Online Search Aids

*User Guide*

Petroleum Abstracts®
A Division of
The University of Tulsa
Introduction

The Petroleum Abstracts BRICKS Online Thesaurus is the taxonomy tool that supports the indexing and subsequent retrieval of the articles and patents processed by Petroleum Abstracts. Under development for over 50 years, the BRICKS Thesaurus is a world standard for oilfield technical terminology.

The Dictionary actually consists of the following components:

- **The Exploration and Production Thesaurus.** A compilation of relevant E&P technical index terms and their relationships, covering the areas of geology; geochemistry; geophysics; drilling; well logging; well completion & servicing; production of oil & gas; reservoir engineering & recovery methods; pipelining, shipping & storage; ecology & pollution; alternate fuels & energy sources; and supplemental technology.

- **The Geographic Thesaurus.** A listing of sedimentary basins, geographic features, and geographic area terms and their relationships.

- **Geographic Supplement.** A compilation of names of formations, groups, series, oil fields, anticlines, faults, counties, and similar terms not included in the Geographic Thesaurus proper.

- **Company List.** Terms for indexing company and organization names.

- **Chemical List.** Terms for indexing specific chemical names.

- **The E&P KWOC (Key Word Out of Context).** An alphabetical listing of the words comprising the index terms in the E&P Thesaurus. Used as an aid in locating E&P index terms.

- **The Geographic KWOC.** An alphabetical listing of the words comprising the index terms in the Geographic Thesaurus. Used as an aid in locating geographic index terms.

- **The Term Frequency List.** A compilation of every term used in the TULSA database and the number of times those terms were used.

Previously, these components ("Search Aids") were distributed in paper form at various times and with various frequencies of update. Extensively used by the indexers at Petroleum Abstracts and by customers who search the TULSA database, these components are currently combined in one web-based product, Petroleum Abstracts' Online Search Aids package, WorldWide Bricks.

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As can be seen in this figure, the active area consists of a text entry field that allows the user to enter the words for the query, and two results box. The Search Results box will display the list of terms resulting from the query and the Term Relationships box will display the thesaurus entry for any term clicked on in the Search Results box.

In the right-hand corner of the screen is a link to New Terms. Additions to the thesaurus are listed by the month in which they first appear in the TULSA database.
In Figure 2, the user has entered the “words” *comp pro* and has submitted them as component words to the query. It should be noted that the query will be performed with a wild card appended to each word and with an implied “AND” between search words.

The following are additional notes concerning the query strategy:

- Every word entered in the text box will have its alphabetic characters forced to upper case since the thesaurus entries are uniformly upper case.
- Some chemical terms are difficult to KWOC. Some experimenting may be needed to deal with them.
- The more words entered, the shorter will be the result list. Usually, one or two will suffice.
- The result list will be truncated at 1000.
- If a word ends with a '*' character, a wild card is not appended.
- A leading wild card may be indicated by prepending the query with the '%' character.
- To limit the search to terms starting with a specific word, prepend the query with the '^A' character.
- Queries may be limited to one or more subsets of the thesaurus using the vocabularies check boxes; E&P (Exploration & Production), Geographic, Companies, Chemicals.
- The Search Results shows frequency usage of valid terms (total/weighted).
- Invalid terms are displayed in red italic font.
Figure 3

Figure 3 shows the display after the user has clicked on the term “COMPUTER PROGRAMMING”. The relevant data for that term is displayed in the Term Relationships box. This includes the term, whether it's valid or invalid, indexed or not indexed, autoposted or not autoposted, entry date, and number of times it's used in the TULSA database (total/weighted) as well as any scope notes and all applicable relationships. Note that the Term Relationships box will cascade. That is, if the user clicks on a term in the Term Relationships box, the data will be replaced with data for the clicked term.

Some browsers will allow printing of just the contents of an iframe box. This can provide a convenient hard copy of the relationships for a given term.
Examples

Traditional search using KWOC methodology - wild card appended to each word

Figure 4
Special character '*' disables wild card at end of each word - requires exact match.

