

ISO 25964 – plans and progress towards the revised international standard for thesauri

In 2007 the final part of BS 8723 was published, completing the following family of standards:

BS 8723: Structured vocabularies for information retrieval – Guide

- Part 1: Definitions, symbols and abbreviations
- Part 2: Thesauri
- Part 3: Vocabularies other than thesauri
- Part 4: Interoperability between vocabularies
- Part 5: Exchange formats and protocols for interoperability

Even before the ink on Part 5 was dry, work began on adopting and adapting the British Standard to become ISO 25964.

ISO 25964 will revise and supersede both ISO 2788 and ISO 5964. While based on BS 8723, it will rearrange the content as follows:

ISO 25964: Thesauri and interoperability with other vocabularies

- Part 1: Thesauri for information retrieval
- Part 2: Interoperability with other vocabularies

A draft of Part 1 is now in the final editorial stages and scheduled for issue later in 2009. Work has begun on Part 2.

Differences from BS 8723:

- The data model has been extended, to cover all types of thesauri complying with the standard. It also supports more thesaurus features than does SKOS
- More detail on multilingual aspects
- Updated examples illustrating multilingual thesauri
- The distinction between terms and concepts has been tightened
- Rethink of the presentation of vocabularies other than thesauri
- General update

In summary, quite soon we shall have an international standard for thesauri that is fit for the digital, networking era.
