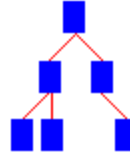


Subject Indexing & Controlled Vocabulary Systems (part 2)

A good indexing system is more than just a list of standardized headings. The system should show the relationships between words:

Hierarchical Relationships

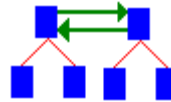
- ❖ Broader Terms
- ❖ Narrower Terms



'See Related' Cross References

Links to related terms which may be of interest.

blood glucose see related hyperglycemia, hypoglycemia



'See' Cross References

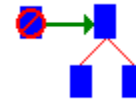
Provide help finding the correct term from commonly used synonyms .

Instructional Technology see Educational Technology

Stomach Cancer see Stomach Neoplasms

Inquisitiveness use Exploratory Behavior

Curiosity use Exploratory Behavior



Provide links from *unused* narrower terms to a broader term.

Landscaping, Hospital see Maintenance and Engineering, Hospital

Funerals see Death Rites

A structured indexing system will usually be called either a "*Thesaurus*" or "*Subject Headings*".

Thesauri always show all relationships among terms:

- Hierarchical Relationships
- Cross References
- See References
- Some Thesauri and Subject Heading systems will provide *scope notes* explain how a particular heading is used. Scope notes may be provided sparingly, depending on the nature of the term.

Example 1.1 (Thesaurus of Psychological Index Terms)

CURIOSITY
Year Term Introduced 1967

Broader Terms
Personality Traits

Related Terms
Exploratory Behavior +
Openness to Experience
Questioning

Used for
Inquisitiveness

Notes:

Curiosity is a narrower term under *Personality Traits*. This 'Broader Heading' includes a listing of **over ninety narrower headings**, of which *curiosity* is just one.

The plus symbol after the first of the 'Related Terms' indicates that *Exploratory Behavior* includes a list of narrower terms.

Note that *Curiosity* does not list any narrower terms. This is a specific as the Thesaurus is on this topic.

Example 1.2 (Thesaurus of Psychological Index Terms)

CUSHINGS SYNDROME
Year Term Introduced 1973

Scope Note

A metabolic disorder caused by increased production of cortisol and characterized by central obesity, muscle weakness, florid complexion, hirutism in women, and diminished libido or impotence in men.

Broader Terms
Adrenal Gland Disorders
Metabolism Disorders
Syndromes

Used for
Hypercortisolism

Notes:

Note that *Cushings Syndrome* includes a scope note.

Also note that *Cushings Syndrome* is a narrower heading under **three** broader headings.

Example 1.3 (Thesaurus of Psychological Index Terms)

ADRENAL GLAND DISORDERS Year Term Introduced 1973 Broader Terms Endocrine Disorders Narrower Terms Addisons Disease Cushings Syndrome Related Terms Endocrine Sexual Disorders + Pituitary Disorders +

Notes:

The entry for *Adrenal Gland Disorders* includes both a ‘Broader Term’ and two ‘Narrower Terms.’ This means that *Adrenal Gland Disorders* is neither the top or the bottom term in the hierarchy of terms for this general concept area.

The plus symbol after two ‘Related Terms’ indicates both of them include a list of narrower terms.

Example 2.1 (Medical Subject Headings)

RHINITIS, ALLERGIC, SEASONAL

Scope Note

Allergic rhinitis that occurs at the same time every year. It is characterized by acute CONJUNCTIVITIS with lacrimation and ITCHING, and regarded as an allergic condition triggered by specific ALLERGENS.

Year introduced: 2006 (1963)

Subheadings:

This list includes those paired at least once with this heading in MEDLINE and may not reflect current rules for allowable combinations.

blood	enzymology	mortality	radiotherapy
chemically induced	epidemiology	nursing	rehabilitation
classification	ethnology	parasitology	surgerytherapy
complications	etiology	pathology	ultrasonography
diagnosis	genetics	physiology	urine
diet therapy	history	physiopathology	veterinary
drug therapy	immunology	prevention and control	virology
economics	metabolism	psychology	
embryology	microbiology	radiography	

Entry Terms:

- ◆ Hay Fever
- ◆ Fever, Hay
- ◆ Hayfever
- ◆ Pollen Allergy
- ◆ Allergies, Pollen
- ◆ Allergy, Pollen
- ◆ Pollen Allergies
- ◆ Pollinosis
- ◆ Pollinoses
- ◆ Seasonal Allergic Rhinitis
- ◆ Allergic Rhinitides, Seasonal
- ◆ Allergic Rhinitis, Seasonal
- ◆ Rhinitides, Seasonal Allergic
- ◆ Rhinitis, Seasonal Allergic
- ◆ Seasonal Allergic Rhinitides

Notes:

'Entry Terms' are cross references. These are words or phrases which are synonyms but which are not used.

Before 2006, the MeSH heading was *Hay Fever*, which was introduced in 1963. From 1963 through 2005, *Rhinitis, Allergic, Seasonal* was an 'Entry Term' or cross reference.

Hierarchies

All MeSH Categories
Diseases Category
Respiratory Tract Diseases
Nose Diseases
Rhinitis
Rhinitis, Allergic, Seasonal

All MeSH Categories
Diseases Category
Otorhinolaryngologic Diseases
Nose Diseases
Rhinitis
Rhinitis, Allergic, Seasonal

All MeSH Categories
Diseases Category
Respiratory Tract Diseases
Respiratory Hypersensitivity
Rhinitis, Allergic, Seasonal

All MeSH Categories
Diseases Category
Immune System Diseases
Hypersensitivity
Hypersensitivity, Immediate
Respiratory Hypersensitivity
Rhinitis, Allergic, Seasonal

Notes:

The hierarchical display illustrates the complexity of even 'controlled vocabularies.' There are a number of ways to group headings and this headings fits into four groupings.

Example 2.1 (Medical Subject Headings)

A Final Note ...

There is no agreement across disciplines (or even within a discipline) about what terms should be included in a controlled vocabulary. Therefore, don't expect consistency when using different controlled vocabulary systems:

Humanities International Index Thesaurus	Medline – MeSH (Medical Subject Headings)
TEENAGERS	ADOLESCENT
Scope Note: People in the general age range of thirteen through eighteen years.	Scope Note: A person 13 to 18 years of age.
Broader Terms Youth	Broader Terms: Age Groups
Narrower Terms Motion pictures & teenagers Teenage boys Teenage girls Teenage photographers Teenagers as artists	Narrower Terms (none)
Related Terms Children Puberty Teenagers' writings Young adults	Related Terms Minors
Used for Adolescents Teen-agers Teens	Used for Adolescence Adolescent, Female Adolescent, Male Adolescents Adolescents, Female Adolescents, Male Female Adolescent Female Adolescents Male Adolescent Male Adolescents Teen Teenager Teenagers; Teens Youth Youths