![BRICKS Online Thesaurus](image)

**Figure 5**
Special character '%' allows search words to be part of other words

Figure 6
Special character '^' limits search to terms beginning with first work of query string

Figure 7
Combination of two special characters in search

Figure 8
Narrow search by limiting to E&P subset

Figure 9
Narrow search by limiting to Geographic subsets

Figure 10
Narrow search by limiting to Companies subset

Figure 11
Using special character to get to Chemicals which contain search word

Figure 12
Narrow search by limiting to multiple subsets

Figure 13
EXPLORATION & PRODUCTION
THESAURUS DESCRIPTION

INTRODUCTION
The Exploration and Production (E&P) Thesaurus covers the subject areas of geology; geochemistry; geophysics; drilling; well logging; well completion & servicing; production of oil & gas; reservoir engineering & recovery methods; pipelining, shipping & storage; alternate fuels & energy sources; business & economics; health, safety & environment; and science & engineering. The first edition of the E&P Thesaurus (1965) was compiled in a format similar to that used by the Engineers Joint Council in its Thesaurus of Engineering Terms. All subsequent editions of the Thesaurus are similar in format to the first edition; however, the philosophy used in building hierarchies is different. In developing the hierarchical relationships of the first edition, discipline-oriented principles were used, whereas the later editions are based on concept-oriented (faceted) principles. A complete outline of the hierarchy and an alphabetic index to the hierarchy are included at the end of the main Thesaurus.

DEFINITION
A thesaurus, by definition, is "...a controlled vocabulary arranged in a known order in which equivalence, homographic, hierarchical, and associative relationships among terms are clearly displayed and identified by standardized relationship indicators, which must be employed reciprocally. Its purposes are to promote consistency in the indexing of documents, predominantly for postcoordinated information storage and retrieval systems, and to facilitate searching..." (National Information Standards Organization (NISO), Z39.19 - 1993). Petroleum Abstracts uses a set of two thesauri and their supplemental lists. The E&P Thesaurus is a collection of words and phrases that are descriptive of the concepts and equipment pertaining to petroleum exploration, development and production, exclusive of geographic areas and named geologic terms, which are included in the Geographic Thesaurus and its supplement. Further, the E&P Thesaurus is a controlled vocabulary for this subject area, in which the various concepts have been linked by means of generic or hierarchical relationships. These relationships may be truly generic or may be associations by use, or even convenience. Synonyms are handled as follows: all terms of like meaning are directed to one term for use as the index term for that particular concept. This selection usually follows popular usage and the patterns set by existing terms in the Thesaurus. The chosen term is called a "valid" index term; the other like terms are called "invalid" and are not used for indexing.

FORMAT
The main body of the E&P Thesaurus consists of entry terms arranged in alphabetical order. Under each entry term, one or more of the following entries may be found:

* Entire spelling of abbreviated index term
** Scope Note or Explanatory Note, including history of usage and previous relationships, where applicable
USE Use ... (valid term)
UF Used For ... (invalid term)
NT Narrow Term
BT Broad Term
SA See Also
PLS Plus
WTH With

Terms are limited to a maximum length of 26 characters, including spaces between words. For longer descriptors, abbreviations are required.

ELECTROMAGNETIC EXPLR EQ
* ELECTROMAGNETIC EXPLORATION EQUIPMENT

MPR
* MAXIMUM PRODUCING RATE

Scope Note entries (double asterisk) are used to restrict the scope of an index term or to define its meaning, to indicate previous (now invalid) scope notes, to tell when the term was first available for indexing, to show what terms were used previously to describe this concept, and to indicate changes in hierarchical relationships. Numbers in parentheses show applicable year ranges.

MEGAORGANISM
** FOR GENERAL DESIGNATION OF RECENT FORMS ONLY. SEE SPECIFIC TYPES.

MARGINAL BASIN
** INDICATES A MARINE DEPOSITIONAL BASIN ON THE CONTINENTAL MARGIN.

GEOPHYSICAL COST
** ADDED JANUARY 1968.
USED (65-67) GEOPHYSICS PLUS COST.

