Thesaurus Newsletter

Quarterly update from the CAB Thesaurus management team

Issue Q1 – 2019

Upcoming meetings

9' Incontro ISKO Italia: Thursday, 11 April 2019, Central National Library of Florence. Theme: classification schemes and their digital applications through linked data.
http://www.iskoi.org/doc/firenze19.htm

NASKO 2019: 13-14 June 2019, Metadata Research Center, College of Computing & Informatics, Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA, USA. Theme: Knowledge Organization - Community and Computation.
http://www.iskocus.org/nasko2019-cfp.php

ISKO Low Countries Conference: 20-21 June 2019, Vrije Universiteit, Brussels, Belgium. Theme: How the most elementary, basic units of knowledge can be identified, retrieved, extracted and organized.
https://www.isko-lc.org

Taxonomy Boot Camp: 14-16 October 2019, Olympia, London, UK. Call for speakers, on the theme *Anything is Possible*, to explore the growing use of taxonomies to drive data, content, information processes and more.
Deadline for proposals - 5 April 2019.
http://www.taxonomybootcamp.com/London/

Biological Control of Weeds

The 5th edition of the catalogue of biological control agents and their target weeds, whose co-authors include Hariet Hinz, CABI, Switzerland, and Matthew Cock, CABI, Egham, UK, is available for download from https://www.ibiocontrol.org/catalog/. Nearly all these species and links between the control agent and weed host have now been incorporated into CAB Thesaurus.

Koppert collaboration

In October 2018 CABI signed a Memorandum of Understanding with world-leading biological control specialists Koppert to collaborate on making more biological control agents available in the fight against invasive pests and weeds in less developed countries. As part of this collaboration a Biopesticides Portal is currently being developed by CABI. Since October the thesaurus team have gone through the Koppert catalogue to make sure we cover all biological control agents listed, linked to their target pests.

Database production files

In January we updated most database production system files, 11 in total, based on a thesaurus export. These include updates to files dealing with synonyms, upposting, enhancements to indexing, and our inhouse auto-indexing system. The aim is to improve relevancy and recall in searches on CAB Direct, the leading source of reference in the applied life sciences. There are 12.7 million records available in CAB Direct.

New version of MultiTes

Multisystems Inc. have released a new version of Unicode compliant MultiTes Pro, v.2019.02.19u. It includes several enhancements and bug fixes, many of which we reported to the software company in December.

Progress on the 2019 edition

Work has been moving forward apace for the next edition of CAB Thesaurus, due for public release in July 2019. Since we released the last edition in July 2018:

- 22,649 terms have been updated
- 6615 terms were added in English
- Total terms (labels), in all languages combined, is now 2,829,316
- 6292 new translations were added from English, including
    - 2815 into German
    - 793 into Spanish
    - 708 into French
    - 529 into Portuguese
    - 263 into Finnish
    - 260 into Dutch

Feedback

We welcome suggestions for improvements to thesaurus content as well as corrections. You may email a team member directly or use the dedicated general email address.

Obtaining thesaurus files

If your organization is interested in obtaining thesaurus data for your projects they are available in multiple formats, including plain text, CSV, XML and SKOS. If you wish to see beforehand what to expect sample data are available for download via the thesaurus web site. Please contact us to discuss your requirements. CABI has offices in a dozen countries.

NAL Thesaurus

Sujata Suri has reported to us that a new edition of the Agricultural Thesaurus of the USDA National Agricultural Library was published in January. NAL along with CABI and FAO contribute to the Global Agricultural Concept Scheme (GACS).

Mapping invasive species

CABI's Invasive Species Compendium provides detailed coverage of invasive species threatening livelihoods and the environment worldwide. It is freely available and open access. The thesaurus team has reviewed detailed datasheets on 1,900 invasive species to ensure that the system creating distribution maps for these species is fully up-to-date and agrees with current taxonomy.

Biocontrol & vectors update

We have been linking biocontrol agents (not natural enemies, but organisms used in biocontrol applications) with their hosts, and disease vectors with the agent they transfer, for some months. Our latest figures say we have linked 3211 biocontrol agents with 5179 hosts and 1285 vectors with 3280 vectored agents. Most useful indeed!

TiPS group

Taxonomies in the Public Sector is a group of information professionals from central government, local authorities and government agencies from across the UK, including some independent taxonomy specialists, who have a common goal to share best practice in building and applying taxonomies and thesauri. CABI is a member. TiPS holds regular meetings, with practically focused agendas, in locations all around the UK, from London to Glasgow. The group welcomes membership enquiries.

The thesaurus team

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