

ISO 25964-1:2011(E)

2.60

target language

language providing a translation or an equivalent for a **term** (2.61) existing in a **source language** (2.54)

2.61

term

word or phrase used to label a **concept** (2.11)

EXAMPLES

schools school uniform costs of schooling teaching

NOTE Thesaurus terms can be either preferred terms or non-preferred terms.

2.62

thesaurus

controlled (2.12) and **structured vocabulary** (2.56) in which **concepts** (2.11) are represented by **terms** (2.61), organized so that relationships between **concepts** (2.11) are made explicit, and **preferred terms** (2.45) are accompanied by lead-in entries for **synonyms** (2.58) or **quasi-synonyms** (2.47)

NOTE The purpose of a thesaurus is to guide both the indexer and the searcher to select the same preferred term or combination of preferred terms to represent a given subject. For this reason a thesaurus is optimized for human navigability and terminological coverage of a domain.

2.63

top term

preferred term (2.45) representing a **concept** (2.11) that has no broader **concept** (2.11) in the **thesaurus** (2.62)

2.64

vocabulary control

management of a vocabulary in order to disambiguate and constrain the form of the **terms** (2.61) and limit the number of **concepts** (2.11) and **terms** (2.61) available for **indexing** (2.27)

NOTE Control is achieved by distinguishing between homographs, so that each one has just one meaning, and by picking out from a set of synonyms or quasi-synonyms, the one which is to be preferred for use in indexing. The purpose of these restrictions is to increase the likelihood of indexers and searchers choosing the same term to label a particular concept.

3 Symbols, abbreviated terms and other conventions

3.1 Table 1 shows the abbreviated terms that are used in English language examples of thesaurus records as tags to prefix terms and notes. Each tag indicates the relationship or function of the term or note that follows.

Table 1 — Symbols and abbreviations

Description	Symbol	Tag	Meaning
<i>Descriptive elements</i>		SN	Scope note
		DEF	Definition
		HN	History note
<i>Codes</i>		SC	Subject category; a code or notation applied to a group of concepts relevant to a particular subject
		CC	Concept code or notation
<i>Relationships</i>	→	USE	Use; the term that follows the tag is the preferred term that should be used in place of the non-preferred term that precedes the tag
	=	UF	Use for or Used for; the term that follows the tag is a non-preferred term for which the preferred term preceding the tag should be used instead
		USE...+	The two or more preferred terms following the tags should be used together to represent the indicated concept
		UF+	The non-preferred term that follows should be represented by a combination of preferred terms including the preferred term that precedes the tag
		TT	Top term; the preferred term that follows the tag represents the broadest concept in a hierarchy to which the specific concept belongs
	<	BT	Broader term; the term that follows the tag represents a concept having a wider meaning
		BTG	Broader term (generic)
		BTI	Broader term (instantial)
	—<	BTP	Broader term (partitive)
	>	NT	Narrower term; the term that follows the tag refers to a concept with a more specific meaning
		NTG	Narrower term (generic)
		NTI	Narrower term (instantial)
	>—	NTP	Narrower term (partitive)
	—	RT	Related term; the term that follows the tag is associated, but is not a synonym, a quasi-synonym, a broader term or a narrower term