GEOLOGIC MAP
** NT (76---) PALEOGEOLOGIC MAP
BT (67---) MAP

USE entries indicate the valid term used for indexing instead of the entry term.

DOWNHOLE PUMP
USE WELL PUMP

FLUIDITY
USE VISCOSITY
UF (Used For) indicates an invalid term that is directed to the valid term under which it is listed.

WELL PUMP
   UF  DOWNHOLE PUMP

NT (Narrow Term) designates a term which is a more specific subdivision of the entry term.

LIMESTONE
   NT  CHERTY LIMESTONE

BT (Broad Term) designates one or more hierarchically related terms, of which the concept is a logical subdivision.

METERING SEPARATOR
   BT  SEPARATION EQUIPMENT

MUD PUMPABILITY
   BT  MUD PROPERTY
       FLUID PROPERTY
       PHYSICAL PROPERTY

SA (See Also) usually designates terms that are related in meaning but not directly connected in a vertical hierarchical relationship. It may be used also to show terms of alternate or opposite meaning.

HELIPORT
   SA  HELICOPTER

HIGH MOLECULAR WEIGHT
   SA  LOW MOLECULAR WEIGHT
   SA  MOLECULAR STRUCTURE
   SA  POLYMER

PLS (Plus) indicates the second term of a two-term synonym; used with the USE statement.

CAVERNOUS POROSITY
   USE  VUGGY POROSITY
   PLS  CAVERN

WTH (With) indicates the second term of a two-term synonym; used with the UF statement.

CAVERN
   UF  CAVERNOUS POROSITY
   WTH  VUGGY POROSITY

VUGGY POROSITY
   UF  CAVERNOUS POROSITY
   WTH  CAVERN

(A) SEISMIC SPREAD
(B) **  FOR GEOPHONE CONFIGURATIONS.
     FOR SHOTPOINT CONFIGURATIONS
     SEE ARRAY.  FOR HYDROPHONE CONFIGURATIONS SEE SEISMIC STREAMER.
     NT (67--) INTERFERENCE SPREAD
     NT (70--) LARGE APER SEIS AR (LASA)
(C)  UF GEOPHONE PATTERN
     UF GEOPHONE SPREAD
     UF LONG SPREAD
     UF SUBSURFACE SPREAD
(D)  NT CROSS SPREAD
     NT HORIZONTAL SPREAD
     NT IN LINE SPREAD
     NT INTERFERENCE SPREAD
     NT LARGE APER SEIS AR (LASA)
     NT OFF LINE SPREAD
     NT SPLIT SPREAD
     NT SURFACE SPREAD
     NT VERTICAL SPREAD
(E)  BT PATTERN
(F)  SA DETECTOR LOCATION
     SA GEOPHONE
     SA MOVEOUT
     SA NORMAL MOVEOUT
     SA OVERLAP (NOISE REDUCTION)
     SA PATTERN SHOOTING
     SA SEISMIC EXPLORATION
     SA SEISMIC STREAMER
     SA SUBSURFACE SHOOTING

(A) SEISMIC TRACE DIFFERENTN
(G)  *  SEISMIC TRACE DIFFERENTIATION
(H)  USE  SEISMIC INTERPRETATION

Explanation:
(A) Entry Term
(B) Scope Note. Provides definition or limitations of meaning or usage.
(C) Used For reference. Indicates that SEISMIC SPREAD is used to index the concept GEOPHONE PATTERN.
(D) Narrow Term reference. Indicates a subsidiary or narrower hierarchical relationship to the entry term.
(E) Broad Term reference. Indicates the next higher term in the hierarchy.
(F) See Also reference. Indicates a synonymous or related relationship or, in some instances, an alternate or opposite concept.
(G) Abbreviated term spelled out.
(H) Use reference. Indicates the valid term used instead of the entry term.

Figure 1. Example of cross-reference notations.
EXPLORATION & PRODUCTION THESAURUS

SUPPLEMENTAL TERMS

Sets of terms for company names and for chemicals are published in supplementary lists at annual intervals. Petroleum Abstracts uses these Supplemental Terms along with the E&P Thesaurus and the Geographic Thesaurus and its supplement to index documents. New E&P terms are incorporated into each new edition of the E&P Thesaurus.

