

Synonyms, Alternative Labels, and Nonpreferred Terms

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About Heather Hedden

- Controlled vocabulary editor at a library database vendor, Gale/Cengage Learning, 1996 – 2004, 2014 – present
- Previously, taxonomy consultant
- Author of *The Accidental Taxonomist* (Information Today, Inc.)
- Instructor of online taxonomy workshops (Hedden Information Management, American Society for Indexing, Simmons, College)
- SLA Taxonomy Division former chair of Mentoring Committee and Membership Committee. American Society for Indexing board member

About Gale, a Cengage Learning Company

- Subscription databases to libraries: GVRL ebooks, In Context, Academic OneFile, Business Collection, Literature Resource Center, etc.
- Web products to the public: Questia, Books & Authors, HighBeam Research, Encyclopedia.com
- Gale Research reference books, directories, and other book imprints (Greenhaven, Thorndike, St. James Press, etc.)
- Primary Source Media digital archives (Artemis)

Legacy library database vendor companies: Information Access Company, Predicasts

Outline

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

Introduction

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]

Introduction

When to Use

Not needed:

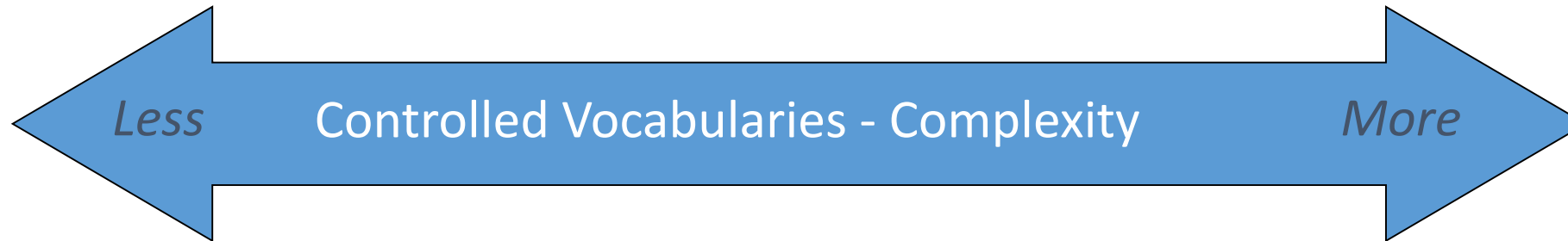
- A very small, browsable taxonomy, where all can be seen or easily scrolled to (such as in facets) *and* tagging is manual

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.

Introduction



Pick List	Synonym Ring	Authority File	Taxonomy	Thesaurus	Ontology
Ambiguity control	Synonym control	Ambiguity control Synonym control	Ambiguity control (Synonym control) Hierarchical relationships	Ambiguity control Synonym control Hierarchical relationship Associative relationships	Ambiguity control (Synonym control) Semantic relationships Classes

Different Designations and Models

Synonym

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

Different Designations and Models

Non-preferred Term

- Formal designation in thesauri, in accordance with ANSI/NISO Z.39-19 and ISO 25964 thesaurus 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

Alternative Label

- Formal designation for SKOS (Simple Knowledge Organization 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.

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 standards/guidelines

- 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
- ISO ISO 25964-1 Information and documentation - Thesauri and interoperability with other vocabularies
Part 1: Thesauri for information retrieval [2011]

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

Thesaurus non-preferred term/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/used from).

Non-preferred term *USE* Preferred term

Preferred term *Used for* Non-preferred term

- Both **Preferred Terms** and **Non-preferred Terms** are “terms.”

