Using Thesauri to Understand Faculty Research

Scott Curtis, RLS Librarian UMKC Libraries PSP Forum June 11, 2013

Bee vision

Bee vision

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From The Why? Files blog

Humans perceive a wider range of visible color spectrum than bees. However, we see a yellow flower. Bees, see some UV and a limited portion of the human-visible spectrum, so they see a yellow bullseye with a dark center that enables them to get right to the rich pollen (the center image).

Database searching - keyword versus controlled vocabulary / thesaurus

Databases often make *keywords* searchable in either full text of documents, or as "tags" or metadata (e.g. "subject headings," "Engineering terms," etc.) in separate *search fields*.

Because different people use different keywords for the same topic/subject, *controlled vocabularies* were developed for specialized subjects for use in these separate fields.

A *thesaurus* in this context is a controlled vocabulary developed with an effort is made to define the relationships between terms.

Why use a thesaurus?

- Authority
- Proven utility over time
- Regularly updated for new trends
- Ease of use / efficiency of searching

Two major examples of thesauri for database searching are MeSH (**Me**dical **S**ubject **H**eadings) in PubMed and the Ei Thesaurus in Compendex.

Preliminary/Exploratory Methodology

- Select a database with a controlled vocabulary.
 (Compendex)
- 2. Search for documents by affiliation (UMKC)
- 3. Limit to tenure-track faculty from School of Computing and Engineering (SCE)
- 4. Limit to time period 2010-2013
- 5. Find controlled vocabulary terms used to identify the documents.
- Using the structure of the Ei Thesaurus, create a hierarchical structure of controlled vocabulary terms specific to UMKC SCE research

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Proceedings of the 2012 International Conference on Electromagnetics in Advanced Applications, ICEAA'12

2012, Article number6328773, Pages 952-953

2012 14th International Conference on Electromagnetics in Advanced Applications, ICEAA 2012; Cape Town; South Africa; 2 September 2012 through 7 September 2012; Category numberCFP1268B-ART; Code 93620

Numerical assessment of high-frequency mutual coupling between sources on convex surfaces with variable curvatures (Conference Paper)

Chatterjee, D. A. Reddy, C.J. D.

- CSEE Department, University of Missouri Kansas City, 5110 Rockhill Road, KC, MO 64110, United States
- ^b Applied ElectroMagnetics, 144 Research Drive, Hampton, VA 23666, United States

Abstract

Analysi

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solver

mutual coupling between slots on variable curvatures is analyzed via use of high-frequency asymptotic methods and the full-wave numerical Results for isolation parameter, S 12, between two axial slots on a circular cone, obtained via FEKO and measurements, are included ent agreement between FEKO simulations and measurements suggest that the accuracy of the high-frequency asymptotic formulations ssed with confidence against the results from the full wave solver for convex surfaces with variable curvatures. © 2012 IEEE.

Indexed keywords

Circular cones; Convex surfaces; Full waves; High frequency HF; High-frequency asymptotics; Isolation parameters; Mutual coupling; Numerical solvers: Simulations and measurements: Variable curvature

Engineering controlled terms: Electromagnetism

Engineering main heading: Numerical methods

ISBN: 978-146730335-4 Source Type: Conference Proceeding Original language: English

DOI: 10.1109/ICEAA.2012.6328773 Document Type: Conference Paper

Sponsors: IEEE Antennas and Propagation Society

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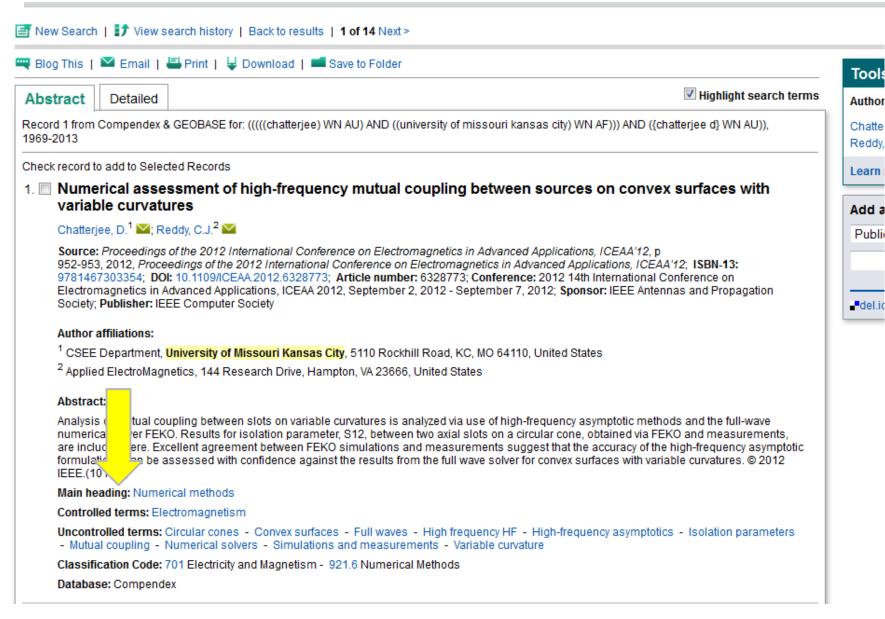