GEOGRAPHIC THESAURUS

The Geographic Thesaurus contains a listing of sedimentary basins, geographic features, and geographic area terms and their relationships. Its format is patterned after the E&P Thesaurus in a hierarchical fashion. The Geographic Thesaurus: Supplemental Terms contains the names of formations, groups, series, oil fields, anticlines, faults, counties, and similar terms that are not included in the Geographic Thesaurus proper.

AUTOPOSTING

Petroleum Abstracts follows the policy of assigning the most specific index terms available to the document in hand. All broader terms in the hierarchies for those terms are automatically assigned through computer processing as additional index terms.

HIERARCHY

The hierarchy provides a compact listing of the index terms in their structured form. The Thesaurus terms are interrelated on the concept-oriented (faceted) principle, and all descriptors are narrower terms of one of ten facet headings. These ten facets, which appear alphabetically, are as follows:

- COMMON ATTRIBUTE
- EARTH AND SPACE CONCEPTS
- ECONOMIC FACTOR
- EQUIPMENT
- LIFE FORM
- MATERIAL
- OPERATING CONDITION
- PHENOMENON
- PROCESS
- PROPERTY

In hierarchical listings, the words appearing in [brackets] are there for the purpose of drawing sets of like terms together; they are not valid terms and do not appear in the body of the Thesaurus. Words appearing in (parentheses) are valid terms; they do appear in the body of the Thesaurus, but are not autoposted by their narrower terms.

The Hierarchy Index provides a convenient means for locating any term in the hierarchy. Each column of the hierarchy is numbered, and the index indicates the hierarchy column in which the term may be found.

ALPHABETIZATION RULES

Terms are ordered according to the ASCII sorting sequence: numbers precede letters and symbols, such as parentheses, precede numbers. Spaces precede all other data. Abbreviations appear in regular alphabetic sequence. See Figure 2 for an example of alphabetizing rules.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ABBREVIATION PROCEDURES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Typical abbreviations of proper names:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mount/Mountain(s) Mt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saint(e) St(e)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Company Co</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limited Ltd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incorporated Inc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. When abbreviations are used because of space limitation, the following criteria are applied:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a. The first word of a concept is not abbreviated except in the rare instances where such is common usage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>API STANDARD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NMR SPECTROSCOPY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. When necessary, individual letters (usually vowels) are deleted from words, as near the end of a term as possible, making sure that a legitimate word is not created in the process.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AIRBORNE GRAVITY EXPLORATN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* AIRBORNE GRAVITY EXPLORATION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONT OFFSHORE STRAT TEST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* CONTINENTAL OFFSHORE STRATIGRAPHIC TEST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Spaces are not left between initials, and they are not punctuated; e.g., API STANDARD. Two exceptions occur in this Thesaurus: K A DATING and RB SR DATING.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MINIMUM MISCIBILITY PRES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* MINIMUM MISCIBILITY PRESSURE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Other abbreviations are selected from the following references:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a. Abbreviation compilation used for Petroleum Abstracts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Suggestions to Authors, U.S. Geological Survey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Webster's Third International Dictionary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. American Standard for Periodical Title Abbreviations, 1963; Council of National Library Associations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
REQUIREMENTS FOR NEW INDEX TERMS

Rules for the creation of index terms are as follows:

1. A new index term must represent a distinctive concept not currently included in the Thesaurus.

2. Effort is made to retain commonly used word combinations.
   - GAS CHROMATOGRAPHY
   - IN SITU COMBUSTION
   - SEISMIC RECORDING
   - THRUST FAULT
   - WATER DRIVE

3. Nouns, and not adjectives, are used as terms, whenever possible.
   - ELECTRICAL
   - USE ELECTRICITY

4. Where synonyms exist, one is selected as the valid term and the others are referred to it.
   - ELECTROMOTIVE FORCE
   - USE ELECTRIC POTENTIAL

5. Effort is made to avoid inversion of word order. However, some inversions have been necessary. Where inversions exist, parentheses are used to indicate the inversion. The inverted term is then cross-referenced to the uninverted term.
   - GENERATOR (ELECTRICAL)
   - USE ELECTRIC GENERATOR
   - WELL DRILLING
   - USE DRILLING (WELL)

6. All terms are given in the singular form unless the meaning is changed by using the singular instead of the plural form: CUTTING is a process; CUTTINGS (ROCK) is a material.