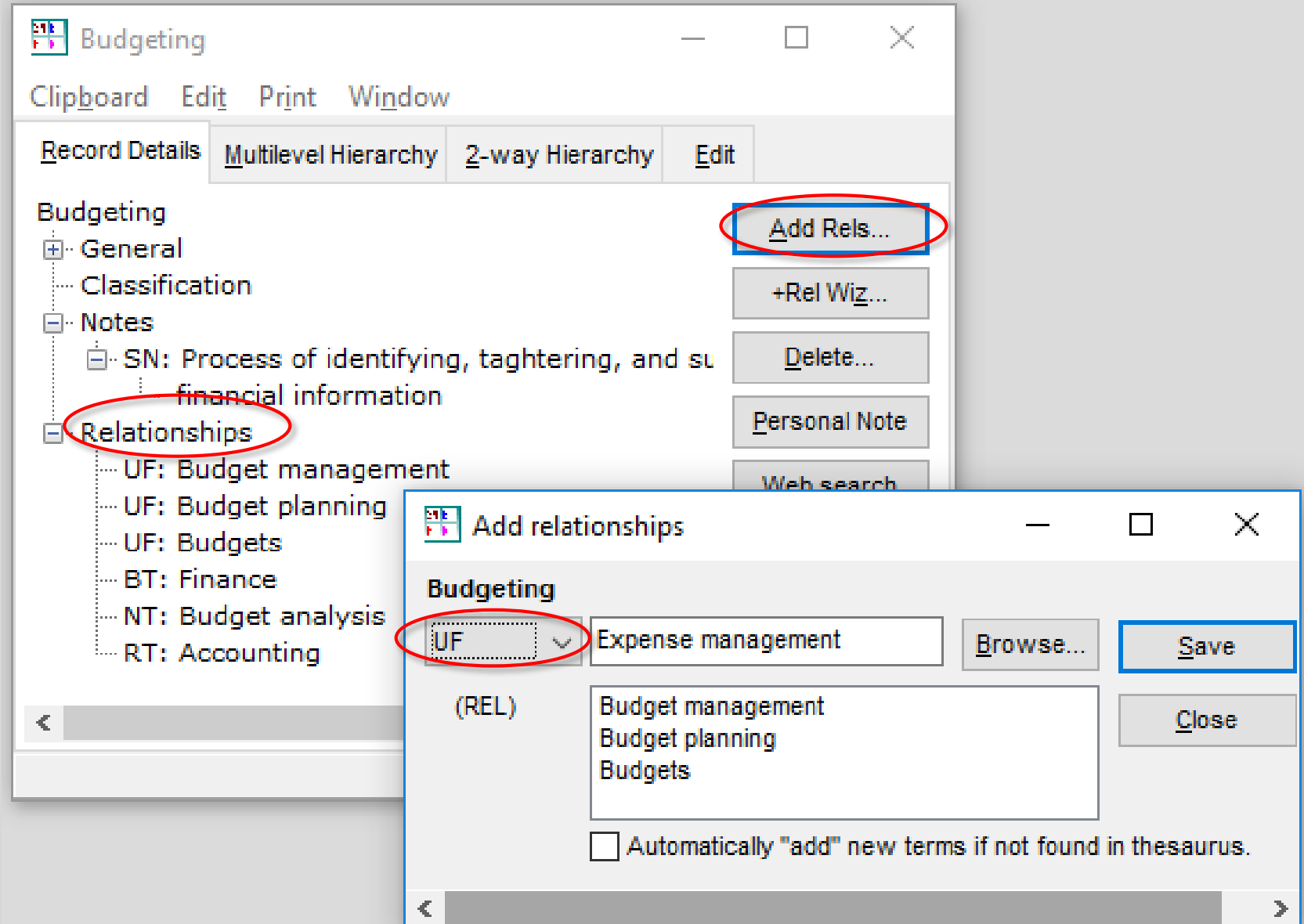
Different Designations and Models

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 Label and Hidden Labels are part of a concept's attributes, not equivalent terms and not connected by "relationships."

Different Models in Taxonomy Management Software

Thesaurus Model:
MultiTes



Budgeting

Clipboard Edit Print Window

Record Details **Multilevel Hierarchy** 2-way Hierarchy Edit

Budgeting

- + General
 - Classification
- Notes
 - SN: Process of identifying, taghtering, and su... financial information
 - Relationships**
 - UF: Budget management
 - UF: Budget planning
 - UF: Budgets
 - BT: Finance
 - NT: Budget analysis
 - RT: Accounting

Add relationships

Budgeting

UF Expense management Browse... Save

(REL)

Budget management
Budget planning
Budgets

☐ Automatically "add" new terms if not found in thesaurus.

