



**SECRETARIAT DES MISSIONS D'URBANISME ET D'HABITAT**

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# **THESAURUS**

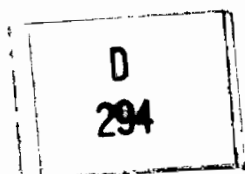
**english • french**



**volume I**



**1975**



**avec le concours**

**du Bureau National de l'Information Scientifique et Technique B.N.I.S.T.**

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Thesaurus for the documentation centres  
dealing with :

- . URBAN PLANNING
- . <sup>TOWN</sup> REGIONAL PLANNING
- . HOUSING
- . ENVIRONMENT

in DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

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Bilingual edition : english-french ✓

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Volume I : Alphabetical List

Volume II : Tables of categories



FOREWORD

This new edition of the Thesaurus comes in response to the requirements for information exchange between English-speakers and French-speakers voiced by technicians and others practically engaged in regional and town planning and housing in the developing countries.

It is the outcome of co-operation with appropriate agencies and specialists, both French and foreign. Furthermore, it was prepared in co-ordination with documentation centres or networks in allied fields, for the sake of compatibility.

We wish hereby to record our gratitude to those who, in one way or another, have contributed to this document which, it is hoped, will be a working tool more in line with professional needs.

THE S.M.U.H. DOCUMENTATION CENTRE



## INTRODUCTION

### A/ OBJECTIVES OF THE DOCUMENTATION CENTRE -

Our Documentation Centre collects and disseminates information on the problems of physical planning and housing in the developing countries. The references recorded either are from works contained in the library or originate in references sent by other documentation centres thus constituting an informal information network for these specific problems.

Since the establishment of the Centre in 1966, the references gathered to date on urban and regional problems in Africa, Asia and Latin America represent about 55 per cent of material in French, 35 per cent in English and 10 per cent in Spanish and other languages. Owing to its geographical proximity and French contacts, Africa is better represented than Asia and Latin America in this information stock, as well as among our correspondents helping to feed the network or requesting information.

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### B/ OBJECTIVES OF THE THESAURUS -

In order to integrate these references from different services and reply pertinently to the various questions asked, a degree of standardization had to be introduced in the language used for indexing and retrieval. Hence our Thesaurus in French was brought out for the first time in 1969. Being based on analysis of the content of documents received, comparison of the various technical dictionaries, glossaries, etc..., review of the questions asked and consultation of professionals, the Thesaurus is not a dictionary of town planning but a practical tool offered to documentation services working in our fields of competence. The growing volume of exchanges with English-speakers prompts us today to offer a bilingual version of this information retrieval language. The English version is not a word-for-word translation of the French Thesaurus but a quest for linguistic equivalence.

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C/ PRESENTATION OF THE THESAURUS -

The preparation of presentation standards for the Thesaurus led us to revise the presentation of this edition. We now offer two distinct parts intended for use in conjunction with each other.

1) ALPHABETICAL LIST

A single volume contains, for each language, the two former volumes, an alphabetical list of all the vocabulary terms, and a lexicon of descriptors and their semantic relations. The terms of the information retrieval language are given in alphabetical order. The geographical part comes at the end of the volume and on coloured paper.

Abbreviations used :

SN	: Scope Note
Use	:
UF	: Used For
BT	: Broader Term
NT	: Narrower Term
RT	: Related Term
<i>/in italics/ : category title</i>	

1.1.- Types of terms

1.1.1.- Descriptors

By descriptors we mean the authorized terms for indexing documents and questions. They are always accompanied by their equivalent in the other language of the vocabulary :

e.g : EMPLOYMENT / EMPLOI

Particulars are given further concerning the notes that accompany the descriptors.

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1.1.2.- Non-descriptors or attached terms

These are the terms non-authorized for indexing. They are accompanied by a reference to the descriptor to be used, indicated by the word "Use". They are not all accompanied by their equivalent in the other language, either because there is no corresponding term or because its translation has been adopted as the equivalent of the descriptor of the other language.

e.g : active population / population active  
Use EMPLOYMENT

achievement /  
Use REALIZATION

1.1.3.- Permuted terms

The compound words of the vocabulary, be they descriptors or non-descriptors, are also given in the alphabetical list in their permuted form in order to make the terms more accessible. They are accompanied in their permuted form solely by a reference to the appropriate descriptor :

e.g : population (active)  
Use EMPLOYMENT

1.2.- Forms of terms

1.2.1.- All the descriptors are in capitals. All the non-descriptors are in small letters ; the permuted forms (of descriptors or of non-descriptors) are regarded as non-descriptors and consequently always feature in small letters too.

1.2.2.- The descriptors are nouns, with the exception of a few qualificative adjectives in the modifiers category.

1.2.3.- The descriptors are in the singular, except in instances where the singular and the plural differ in meaning.

1.2.4.- The descriptors are given in the form :

- of a single word :

e.g : EMPLOYMENT

- of a compound work :

e.g : RURAL ECONOMY  
CAR PARK  
CIVIL ENGINEERING WORKS



#### 1.2.5.- Alphabetical order

The classification system adopted is discontinuous classification, i.e. word by word.

e.g : EMPLOYMENT  
employment (induced)  
employment (partial)  
employment (service)  
employment multiplier

#### 1.3.- Scope notes and links between terms

##### 1.3.1.- Scope Notes (SN)

Each descriptor comprises a scope note specifying the concept for which it is used or expressing a limitation of meaning. This note is introduced by the initials SN.

e.g : EMPLOYMENT / EMPLOI  
SN Utilization of the active population in the economy.  
Not to be confused with LABOUR.