ADDITIONAL DESCRIPTIVE TERMS

Category, Document Type and Language terms are added to each document in Petroleum Abstracts and these terms can be used for searching the online Petroleum Abstracts files. Consult the online documentation for the correct way to search the specific fields where these terms are listed.

The category designates the section of the weekly bulletin where the document appeared. The Mineral Commodities category was used September 1977 through June 1995. The Ecology & Pollution and Supplemental Technology categories were used until July 2006. The Business & Economics; Health, Safety & Environment; and Science & Engineering categories were added in July 2006. A list of the categories is shown in Figure 3.

Document types are assigned to indicate the type of document being indexed. A list of these is shown in Figure 4. Patent has been used since 1965; Map, Thesis, Meeting Paper Text, Meeting Paper Abstract, Government Report and Book have been assigned since 1974. The document type REVIEW or Survey was used from 1974 until mid-1987. Since then, the index term REVIEW has been used. The document type News was used from 1974 until 2000. The document type Standard has been used since January 1997. The document type Meeting Paper Visual was added in July 2003. Oil & Gas Fields File is a special document type, applied to the 1920-1964 documents pertaining to oil and gas fields. PLEASE NOTE: If the document does not fit one of the document types, no aspect code is assigned to the document. This includes all of the journal articles and miscellaneous reports. When a document fits more than one document type, the type that is highest on the list is used; the other type is indicated by an additional index term.

Finally, the language in which the document is written is indicated.

Document Retrieval

The University of Tulsa's McFarlin Library houses the documents covered by Petroleum Abstracts. Copies are provided on request, with a fee per page and the payment of appropriate royalties, from the Petroleum Abstracts Document Delivery Service.

TULSA File Access

The TULSA online file contains the contents of Petroleum Abstracts from 1965 to date, plus earlier documents pertaining to oil & gas fields. Direct access to the TULSA file is available through a search license. The Petroleum Abstracts staff will perform a search of TULSA on request. There is a charge for this service. Contact Petroleum Abstracts for more information on these services.
INTRODUCTION

The Geographic Thesaurus contains terms for the proper names of the geographic and geologic features to be used in conjunction with the Exploration and Production Thesaurus to describe published information pertaining to the exploration and production of petroleum worldwide. First published in 1973, a new edition is published annually. This Thesaurus is supplemented by the Geographic Thesaurus: Supplement which is also published annually. The types of terms contained in the Thesaurus and in its Supplement are listed in Figure 1.

GUIDELINES FOR THE CREATION OF TERMS

The ultimate authority for the location of geographic terms is the published material from which they are derived. In general, geographic locations that are used in professional refereed publications are accepted as terms for this Thesaurus. The following reference publications are used for verification and definition:

Geographic names
4. In addition, geographic names published as part of the Ocean Drilling Program and the Deep Sea Drilling Project by the National Science Foundation, Joint Oceanographic Institutions, Inc., usually are accepted as published.

For a more complete explanation of the guidelines used, see the “Petroleum Abstracts Editorial Staff Manual, Indexing Section, Guidelines for Geographic/Geologic Terminology and Indexing.”