Close

Different Models in Taxonomy Management Software

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
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

[show weights](#)

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)

Thesaurus Model:
Synaptica

Different Models in Taxonomy Management Software

SKOS model:
PoolParty

Budgeting

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

+

Add to Collection

×

Delete Concept

Details

Notes

Documents

Linked Data

Triples

Visualization

Quality Report

History

SKOS

+

Relations

⊘

Add to Blacklist

abc

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

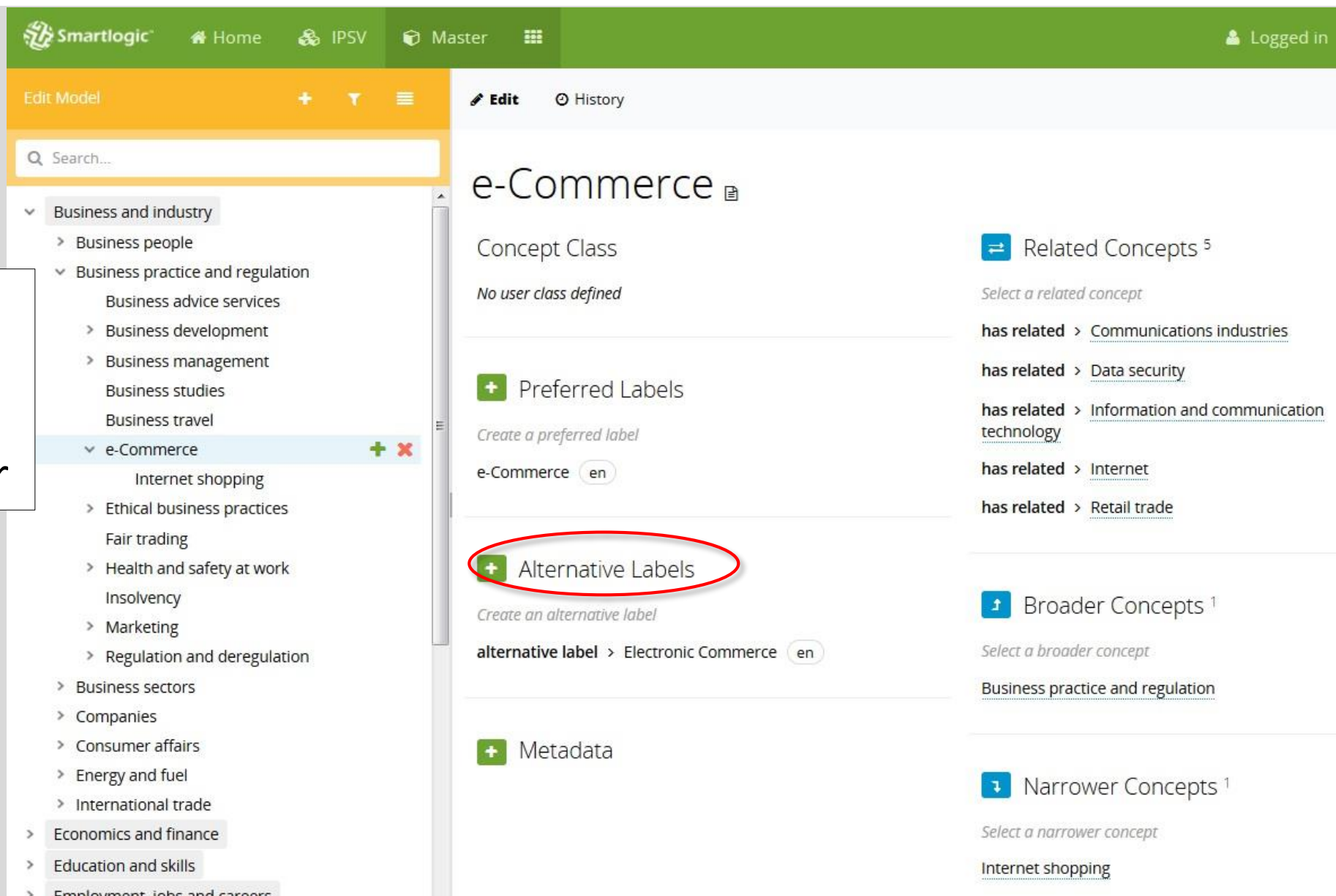
OK

Cancel

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Different Models in Taxonomy Management Software

SKOS model:
Smartlogic
Semaphore
Ontology Editor



The screenshot displays the Smartlogic Semaphore Ontology Editor interface. The top navigation bar includes links for Home, IPSV, Master, and a user profile (Logged in). The main interface is divided into three sections:

