
ISKO News

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Communications Editor

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Contexts, languages and cultures in knowledge organization

The main focus of the French Chapter of ISKO since its creation in 1996 has been on the issues of knowledge organization. This topic has been treated in terms of organizational structures, technical tools for mediation and also forms and mechanisms for knowledge sharing. These issues are at the core of the process of production, structure and access to information. In continuation of these reflections, the 9th edition of ISKO-France conference aims to address issues related to the relevance of information through contextualization in the different phases of these processes. The conference is in collaboration with *DI-CEN-IDF, CNAM, Université Marne-la-Vallée*

The democratization of information and communication technology, especially the Internet, enables a greater number of producers and distributors to provide information, as it offers a greater number of users to have access. However, the production, provision and access to information are related to the use of this information, making the issues related to the relevance of information essential.

Are invited, original work on theoretical, methodological and application aspects, focusing on the multiple dimensions of production, organization and exploitation of knowledge.

Topics (*not exhaustive*)

History and epistemology of knowledge organization:

Universal classifications, historical and anthropological approaches

Classifications and Web Knowledge

Contextualization of information:

Contextualization and annotation

Usage oriented annotation

Contextualization and folksonomy

Contextualization and information visualization

Competitive intelligence, Territorial intelligence

Information and contextualization in decision-making

Specification of a decisional problem

From decisional problem to information problem

Collaborative information retrieval:

Specification of information retrieval problem

Representation of actors in collaborative information retrieval

Communication in collaborative information retrieval

User-centered design and use:

Decision support information system

Customizing responses

User modeling

Instruction to authors

- Format: word or rtf
- Articles could be in English or in French
- Page size : 1500 words for an extended abstract (paper title, authors, authors' emails, conference themes)
- Proposal should be sent to philippe@kislin .fr

Important dates:

- 10 April 2013 : Deadline for extended abstract
- 30 April 2013 : Notification of acceptance
- 30 June 2013 : Deadline for the final version of accepted papers
- 25 September : Deadline for registration

Publication of ISO 25964-2, the standard for interoperability of thesauri

Published on 4 March 2013, ISO 25964-2 deals 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 (including those for records management), taxonomies, subject heading schemes, name authority lists, ontologies, terminologies, and synonym rings.

Interoperability is defined as the ability of two or more systems or components to exchange information and to use the information that has been exchanged. Plainly this ability is fundamental to the workings of the information networks we rely on so much, and even more to the development of the Semantic Web (SW). Two levels of interoperability apply to thesauri:

- a. presenting data in a standard way to enable import and use in other systems (dealt with in ISO 25964 Part 1, which was published in 2011)
- b. complementary use of vocabularies, such as providing mappings between the terms/concepts of one thesaurus and those of another (covered in ISO 25964 Part 2)

Unless mappings are prepared with care as recommended in ISO 25964-2, any SW inferences based on them are liable to deliver misleading conclusions to the unsuspecting Web surfer.

The full title of Part 2 is **Information and documentation - Thesauri and interoperability with other vocabularies - Part 2: Interoperability with other vocabularies**.

Important topics covered in the standard include structural models for mapping, guidelines on mapping types, and how to handle pre-coordination (which occurs especially in classification schemes, taxonomies and subject heading schemes).

The overall focus of ISO 25964 is on thesauri, and with the exception of terminologies, comparable standards do not exist for the other vocabulary types. Rather than try to standardize them, Part 2 deals only with interoperability between these and thesauri. Thus the clause on each vocabulary type presents:

- Key characteristics of the vocabulary (descriptive, not normative)
- Semantic components/relationships (descriptive, not normative)
- Where applicable, recommendations for mapping between the vocabulary and a thesaurus (normative).

In the case of ontologies, terminologies, and synonym rings, mapping to or from a thesaurus is not often useful. Other forms of complementary use are recommended. This is especially true of ontologies, which in the context of the Semantic Web can be deployed in combination with thesauri. ISO 25964-2 clarifies in some detail the differences between thesauri and ontologies, with examples to illustrate the potential for interoperable function.

Practical implementation and continuing work

What about SKOS, the complementary W3C standard for publishing Simple Knowledge Organization Systems on the Web? Happily the development teams responsible for SKOS and ISO 25964 (respectively) have maintained a close working relationship throughout, leading to good compatibility between the standards. Jointly they have gone on to establish a table showing correspondence between ISO 25964 and SKOS/SKOS[□]XL data models,

now freely available from the ISO 25964 Secretariat site at <http://www.niso.org/schemas/iso25964/>. Although not formally part of either standard, this table is dependent on both of them. It is an example of how the user community continues to develop practical tools to support the emerging Semantic Web.

Getting hold of a copy

Like any other ISO standard, either or both parts of ISO 25964 can be purchased from the national standards body in your country e.g. AFNOR, BSI, DIN or NISO. Alternatively you can order it directly from ISO in Switzerland at <http://www.iso.org/iso/store.htm>. You can also view the documents at some public/academic libraries.

Journal editors may request a review copy from ISO's Head of Marketing, Roger Frost <FROST@iso.org>.

Project Organization

Development of the standard was 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 have included:

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