FORMAT

The main body of the Geographic Thesaurus consists of terms arranged in alphabetical order. Under each term, one or more of the following entries may be found:

* Entire spelling of abbreviated term
** Scope Note or Explanatory Note, including history of usage and previous relationships, where applicable
USE Use ... (preferred synonym)
UF Used For ... (invalid term)
NT Narrow Term
BT Broad Term
SA See Also
PLS Plus
WTH With

The Geographic Thesaurus preparation procedures allow a maximum of 26 characters (letters and spaces) for each term. A few terms require more characters than 26; hence, abbreviations are necessary. The single asterisk entry designates the entire spelling of such descriptors.
CARBONDALE RIVER GT CR STR  
* CARBONDALE RIVER GOAT CREEK STRUCTURE

Scope Note entries (double asterisk) are used to restrict the scope of a term or to define its meaning, to instruct the indexer to use additional terms also, to tell when the term was first available for indexing, to show what terms were used previously to describe this area, and to indicate changes in hierarchical relationships. Numbers in parentheses show applicable year ranges, e.g., (65-75).

KAPUSKASING HIGH  
** BOUGUER GRAVITY ANOMALY HIGH  
FROM JAMES BAY TO LAKE SUPERIOR  
ADDED DECEMBER 1965

PSEZUAPSE RIVER  
** INDEX STATE NAME AS APPLICABLE  
ADDED JULY 1965

BOHAI BAY  
** ADDED MARCH 1981

SOUTHERN ALPS MT (NZ)  
** ADDED JUNE 1988  
USED (65-88) ALPINE AREA  
PLUS NEW ZEALAND

EUROPE  
** NT (88--->) ALPINE AREA  
BT (88--> ) EURASIA

NOTE: There have been very few changes in the broad term/narrow term relationships. Occasional adjustments are necessitated by political events. Starting with the changes made for the sixth edition (1988), historical scope notes for Broad Terms and Narrow Terms in the style of the Exploration and Production Thesaurus are being added to the Geographic Thesaurus entries.

USE entries indicate the preferred term used for indexing.

MISSISSIPPI RIVER  
USE MISSISSIPPI VALLEY

GULF OF MEXICO  
USE MEXICO GULF

UF (Used For) indicates an invalid term that is directed to the preferred term under which it is listed.

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY  
UF MISSISSIPPI RIVER  
UF MISSISSIPPI RIVER AREA  
UF UPPER MISSISSIPPI VALLEY

NT (Narrow Term) designates a term which is a more specific subdivision of the term.

CAPE VERDE ISLANDS  
NT SAL MAIO RIDGE  

BT (Broad Term) designates one or more hierarchically related terms, of which the concept is a geographical subdivision.

MALAY PENINSULA  
BT ASIA  
EURASIA

SAHARA DESERT  
BT AFRICA

SA (See Also) usually designates terms that are related but have not been directly connected in a vertical hierarchical relationship. In some cases, the SAs give information about the location of the feature or the features encompassed by the feature.

SANTA CRUZ ISLAND  
BT CALIFORNIA  
SA CHANNEL ISLANDS

SOUTHERN MT  
BT EASTERN US  
SA MARYLAND  
SA PENNSYLVANIA

NORTHEASTERN MEXICO  
BT MEXICO  
SA CHIHUAHUA  
SA COAHUILA  
SA NUEVO LEON  
SA TAMAULIPAS

PLS (Plus) indicates the second term of a two-term synonym; used with the USE statement.

WEST PUNJAB  
USE PAKISTAN  
PLS PUNJAB

WTH (With) indicates the second term of a two-term synonym; used with the UF statement.

PUNJAB  
UF WEST PUNJAB  
WTH PAKISTAN

EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION THESAURUS

The Exploration and Production Thesaurus covers the subject areas of geology; geochemistry; geophysics; drilling; well logging; well completion & servicing; production of oil & gas; reservoir engineering & recovery methods; pipelining, shipping & storage; alternate fuels & energy sources; business & economics; health, safety & environment; and science & engineering. It contains a set of terms for "Earth and Space Concepts" (e.g., DEPOSITIONAL ENVIRONMENT, FACIES, and BASIN) that are closely related to the terms in this Thesaurus.
AUTOPOSTING

Petroleum Abstracts follows the policy of assigning the most specific index terms available to the document in hand. All broader terms in the hierarchies for those terms are automatically assigned through computer processing as additional index terms.

A complete outline of the hierarchy and an alphabetic index to the hierarchy are included at the end of the main Thesaurus.