- Left Panel (Navigation):** A tree view showing the ontology structure. The 'e-Commerce' category is selected and highlighted in blue. It includes sub-items like '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', and 'Employment, jobs and careers'.
- Center Panel (Concept Details):** Displays the details for the 'e-Commerce' concept class. It shows 'Concept Class' with 'No user class defined'. Below this, there are sections for 'Preferred Labels' (with a 'Create a preferred label' link) and 'Alternative Labels' (with a 'Create an alternative label' link). The 'Alternative Labels' section is circled in red and shows 'e-Commerce' as an alternative label for 'Electronic Commerce' in English (en).
- Right Panel (Related Concepts):** Displays related concepts under three headings: 'Related Concepts' (5), 'Broader Concepts' (1), and 'Narrower Concepts' (1). Each heading has a 'Select a [related/broader/narrower] concept' link. The 'Related Concepts' list includes 'Communications industries', 'Data security', 'Information and communication technology', 'Internet', and 'Retail trade'. The 'Broader Concepts' list includes 'Business practice and regulation'. The 'Narrower Concepts' list includes 'Internet shopping'.

Different Models in Taxonomy Management Software

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

baby foods
infant formulas
weaning foods

IN OTHER LANGUAGES

أغذية الأطفال
婴儿食品
婴幼儿食品
离乳食品
婴儿配方食品

Arabic
Chinese

kojenecká výživa
výživa pro děti
dětská strava
výživa pro kojence

Czech

Aliment pour nourrisson
Aliment pour bébé
Aliment infantile
Lait infantile
Aliment de sevrage pour enfant

French

Kindernährmittel
Kleinkindernahrung

German

Creation and Implementation

Guidelines for implementing 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/concept.
(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.
- If displayed to the end-user, 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* or thesaurus-dictionary websites

Creation and Implementation

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, labor USE Labor 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:

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

Example: Computers

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

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.

Example:

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)**

Depends on search functionality and preferred style.

How Many to Create

How many variants to create depends on various factors.
Especially, how the taxonomy is searched or browsed.

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

How Many to Create

Number of variants to create

On *average* 1.5 variants to each preferred term/concept.

Many have none; many have multiple variants.

Factors for creating *more* variants:

- Variations in various sources of content to be tagged
- Varied user types (experts/students, internal/external, etc.)
- End-user use of a search box (taxonomy not displayed by default)
- Implementation of automated indexing/auto-classification

How Many to Create

Considerations for *limiting* the need for more variants:

- Variants should be created based on usage warrant, not creative possibilities (phrase inversions, permutations of synonyms of words in multi-word phrases).
- Variants should not be created for low-use, especially narrower concepts, lest they be available for keyword searching.
- “Smart” search or stemming will pick up the concepts without variants with minor differences.
- If the variants are displayed to the end-user, then fewer is better so as not to clutter the display.

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)

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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 Subjects ▼

