

PRESS RELEASE

New international thesaurus standard published

ISO 25964-1 is the new international standard for thesauri, replacing ISO 2788 and ISO 5964. The full title is **Information and documentation - Thesauri and interoperability with other vocabularies - Part 1: Thesauri for information retrieval**. As well as covering monolingual and multilingual thesauri, it addresses 21st century needs for data sharing, networking and interoperability. Content includes:

- construction of mono- and multi-lingual thesauri;
- clarification of the distinction between terms and concepts, and their inter-relationships;
- guidance on facet analysis and layout;
- guidance on the use of thesauri in computerized and networked systems;
- best practice for the management and maintenance of thesaurus development;
- guidelines for thesaurus management software;
- a data model for monolingual and multilingual thesauri;
- brief recommendations for exchange formats and protocols.

An XML schema for data exchange has been derived from the data model, and is available free of charge at <http://www.niso.org/schemas/iso25964/> .

Coming next

ISO 25964-1 is the first of two publications. In 2012 a second Part of the standard will be issued, dealing with interoperability between thesauri and other vocabularies, especially the principles and practice of mapping between them. Types of vocabulary to be considered include classification schemes, file plans for records management, taxonomies, subject heading schemes, ontologies, terminologies, name authority lists and synonym rings. The complete two-part set will comprise:

ISO 25964. Thesauri and interoperability with other vocabularies

Part 1: Thesauri for information retrieval

Part 2: Interoperability with other vocabularies

Thus ISO 25964 as a whole aims to guide the development and maintenance of thesauri that can function interoperably in today's networked society. The context is information retrieval in the widest sense. By following the guidelines in this standard developers and users should be able to link different types of controlled vocabulary together and apply them via the range of tools and techniques used in indexing, search, navigation and exchange of information.

Getting hold of a copy

In the UK you can purchase a copy of Part 1 from BSI (telephone 020 8996 7555; website <http://shop.bsigroup.com/en/> , search for "ISO 25964") where it is known as BS ISO 25964-1, and it replaces BS 8723 Parts 2 and 5. If you live overseas, get it from the national standards body in your country e.g. AFNOR, NISO or DIN. Alternatively you can order one directly from ISO in Switzerland at <http://www.iso.org/iso/store.htm> . You can also view the standard at some UK reference libraries; there is a list at <http://www.bsieducation.org/Education/resources/libraries.shtml> .

Project Organization

Development of the standard is managed by a Working Group known as ISO TC46/SC9/WG8, which has participants from 17 countries: Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, New Zealand, Russia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, UK, Ukraine, and USA. The Group is chaired by Stella Dextre Clarke of the UK, and its Secretariat is provided by NISO (USA). Active members include:

Sylvie Dalbin (FR)	Traugott Koch (DE)	Douglas Tudhope (GB)
Johan De Smedt (BE)	Richard Light (GB)	Leonard Will (GB)
F. Javier García Marco (ES)	Jutta Lindenthal (DE)	Marcia Zeng (US)
Michèle Hudon (CA)	Marianne Lykke (DK)	
Daniel Kless (DE)	Esther Scheven (DE)	

For more information, see <http://www.niso.org/workrooms/iso25964>

Published articles and conference proceedings

Dextre Clarke, Stella G. ISO 25964: a standard in support of KOS interoperability. Gilchrist, Alan and Vernau, Judi, Editors. Facets of Knowledge Organization; 2011 Jul 4-2011 Jul 5; London. London: Emerald; 2012. Also available at: <http://www.iskook.org/conf2011/papers/dextreclarke.pdf>, together with audio recording and presentation slides.

Dextre Clarke, Stella G. In Pursuit of Interoperability: Can We Standardize Mapping Types? *In*: Boteram, F, Goedert, W, Hubrich, J (Eds), Concepts in Context – Cologne Conference on Interoperability and Semantics in Knowledge Organization; 2010 Jul 19-2010 Jul 20; Cologne, Germany. Ergon Verlag 2011. Presentation available at: http://linux2.fbi.fh-koeln.de/cisco2010/presentationen/2010-07-20_dextre_clarke.ppt.

Dextre Clarke, Stella G. ISO 2788 + ISO 5964 + Much Energy = ISO 25964. ASIS&T Bulletin . 2008 Oct-2008 Nov 30; 35(1). Available at: http://www.asis.org/Bulletin/Oct-08/OctNov08_DextreClarke.html

Dextre Clarke, Stella G. Thesaurus standards on a converging track. Legal Information Management. 2010; 10(1):43-45.

Dextre Clarke, Stella G. Evolution towards ISO 25964: an international standard with guidelines for thesauri and other types of controlled vocabulary. Information Wissenschaft & Praxis. 2007 Nov-2007 Dec 31; 58(8):441-444.

Presentations

Hudon, Michèle. ISO 25964 : vers une nouvelle norme pour l'organisation et l'accès à l'information et aux connaissances [in publication, Hermès-Sciences. Meantime see: <http://conferences.isko-france.asso.fr/fr/abstracts/sa1a.htm>].

Rabault, Hélène and Zysman, Hélène. Les schémas de concepts et le Web sémantique : la norme sur les thésaurus ISO 25964. In Journée Afnor/Bnf "Référentiels et données d'autorité à l'heure du Web sémantique", 2011 May 27 Available at: http://www.bnf.fr/documents/afnor2011_norme_thesaurus.pdf

Dextre Clarke, Stella G. Types of mapping recommended in ISO 25964, and the question of reciprocity [Presentation]. 2010 Sep 9. Available at: <http://www.comp.glam.ac.uk/pages/research/hypermedia/nkos/nkos2010/presentations/dextreclarke.pdf>.

Lindenthal, Jutta and Scheven, Esther. ISO 25964 - Standard der Information und Dokumentation: "Thesauri and interoperability with other vocabularies" [Presentation]. 2009. Available at: http://isko.gesis.org/d-a-ch/bonn2009/Lindenthal_Scheven-Isko-bonn-2009-ISO25964.pdf.