

## The IAU Thesaurus in view of the VO project.

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The Astronomy Thesaurus Project (other names: T-REX project, IAU Thesaurus project) with the Multi-Lingual Supplement was realized by R.M. and R.R. Shobbrook in cooperation with the librarians of different countries on the task and instructions of the IAU, Commission 5. This extensive voluntary work of great number of people was initiated in 1986 (Shobbrook R.M., 1989). As a final result, the hard copies of *The Astronomy Thesaurus* (Shobbrook et al., 1993) and the *Multi-Lingual Supplement* (Shobbrook et al., 1995) were published by Australia Image Output. The electronic versions of both documents are presented and available in Internet:

<http://msowww.anu.edu.au/library/thesaurus>

The IAU Thesaurus contains more than 3,300 primary terms, but it is not a simple list of terms. The Thesaurus also supplies a hierarchy of words and phrases and includes their relationship "which is to provide a standardized vocabulary for information storage and retrieval systems" in according to the rules defined by the American National Standard Institute (Shobbrook & Shobbrook, 1992).

The Multi-Lingual Supplement is available in English, French, German, Italian, and Spanish.

The IAU Thesaurus proved to be indispensable in the practice providing the keywords' searching of items and terms. This advisable list of terms was used for the network of the ESO libraries (Grothkopf, Treunann & Gomez, 2001).

The items and its hierarchy from the Thesaurus turned to be constructive for the revision of UDC52 (Wilkins, 1998).

The keyword data for building and development of a literature retrieval service for the NASA ADS were received from the T-REX project (Kurtz et al., 1999). The authors (Accomazzi et.al. 1999) who constructed ADS as the most suitable and favorable retrieval system mention: "Over the years, the clustering of terms in synonym groups has incorporated data from different sources, including the "Multi-Lingual Supplement to the Astronomy Thesaurus."

The IAU Thesaurus and the Multi-Lingual Supplement are also valuable as a supply of universal keywords for astronomical journals of different countries.

Unfortunately, this productive work was not continued. On the title page of T-REX is written: "The Astronomy Thesaurus has not been updated since 1993/5 and there are no plans to do so in the foreseeable future." Both Robyn and Robert Shobbrooks retired from their institutions but they agreed to participate in a future work as consultants.

Now when the project of International Virtual Observatory (IVO) is to become a reality some elements of the international efforts must be common and agreed

upon the IVO as it is declared in "The International Virtual Observatory Alliance. A Mission and Roadmap Statement". "Most of these common elements have to do with standards for data and interfaces. Other common or shared elements may be in the form of software packages, source code libraries, and development tools" (Quinn P. J., Hanisch R., Lawrence A., 2002). The Project of the Russian VO (Dluzhnevskaya et. al, 2003) provides for integrating the Russian and the former Soviet Union archives and publications into the IVO with developing such common standards and tools.

We are presently carrying out the translation of the Astronomy Thesaurus into Russian and also into Ukrainian as an addition to the Multi-Lingual Supplement (Dorokhova T., Dorokhov N., 2003). Hopefully, that such project will be in the line of the RVO Project and promote involving a bulk of Russian and Ukrainian astronomical publications and data archives into existing World Data Networks.

We are ready to participate in the updating process of the Astronomy Thesaurus. We consider that it is necessary to establish a special active Committee in the frame of the Commission 5 which will be responsible for the organization and introduce into operation of the up-to-date versions of such approved and accepted systems like the Astronomy Thesaurus and UDC52.

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