Cat All Categories ▼

Act Active ▼

display batching

1000 Items per batch ▼

Start Search

Search Results

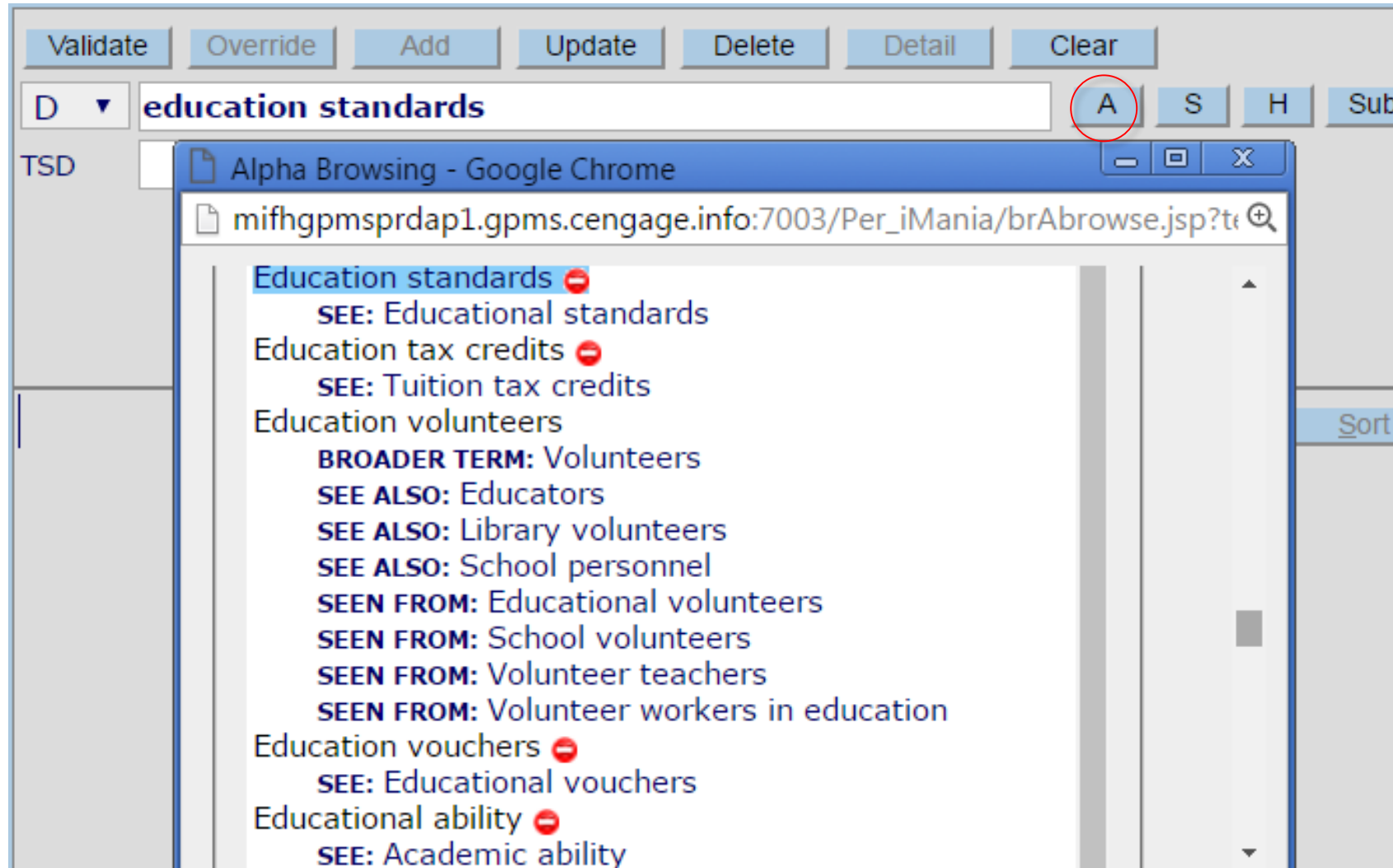
Elapsed Time for Query: 0.068 seconds

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

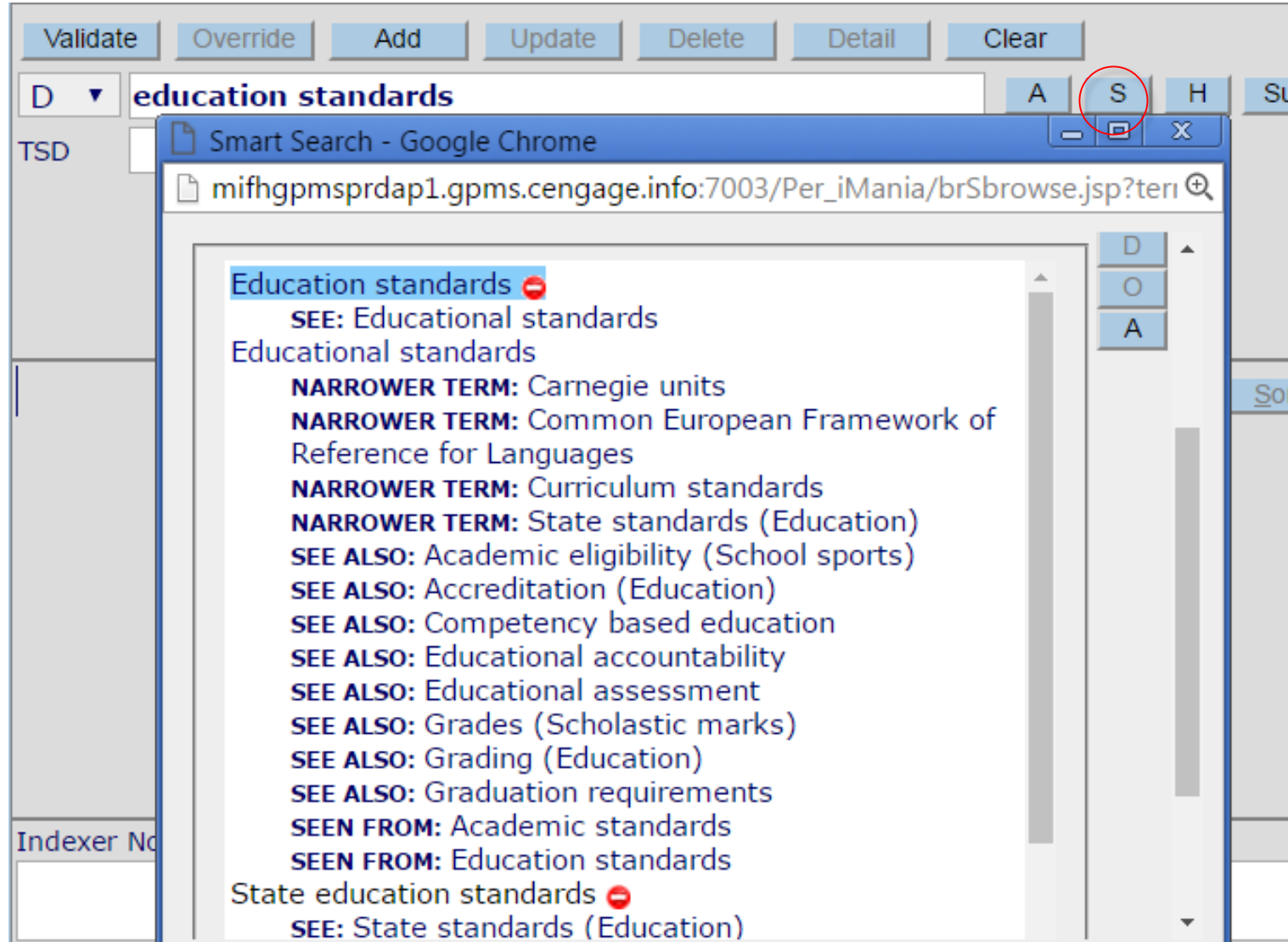
User interface of the indexer: Alphabetical browse