HIERARCHY

The hierarchy provides a compact listing of the terms in their structured form. WORLD is the top level of hierarchy for this Geographic Thesaurus. The terms at the next level down, which appear alphabetically, are as follows:

AFRICA
CENTRAL AMERICA
EURASIA
NORTH AMERICA
OCEANIA
SEAS AND OCEANS
SOUTH AMERICA

The Hierarchy Index provides a convenient means for locating any word in the hierarchy. Each column of the hierarchy is numbered, and the index indicates the hierarchy column in which the term may be found.

ALPHABETIZATION RULES

Terms are ordered according to the ASCII sorting sequence: numbers precede letters and symbols, such as parentheses, precede numbers. Spaces precede all other data. Abbreviations appear in regular alphabetic sequence. See Figure 2 for an example of alphabetizing rules.

ABBREVIATION PROCEDURES

Terms, including spaces between words, are limited to a maximum length of 26 characters. For longer terms, abbreviations are required.

1. Abbreviations in proper names; the following always used:
   Mount/Mountain(s) Mt
   Saint(e) St(e)

2. When abbreviations are used because of space limitation, the following criteria are applied:
   a. The first word is not abbreviated.
   b. When necessary, individual letters (usually vowels) are deleted from individual words, as near the end of a concept as possible, making sure that a legitimate word is not created in the process.

BOLIVAR MANSFIELD FLT SYST
   * BOLIVAR MANSFIELD FAULT SYSTEM

COURTHOUSE CREEK FRACT ZON
   * COURTHOUSE CREEK FRACTURE ZONE

   c. Spaces are not left between initials, and they are not punctuated; e.g., EASTERN US.

3. Other abbreviations are selected from the following references:
   a. Abbreviation compilation used for Petroleum Abstracts.
   b. Suggestions to Authors, U.S. Geological Survey
   c. Webster’s Third International Dictionary
   d. American Standard for Periodical Title Abbreviations, 1963; Council of National Library Associations

4. Abbreviations for state names (US)

   ALABAMA ALA
   ALASKA ALASKA
   ARIZONA ARIZ
   ARKANSAS ARK
   CALIFORNIA CALIF
   COLORADO COLO
   CONNECTICUT CT
   DELAWARE DEL
   FLORIDA FLA
   GEORGIA GA
   HAWAII HAWAII
   IDAHO IDAHO
   ILLINOIS ILL
   INDIANA IND
   IOWA IOWA
   KANSAS KANS
   KENTUCKY KY
   LOUISIANA LA
   (not used with parish names, only parenthetically with field names)
   MAINE MAINE
   MARYLAND MD
   MASSACHUSETTS MASS
   MICHIGAN MICH
   MINNESOTA MINN
   MISSISSIPPI MISS
   MISSOURI MO
   MONTANA MONT
   NEBRASKA NEBR
   NEVADA NEV
   NEW HAMPSHIRE NH
   NEW JERSEY N J
   NEW MEXICO N MEX
   NEW YORK N Y
   NORTH CAROLINA N CAR
   NORTH DAKOTA N DAK
   OHIO OHIO
   OKLAHOMA OKLA
   OREGON ORE
   PENNSYLVANIA PA
   RHODE ISLAND RI
   SOUTH CAROLINA S CAR
   SOUTH DAKOTA N CAR
   TENNESSEE TENN
   TEXAS TEX

Figure 2. Alphabetizing order
Requirements for New Terms

Rules for the creation of terms are as follows:

1. A new term must represent a distinctive area not currently included in the Thesaurus.

2. Where synonyms or near synonyms exist, one is selected as a term, and the others are referred to it.

   East Texas Area
   Use East Texas Basin

3. Terms containing "of", such as "Gulf of ______" and "Strait of ______", are inverted to facilitate online retrieval whenever possible. Examples: MEXICO GULF and FLORIDA STRAITS.

Additional Descriptive Terms

Category, Document Type and Language descriptors are added to each document in Petroleum Abstracts and these descriptors can be used for searching the online Petroleum Abstracts files. Consult the online documentation for the correct way to search the specific fields where these descriptors are listed.

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