

Taxonomy Glossary

Taxonomies

Concept. The characteristics of a real or imaginary object expressed as terms in the taxonomy.

Controlled Vocabulary. A list of terms that have been explicitly enumerated. The terms are controlled and published by a designated authority or authoritative source. If multiple terms are used to mean the same thing, one of the terms is identified as the Preferred Term in the Controlled Vocabulary and the other terms are listed as synonyms or aliases.

Facet. A grouping of concepts of the same inherent category. Examples of categories that may be used for grouping concepts into facets are: Audience, Channels, Components, Content Types, Functions, Industries, Intentions, Lifecycle, Location, Organization, Products, etc.

Taxonomy. The core metadata elements and the Controlled Vocabularies required to find, use, and manage content in a collection.

Terms

Broader Term. A term to which another term (or multiple terms) are subordinate in a hierarchy. The relationship indicator for this type of term is BT.

Entry Term. The preferred term that is used to label a concept. An entry term is also known as a Descriptor.

Narrower Term. A term that is subordinate to another term or to multiple terms in a hierarchy. The relationship indicator for this type of term is NT.

Related Term. A term that is associatively (but not hierarchically) linked to another term in a Controlled Vocabulary. The relationship indicator for this type of term is RT.

Used For Term. Non-preferred term(s) that are equivalent to the Entry Term. Used for terms may be synonyms, aliases (such as abbreviations) and quasi-synonyms (such as more specific terms).

Relationships

Associative Relationship. A relationship between or among terms that leads from one term to other terms that are related to or associated with it. An Associative Relationship is a Related Term or cross-reference relationship.

Equivalence Relationship. A relationship between or among terms in a Controlled Vocabulary that leads to one or more terms that are to be used instead of the term from which the Reference is made. An Equivalence Relationship is a Used For Term relationship.

Hierarchical Relationship. A relationship between or among terms in a Controlled Vocabulary that depicts broader (generic) to narrower (specific) or whole-part relationships. A Hierarchical relationship is a Broader Term to Narrower Term relationship.

Notes

Scope Note. A note following a term explaining its source, rationale, coverage, specialized usage, or rules for assigning it.

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