The screenshot displays a web-based alphabetical browse interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with buttons: Validate, Override, Add, Update, Delete, Detail, and Clear. Below this, a search bar contains the text "education standards" and a dropdown menu is set to "D". To the right of the search bar, a red circle highlights the letter "A", with other letters "S", "H", and "Sub" visible. Below the search bar, a browser window titled "Alpha Browsing - Google Chrome" shows the URL "mifhgpmsprdap1.gpms.cengage.info:7003/Per_iMania/brAbrowse.jsp?..." and a list of terms starting with "E". The terms are: Education standards (with a red minus icon), SEE: Educational standards, Education tax credits (with a red minus icon), 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 (with a red minus icon), SEE: Educational vouchers, Educational ability (with a red minus icon), and SEE: Academic ability. A "Sort" button is visible on the right side of the list.

User Interface and Search

User interface of the indexer: Smart search



The screenshot displays the Cengage indexer's user interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with buttons: Validate, Override, Add, Update, Delete, Detail, and Clear. Below this, a search bar contains the text "education standards". To the right of the search bar are buttons labeled A, S, H, and Su. The "S" button is circled in red. Below the search bar, a browser window titled "Smart Search - Google Chrome" is open, showing the URL "mifhgpmsprdap1.gpms.cengage.info:7003/Per_iMania/brSbrowse.jsp?ter". The browser window displays search results for "Education standards". The results include a list of related terms and their relationships:

- Education standards** (with a red minus icon)
 - 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** (with a red minus icon)
 - SEE: State standards (Education)

On the left side of the browser window, there is a sidebar with buttons labeled D, O, and A. At the bottom left of the browser window, there is a label "Indexer No" followed by a text input field.

User Interface and Search

User interface of the end-user: Search on Subjects (“Subject Guide”)

GALE
Academic OneFile
Search...