##### 1.3.2.- Relations between terms

###### 1.3.2.1.- Preferential relations (Use and UF)

We have seen above that the non-descriptors are accompanied by a reference marked "Use". This reference directs the reader to the authorized descriptor from the non-descriptor, not authorized in indexing. Conversely, beneath the descriptor all the non-descriptors that it "translates" are given, preceded by the initials UF, i.e. "Used For",

e.g : EMPLOYMENT / EMPLOI  
SN...  
UF active population  
manpower  
occupation  
socio-professional setup

In the case of non-descriptors referring to a combination of descriptors, they are not recalled beneath each descriptor since are pre-co-ordinations given as an example.

e.g : old age home / foyer de vieillards  
Use COMMUNITY BUILDING + ELDERLY

1.3.2.2.- Associative relations (RT)

These relations are used to identify a number of concepts associated with a given concept. They may correspond to certain associations of ideas, semantic connexions, affinities in usage, etc. They are marked with the initials RT, i.e. "Related Term".

e.g : INDUCED EMPLOYMENT / EMPLOI INDUIT  
SN...  
UF...  
RT INDUCED POPULATION

1.3.2.3.- Hierarchical relations (BT and NT)

These relations indicate at what level of the hierarchy, visualized by means of the category tables, the descriptor is situated. With the descriptor, only the immediately superior grade (BT : "Broader Term") or the immediately inferior grade (NT : "Narrower Term") is given.

e.g : EMPLOYMENT / EMPLOI  
SN...  
UF...  
NT INDUCED EMPLOYMENT  
PROFESSIONAL  
UNEMPLOYMENT  
  
INDUCED EMPLOYMENT / EMPLOI INDUIT  
SN...  
UF...  
BT EMPLOYMENT

If this grade is represented in the table by a non-descriptor regrouping term, it will not feature here.

1.3.2.4.- Category titles

Finally, we have noted in italics at the end of the section on each descriptor, the title of the category into which it falls.

e.g : EMPLOYMENT / EMPLOI  
SN...  
UF...  
NT... */economy/*

.../...

## II) TABLES OF CATEGORIES

The treelike hierarchical structure is the same as that used in our previous edition. However, to take account of the experience of some of our correspondents in the matter of informational data processing, we have fully revised the order of precedence of the terms, split certain tables in two, and so forth.

As in the alphabetical list, the descriptors are always capitalized in the tables, which include a number of non-descriptor regrouping terms in small letters. The geographical tables are printed on coloured paper.

In addition, whereas the list runs to one volume for each of the languages used, the tables are printed on both sides to display the English and French versions together.

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D/ UTILIZATION OF THE THESAURUS

1 - INDEXING THE DOCUMENTS

It may be as well to recall a number of indexing principles.

Indexing involves representing by means of a set of descriptors, taken from the Thesaurus, the information contained in the document.

It is suggested that first of all a working list be drawn up. On reading the title, the table of contents and the abstract, and then going through the full text, the indexer will be able to note the data which appear to provide significant information. The following rule should be borne in mind : for indexing choose only the sort of informative data you yourself would like to find if you were in the user's place.

Once this list has been compiled in ordinary language, the terms will have to be "translated" into descriptors.

For this purpose the indexer will turn first to the alphabetical list :

- 1.1.- The term in ordinary language corresponds to a descriptor.  
The indexer should then check that the scope note really does concern the datum he has singled out, that the associative relations do not point to a more suitable term and that the hierarchical relations do not offer a more precise term. Use should always be made of the most specific descriptor so as not to encumber the retrieval process at the most general descriptor.

The category tables can then be consulted to situate the problem in its context.

- 1.2.- The ordinary language term corresponds to a non-descriptor.  
The reference "Use" will provide the authorized descriptor; the indexer will then proceed as above.

- 1.3.- The ordinary term corresponds neither to a descriptor nor to a non-descriptor.

If the indexer encounters an entirely new concept without a representative descriptor in the Thesaurus or when, in his view, some sufficiently important concept cannot be clearly indexed with the existing terminology, he may propose a new term as a "prospective descriptor" together with suggestions concerning the scope note and the relationships between terms. It should nevertheless be noted that the essential aim of a Thesaurus, while highlighting relationships between descriptors, is to provide regulated language for indexing and retrieval. A superabundance of new proposals for terms would consequently thwart this aim. The indexer is therefore asked to scrutinize new proposals and to have recourse to them only after an exhaustive attempt to express the concept in question by means of the existing terminology.

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## 2 - INDEXING OF THE QUESTION

Just as the ordinary language terms used to note the information in the document are "translated" into the standard Thesaurus language, the terms of the question will need to be translated in accordance with the same process. The category tables may be a valuable aid if the user can gear his question to them.

## 3 - RETRIEVAL

3.1.- The retrieval system we use is a "Peek-a-boo" system, which permits a studied reply and is easy to handle. In the "Peek-a-boo" system each descriptor has its card which is punched with the number of the indexing items where the descriptor is used. One can therefore, either for general retrieval, use the card of a descriptor and take down the numbers of the indexing items where it has been used, or for more sophisticated retrieval combine several descriptor cards which, when superimposed, will reveal just the indexing numbers where the descriptors singled out are used simultaneously. Each subject or each question is indexed by means of a set of descriptors incorporated in a brief analysis, each descriptor being underlined.

### 3.2.- Simplified use

Documentation centres not wishing or unable to install machine retrieval systems will nevertheless be able to use the Thesaurus to compile a "subject file", taking if necessary only the most generic terms. Indexing may be based on the same principles ; only the one or two most significant terms will be underlined and used in the "subject file" initially ; matching to a "Peek-a-boo" system will be effected subsequently and all the terms used will be applied without the need to repeat the indexing process.

### 3.3.- Computerized use

Some of our correspondents use the Thesaurus for their computer-based reference input and retrieval.

Research Assistant

F. REYNAUD