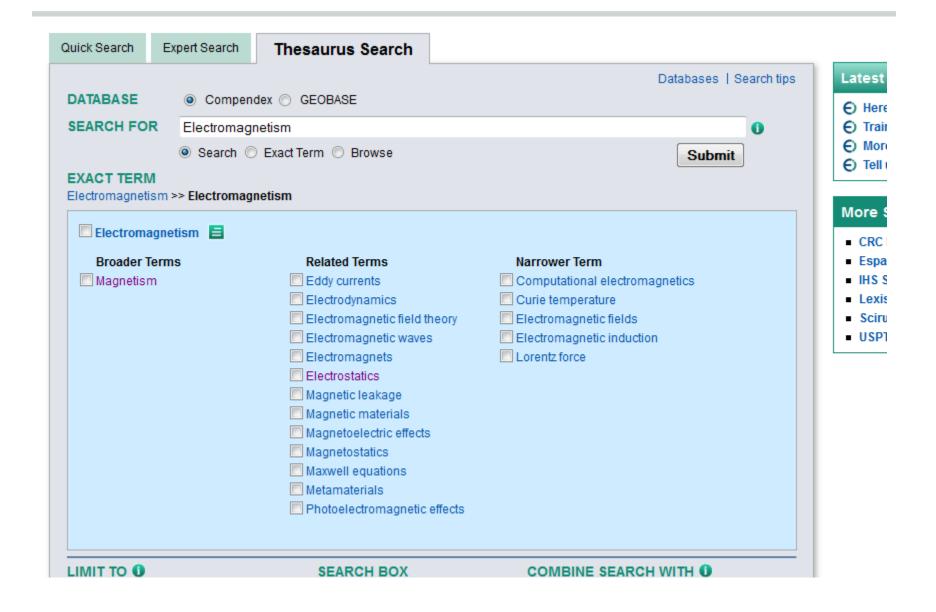
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This is SCOPUS - Note the indexing section



The same document in COMPENDEX. Note the linking to the controlled terms and the classification codes.



COMPENDEX enables the searcher to view the Ei Thesaurus, determining broader/narrower terms.

Exploratory results

Ei Controlled Terms and Ei Main Headings were harvested into an Excel spreadsheet.

After de-duplicating, 162 unique Ei Controlled Terms and 37 Ei Main Headings identified.

The Challenge - Visualization

Equipment

Biomedical equipment

Prosthetics

Artificial limbs

Combustion equipment

Furnaces

Metallurgical furnaces

Blast furnaces

Electronic equipment

Audio equipment

Audio systems

Computers

Computer hardware

Data storage equipment

Digital storage

Virtual storage

Computer systems

Distributed computer systems

Multiprocessing systems

Parallel processing systems

Parallel architectures

Real time systems

This is an indented hierarchy visualization using Word

Visualization - another example

Clip	board 🖫	Font	- Align	ment 🖫 Number	□ Styles	Cells
	D180	→ (° ,	f_{x}			
1		A	В	С	D	Е
154				Reusability		
155	Environmental	engineering				
156			Ecology			
157				Eutrophication		
158			Natural resources			
159				Natural resources management		
160					Water management	
161				Water resources		
162					Water management	
	Equipment					
164			Biomedical equipment			
165				Prosthetics		
166					Artificial limbs	
167			Combustion equipment			
168				Furnaces		
169					Metallurgical furnaces	
170						Blast furnaces
171			Electronic equipment			
172				Audio equipment		
173					Audio systems	
174				Computers		
175					Computer hardware	
176						Data storage equipment
177						
178						

Visualizing Using Excel

Why?

Goal is to have a way to visualize the research output/activity of the faculty. This has several benefits:

- Enabling liaison to better tailor services.
- Educating liaison to utilize more precise search strategies.
- Facilitating liaison and library in identifying potential collaborations across departments by mapping of terms between research programs (may be automated by Faculty Accomplishment System / VIVO)
- Create a document useful to non-specialist librarians and as a learning tool for new specialist librarians.

Reason for Healthy Skepticism

Metacrap (links to the 2001 essay / screed / manifesto by Cory Doctorow; worth reading for any info. pro.)

Specifically, these points apply

- 2.2 People are lazy
- 2.3 People are stupid
- 2.5 Schemas (thesauri) aren't natural
- 2.7 There's more than one way to describe something

Leading to....GIGO (garbage in / garbage out)

Collaboration with Colleagues

Establishing Active Faculty Teaching and Research Profiles

Fu Zhuo, UMKC Thomas Burns, UMKC Scott Curtis, UMKC Anne Allen, UMKC

Questions/Comments?

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