Browse by Discipline

Subject Guide Search

Subject Guide

education standards

GALE
Academic OneFile
Basic Search

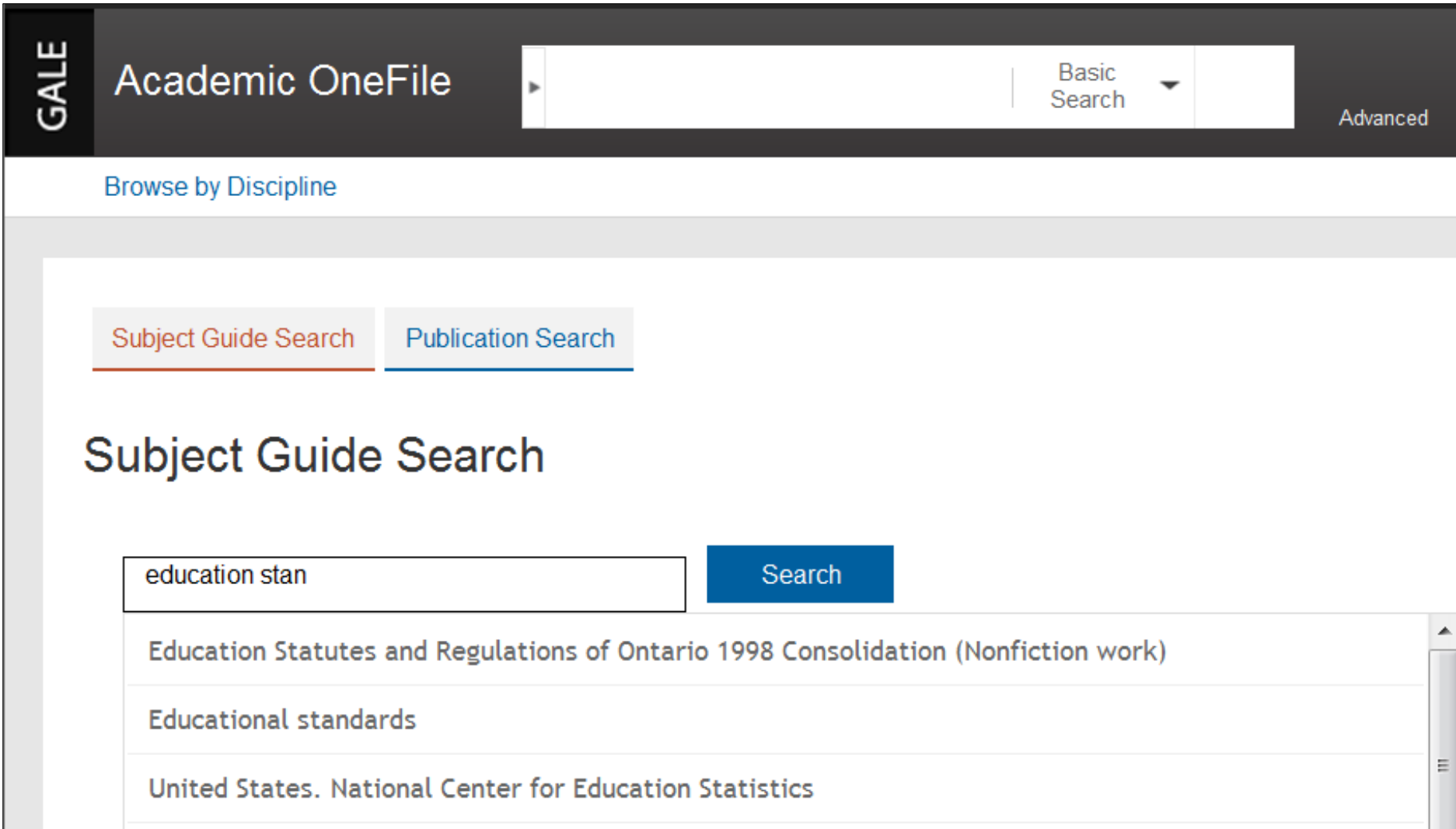
Browse by Discipline

Back to previous page

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, the 'GALE' logo is on the left, followed by 'Academic OneFile' and a search bar. The search bar has a dropdown menu set to 'Basic Search' and a link to 'Advanced' search. Below the search bar is a 'Browse by Discipline' link. The main content area features two tabs: 'Subject Guide Search' (selected) and 'Publication Search'. Under the 'Subject Guide Search' tab, there is a search input field containing the text 'education stan' and a blue 'Search' button. Below the search input, an autosuggest dropdown menu is visible, listing three suggestions: 'Education Statutes and Regulations of Ontario 1998 Consolidation (Nonfiction work)', 'Educational standards', and 'United States. National Center for Education Statistics'.