Table 2 — English language tags and their equivalents in other languages

Tags in English	Tags in French	Tags in German	Tags in Danish	Tags in Finnish	Tags in Norwegian	Tags in Swedish	Tags in Spanish	Tags in Chinese	Tags in Russian
SN Scope note	NE Note explicative ^b Note d'emploi	H Erläuterung (Hinweis)	SN Forklarende note	Huomautus ^c	NO Note	SN Anmärkning	NA Nota de aplicación Nota de alcance	J 解	лп Лексическое примечание
USE Use	EM Employer	BS Benutze	USE Brug	KÄ käytä	BRUK Bruk	USE Använd	USE Use	Y 用	см Смотри
UF Use for Used for ^a	EP Employé pour Employer pour	BF Benutzt für Benutze für	UF Brugt for	KT korvattu termi	BF Brukt for	UF Används istället för	UP Usado por Use por	D 代	с Синоним
BT Broader term	TG Terme générique	OB Oberbegriff	BT Overordnet term	LT laajempi termi	OT Overordnet term	BT Överordnad term	TG Término genérico	S 属	в Выше
NT Narrower term	TS Terme spécifique	UB Unterbegriff	NT Underordnet term	ST suppeampi termi	UT Underordnet term	NT Underordnad term	TE Término específico	F 分	н Ниже
RT Related term	TA Terme associé	VB Verwandter Begriff	RT Relateret term	RT rinnakkaistermi	SO Se også	RT Relaterad term	TR Termino relacionado	C 参	а Ассоциация
BTG Broader term (generic)	TGG Terme générique (générique)	OA Oberbegriff (Abstraktionsrelation)	BTG Overordnet term (generisk)						вр Выше—род
BTP Broader term (partitive)	TGP Terme générique (partitif)	SP Verbandsbegriff (Bestandsrelation)	BTP Overordnet term (partitiv)						вц Выше—целое
BTI Broader term (instantial)	TGI Terme générique (instance)		BTI Overordnet term (instans)						
NTG Narrower term (generic)	TSG Terme spécifique (générique)	UA Unterbegriff (Abstraktionsrelation)	NTG Underordnet term (generisk)						нв Ниже—вид
NTP Narrower term (partitive)	TSP Terme spécifique (partitif)	TP Teilbegriff (Bestandsrelation)	NTP Underordnet term (partitiv)						нч Ниже—часть
NTI Narrower term (instantial)	TSI Terme spécifique (instance)		NTI Underordnet term (instans)						

NOTE The selection of languages in Table 2 is open-ended. Future editions of this part of ISO 25964 could include additional tags.

^a Lines in italics show variant tags and/or expansions.

^b French AFNOR Standard (AFNOR Z47-100) proposed NA: Note d'application

^c In the Finnish standard "Scope note" is translated "Seltitys" at the moment, but "Huomautus" would be a better translation. There is no associated tag.

3.2 Thesauri in Dutch use the same tags as in English, without translation.

3.3 The abbreviations listed as tags in Table 2 have acquired status as generally recognized conventions, and they occur in many published thesauri. They have mnemonic value, but apply only in particular languages. If a more neutral system of abbreviation is required, the language-independent symbols in the left-hand column of Table 1 are recommended.

3.4 The following conventions are also used in examples throughout this part of ISO 25964. Note that these conventions are not required of all thesauri.

- a) Preferred terms are printed in the case they would normally have in full text. Typically that means lower case throughout, with the exception of upper case for abbreviations and acronyms, and initial capital letters for proper names.

EXAMPLES

cars animals

- b) Non-preferred terms are printed in italics.

EXAMPLES

cars UF <i>automobiles</i>	<i>automobiles</i> USE cars
animals UF <i>fauna</i>	<i>fauna</i> USE animals
World Health Organization UF <i>WHO</i>	<i>WHO</i> USE World Health Organization

4 Thesaurus overview and objectives

4.1 Overall objective

The traditional aim of a thesaurus is to guide the indexer and the searcher to choose the same term for the same concept. In order to achieve this, a thesaurus should first list all the concepts that might be useful for retrieval purposes in a given domain. The concepts are represented by terms, and for each concept, one of the possible representations is selected as the preferred term (see 4.2 and 6.6). Secondly, a thesaurus should present the preferred terms in such a way that people will easily identify the one(s) they need. This is achieved by establishing relationships (see Clauses 8 to 10) between terms — and/or between concepts — and using the relationships to present the terms in a structured display.

When implemented in a search system or indexing system, the terms and relationships in the thesaurus may be exploited in numerous ways, including:

- search expansion;
- suggestion of alternative search terms;
- support for clustering or other means of refining a search;
- identification of common spelling mistakes;
- support of automatic indexing.