software with Taxonomy/thesaurus Creation & Editing Components

- Metadata or cataloging software, especially for archives and libraries
 - Adlib Information Systems, www.adlibsoft.com
- Content management and document management systems
 - Open Text Collections Server Webtop Thesaurus Manager, www.opentext.com
- Records management systems
 - a.k.a. from Synercon Management Consulting, www.a-k-a.com.au
- Auto-categorization and enterprise search software

Auto-categorization and Text Mining

Auto-categorization

- Algorithms, statistics, and training documents utilize a large set a sample documents per taxonomy term to "train" the system to learn to index
- Rules base generate and edit or write "rules" for each term based on co-existing words, proximity, Boolean logic, etc.

Text mining

 Extracts relevant terms from texts to generate a candidate taxonomy or supplement an existing taxonomy

Auto-categorization, text mining, and search systems that utilize taxonomies handle these taxonomies in different ways:

- With pre-installed taxonomies that cannot be edited
- With pre-installed taxonomies that the user may edit and extend through the user interface
- Automatically generate a taxonomy that can be edited
- Support the import of taxonomies but do not support the editing of those taxonomies
- Support the import of taxonomies and then the editing of those taxonomies
- Various combinations of above

Software that can import and use taxonomies but lacking user-interface features to edit those taxonomies includes:

- Microsoft SharePoint
- IBM Classification Module
- Fast
- Endeca
- Temis
- Vivisimo
- Mindbreeze
- Exalead
- PerfectSearch

They collaborate with other vendors that develop taxonomies and/or have taxonomy editing capabilities.

Examples of tools with *some* taxonomy management capabilities:

- Inxight SmartDiscovery Analysis Server www.inxightfedsys.com
- Autonomy Collaborative Classifier www.autonomy.com
- Autonomy Interwoven MetaTagger www.interwoven.com
- Lexalytics Classifier www.lexalytics.com
- Conceptsearching www.conceptsearching.com

Examples of tools with *full* thesaurus management capabilities:

- Data Harmony MAIstro www.dataharmony.com/products/maistro.html
- Smartlogic Semaphore Classification Server www.smartlogic.com
- Wordmap Intelligent Text Classifier www.wordmap.com
- SAS Enterprise Content Categorization (formerly Teragram TK240) www.sas.com/text-analytics
- Nstein Text Mining Engine (part of Open Text) www.nstein.com

Data Harmony MAIstro (combines Data Harmony Thesaurus Master and Machine-Aided Indexer)

- Automatically creates a basic rule for every term and its variants in the Thesaurus Master's thesaurus
- Rules may be edited and additional rules can be manually written
- statistics module tracks the editor's term choices and compares them with M.A.I. term suggestions, sorting them as hits, misses, and noise to guide and prioritize the editor's fine-tuning of rules
- Can be used for machine-aided indexing or fully automated indexing
- Connectors to Sharepoint and search engines

Smartlogic Semaphore Classification Server (connects with Semaphore Ontology Manager)

- Automatically creates classification rulebases directly from a taxonomy/thesaurus/ontology, and applies these rules to content as it is received to automatically classify content.
- Rules are based on the term, its equivalencies, and broader/ narrower/related terms
- Employs 20 different kinds of rules
- Rules have weights and scores
- Variants based on spelling, plurals, and stemming may also be considered.
- Manual rules can take precedence over generated rules.

Wordmap Intelligent Text Classifier

(connects with Wordmap Designer for thesaurus creation)

- Auto-classification based on statistical method based of Support Vector Machine algorithms and machine learning with training documents
- Pre-packaged with statistical algorithms based on a generic taxonomy, the U.K.'s Integrated Public Services Vocabulary (IPSV), for which each of hundreds of terms have already been "trained" with representative documents
- Wordmap also offers Taxonomy Connectors for taxonomydriven tagging and search within SharePoint and Endeca

SAS Enterprise Content Categorization (ECC)

(Formerly Teragram TK240 Taxonomy Manager)

Supports taxonomy building or connects with SAS Ontology Manager

- ECC supports equivalent, hierarchical & related relationships
- Ontology Manager supports customized relationships and attributes
- Utilizes both auto-categorization and entity/concept extraction
- Auto-categorization bases on rules
- Rules-writing supported with a graphical tree view of Boolean operators and commands
- User can define weighting of terms

Nstein Text Mining Engine (TME)

- Modules include concept extractor, entity extractor, autocategorizer, automated abstract creation, sentiment analysis
- Taxonomy Manager module (not sold separately) supports creating & editing hierarchical, associative and equivalence relationships according to ANSI/NISO standard
- Auto-categorization technology based on use of training sets for taxonomy terms, combined with concept extraction technology
- Ships with pre-installed taxonomies already "trained" for autocategorization

Concluding Remarks

- Some "taxonomy tools" are stronger in taxonomy/thesaurus/ontology management
- Some "taxonomy tools" are stronger in autocategorization
- A few tools combine both, but vendor partnerships and connectors and also achieve high results

Questions/Contact

Heather Hedden
Carlisle, Massachusetts
978-371-0822
978-467-5195 (mobile)
heather@hedden.net
www.hedden-information.com
www.accidental-taxonomist.com