GALE Academic OneFile

Basic Search Advanced

Browse by Discipline

Subject Guide Search Publication Search

Subject Guide Search

education stan Search

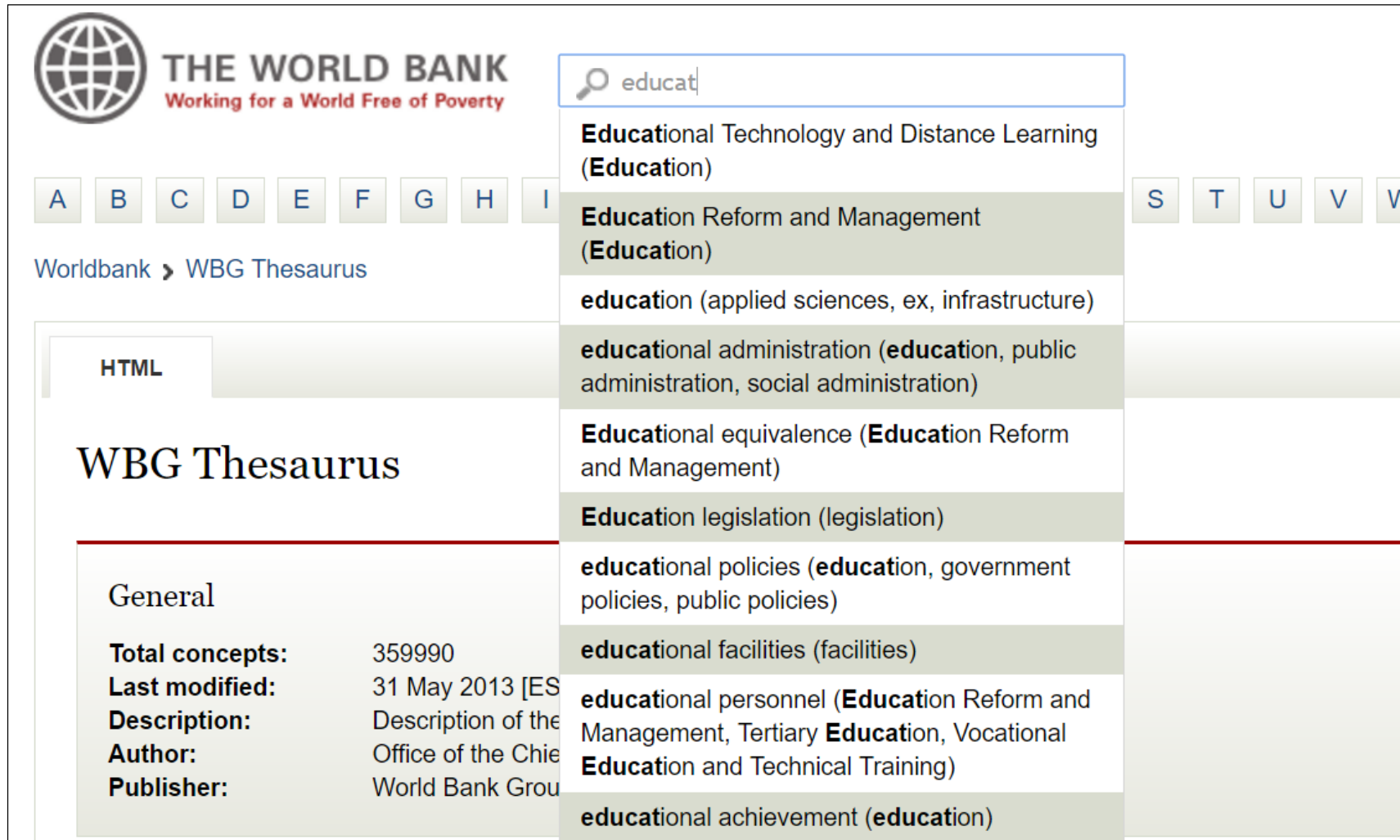
Education Statutes and Regulations of Ontario 1998 Consolidation (Nonfiction work)

Educational standards

United States. National Center for Education Statistics

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 WBG Thesaurus search interface. At the top left is the World Bank logo with the tagline "Working for a World Free of Poverty". Below the logo are navigation buttons for letters A through W. The search bar contains the text "educat", and a dropdown menu shows suggestions starting with "educat". The main content area is titled "WBG Thesaurus" and includes a "General" section with metadata and a list of search results.

THE WORLD BANK
Working for a World Free of Poverty

A B C D E F G H I S T U V W

Worldbank > WBG Thesaurus

HTML

WBG Thesaurus

General

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

educat

- Educational Technology and Distance Learning (Education)**
- Education Reform and Management (Education)**
- 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)
- 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 former narrower terms that had been 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

Conclusions

- 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/Contact

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