

Thesaurus Structure and Relationships

The **SIRCThesaurus** is adapted to the needs of both indexers and searchers of the **SPORTDiscus**. It is divided into six distinct sections, which are described below.

- The main body of the **SIRCThesaurus** lists all sport and non-sport (medical, science and social science) terminology used in the indexing of documents for the **SPORTDiscus**.
- The second section contains Personal names descriptors, that provide an overview of the material that deals with athletes, coaches, and other such individuals involved in the field of sport. These are generally used for biographies or interviews of individuals. As a rule, personal names are entered surname first, followed by a comma, a space and the punctuated initial of the first name. For example, Wayne Gretzky would be entered as “Gretzky, W.” In cases where a second name is provided, the use of a second initial is also possible. For example, Billie Jean King would be entered as “King, B.J.”, and Jean-Claude Killy would be entered as “Killy, J.C.”
- The third section displays geographical terms, such as names of countries, cities, provinces, regions or states.
- The fourth section contains a listing of sport teams, clubs, and associations.
- The fifth section contains the Corporate descriptors. These can include brand names, names of businesses or corporations, names of universities or institutes, etc.
- The sixth and final section contains the Bibliography Codes, which complement the use of descriptors in searching the **SPORTDiscus**.

Accepted Thesaurus terms are listed alphabetically in upper case boldface characters with each entry followed by information that allows the user to understand the context of the term, its history and its relationship to other relevant terms. These elements are explained below.

a) Scope Note

The Scope notes in the **SIRCThesaurus** fall into three distinct categories. They can be either a brief statement clarifying the usage of the keyword, an historical note on how the term has been used, or they can provide information to **SPORTDiscus** users on how to retrieve information on an important related topic. Examples of these cases appear below.

BLOOD SUGAR

Scope Note: Used as an index term from July 1974 to July 1983.

ROLL

Scope Note: Body movement through a complete revolution with the body contacting the floor.

RULE

Scope Note: Use for rules of games only. For rules relating to the administration of associations, use **POLICY**.

b) BT (Broad Term) and NT (Narrow Term)

Broad Term and Narrow Term designations indicate hierarchical relationships between a class and its subclasses. A Broad Term indicates the more general class or classes to which a Thesaurus term may logically belong. For every Broad Term entry a reciprocal Narrow Term entry is made in the Thesaurus.

RUNNING

BT TRACK AND FIELD

TRACK AND FIELD
NT RUNNING

c) *RT (Related Term)*

Thesaurus terms having a similar conceptual relationship without being located in the same class of terms and therefore not sharing a BT/NT relationship, are given a Related Term relationship. For every Related Term entry, a reciprocal Related Term entry is made in the Thesaurus.

ROPE CLIMBING
RT CLIMBING

CLIMBING
RT ROPE CLIMBING

d) *USED FOR*

Terms listed as USED FOR entries are frequently encountered synonyms, abbreviations or alternate spellings. These are not used in indexing for the **SPORTDiscus** and are only entered as pointers to preferred searching terminology.

BOARDSAILING
Scope Note: WINDSURFING was previously used as the index term.
UF sailboarding
windsurfing

e) *USE*

The USE reference directs the user from a synonym, abbreviation or an alternate spelling in lower case to the preferred descriptor that is used in the indexing process. A scope note indicating previous usage of the non-preferred term can also appear.

sailboarding
USE **BOARDSAILING**

windsurfing
Scope Note: *Used as an index term from July 1974 to August 1983.*
USE **BOARDSAILING**

Cases where the use of multiple descriptors is required to represent a specific concept have called for the creation of three new cross-reference structures. The USE AND reference, which indicates the combination of terms that are to be used to identify the concept represented by the non-preferred term; the USE OR reference, which indicates the available options to choose from to represent a particular aspect of a concept; and the USE AND/OR reference, which is a combination of the two. Further explanations and examples are provided below.

f) *USE AND*

This type of cross-reference directs the user from the non-preferred term to the descriptors that are to be used together to represent the concept.

muscle fibre
USE **FIBRE**
AND **MUSCLE**

All the terms designated as preferred terms indicate this usage in the scope note of the main term.

FIBRE

Scope Note: Use for textiles. For muscle fibre, use with *MUSCLE*. For dietary fibre use *CELLULOSE*.

MUSCLE

Scope Note: Use with *FIBRE* for muscle fibre. Use with *RELAXATION* for muscle relaxation. Use with *MITOCHONDRIA* for muscle mitochondria. Use with *ELASTICITY* for muscle elasticity.

g) *USE OR*

This type of cross-reference directs the user from the non-preferred term to a number of descriptors available for use to represent a specific concept. Only one of the available descriptors is to be selected from those available.

aerobics

USE AEROBIC DANCE

OR AEROBIC TRAINING

aerobiosis

USE AEROBIC METABOLISM

OR AEROBIC THRESHOLD

h) *USE AND/OR*

This type of cross-reference indicates that one main descriptor is to be used along with a selection between various other descriptors.

clay pigeon shooting

USE CLAY PIGEON

AND

USE SKEET SHOOTING

OR TRAP SHOOTING

In cases where ambiguity may occur, qualifying expressions are included in parentheses alongside the non-preferred term. This allows the user to distinguish between different interpretations of homonyms.

pool (structure)

USE SWIMMING POOL

pin (golf)

USE FLAGSTICK

pin (wrestling, etc.)

USE PINNING

guard (football)

USE LINEMAN

Dates and Historical Keywords

Three categories of date keywords are used in the indexing of documents for the **SPORTDiscus**. The first is the specific year, the second is the decade, and the third is the century.

The decade keywords include the letter D immediately following the year in question, while the letter H immediately follows keywords indicating a particular century. Hierarchical and USE relationships are made to the broad or narrow term.

1900D	
NT	1900 1901 1902 1903 1904 1905 1906 1907 1908 1909 EDWARDIAN ERA
BT	1900H
1900H	
BT	HISTORY 1910D 1920D 1930D 1940D 1950D 1960D 1970D 1980D 1990D
NT	1900D
	20th century
USE	1900H

As date keywords are generally used to index articles dealing with the historical aspect of a particular subject, they are used jointly with the descriptor HISTORY.

Note that documents dealing with a time period of more than four years in a decade or more than four decades in a century are indexed using the particular decade or century in question. As such, /1990D/ is used instead of /1991/, /1992/, /1993/, /1994/ and /1995/; and /1900H/ is used instead of /1950/, /1960/, /1970/, /1980/ and /1990/.

Date descriptors are also used in the indexing of documents dealing with future projections, analyses of trends, etc. Examples that come to mind are cities bidding to host Olympic Games or other such events, predictions of future activities and lifestyles, and market trends for certain products or activities.

TITLE	A 20-year perspective: what has changed?
DESC	/woman//sport//1970D//1980D/ /1990D//social change
BB	924001

TITLE	2010 Olympic Bid – Vancouver Whistler 2000.
DESC	/Olympic Games//2010//host city//bidding/ /Vancouver//Whistler Mountain/
BB	291008
TITLE	History, legislation and professional resources.
DESC	/physical education//handicapped///history/ /legislation//1800H//1900H//United States/
BB	906160

Dates also make up a part of descriptors representing international or national sporting events incorporating several sports in their venue.

Asian Games, Beijing 1990

Olympic Games, Salt Lake City 2002

The SIRCThesaurus also includes an extensive list of bibliography codes that are designed for use in the document analysis process. Their purpose is to reflect the principal subject of the document being indexed, and any important aspects thereof. These codes provide a complement to the descriptors selected to represent the content of each record. With the advances in information technology, these codes have become useful searching tools for the SPORTDiscus.

Note that bibliography codes can be used in SPORTDiscus searches on all the vendor platforms. Consult the field guides for each platform for further details.

The codes are divided into six separate sections, each one representing a specific category of information.

The first section contains **Competition Codes:**
(008*** to 395***) and their subheadings (***000 to ***995).

The second section contains **Sport Codes:**
(400*** to 899***) and their subheadings (***003 to ***398).

As a rule, all bibliography codes are 6 digits in length. In the case of the first two sections, combinations are created through the combination of a 3 digit major heading code with a 3 digit subdivision code in order to represent a specific topic. There are separate subheading lists for both of these areas. Some examples of codes requiring combining with subdivisions are:

e.g.

*241895 Olympic Games – Spectators
from 241*** Olympic Games, and ***895 Spectators*

*288395 Olympic Games, Nagano 1998 – Facilities
from 288*** Olympic Games Nagano 1998, and ***395 Facilities*

*584323 Team handball - Training and conditioning – Drills
from 584*** Team Handball, and ***323 Training and Conditioning - Drills*

*734093 Marathon – Injuries
from 734*** Marathon, and ***093 Injuries*

It is important to remember that such combinations must only be made with corresponding codes from the same section. For example, competition code main headings can only be combined with competition code subheadings, and sport code main headings can only be combined with sport code subheadings.

The Bibliography codes in the next three sections are already comprised of six digits and require no further combinations with other codes. They represent a specific topic without the need for combinations.

The third section contains the **General Sport Subject Codes** (900000 to 925700).

The fourth section contains **Sport Sciences Codes** (927000 to 996800).

The fifth section contains **Recreation Codes** (A00000 to A90600). The codes from this section are to be used to describe leisure and recreation related material. All such records must have the letter "A" entered in the Sub Database field.

The sixth and final section contains **Handicapped Sort Codes** (005-855). These codes are only three digits long and are to be entered in the "Handicapped sort code" field. As this section does not contain subheadings, these codes are to be used alone, as they represent a complete subject. As many codes from this section as are required to adequately describe the record's content can be entered.

An index to the codes is supplied at the end of the Sport Database Codes section of the SIRCThesaurus.