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SUMMARY

In an effort to harmonize existing versions of LanguaL, a first international version of the thesaurus, called LanguaL Version 0, was published on the Internet by the International LanguaL steering Committee in 1996. Since then, the LanguaL thesaurus has been significantly modified in order to include alternative international classification systems, allowing description and retrieval of foods according to different legislations or needs. The latest version of the thesaurus, LanguaL 2000, has been published by the COST Action 99 – Eurofoods (1,2,3). It is available on the LanguaL Internet site: <http://www.langual.org>.

INTRODUCTION

LanguaL stands for "Langua aLimentaria" or "language of food". It is a multilingual faceted thesaurus for describing foods, specifically for classifying food products for information retrieval. Each food can be described by a set of standard, controlled terms chosen from facets characteristic of the nutritional and/or hygienic quality of a food, as for example the biological origin, the methods of cooking and conservation, and technological treatments. In year 2000, the thesaurus was significantly modified in order to include alternative international classification systems, allowing description and retrieval of foods according to different legislations or needs. This resulted in the present LanguaL version 2000.

LANGUAL 2000 - PUBLICATIONS

- Introduction to the LanguaL thesaurus¹**
This report presents the basics of the LanguaL 2000 thesaurus with an explanation of the structure as well as for each facet of the thesaurus the rules and use in indexing.
 - The LanguaL thesaurus²**
This report presents the details of the present version, LanguaL 2000 thesaurus, according to the international thesaurus standards, an alphabetical display of descriptors and synonyms (non-descriptors) as well as the systematic display of the thesaurus hierarchy.
 - Documentation of changes from version 0³**
This report presents the documentation of the changes and additions from the previous version of LanguaL, ver. 0 (1995) to the present version of the LanguaL 2000 thesaurus.
- Møller A., Ireland J. (2000) *LanguaL 2000: Introduction to the LanguaL thesaurus*. COST Action 99 report - EUR 19542 (ISBN 92-828-9163-1)
 - Møller A., Ireland J. (2000) *LanguaL 2000: Documentation of changes from version 0*. COST Action 99 report - EUR 19541 (ISBN 92-828-9839-3)
 - Møller A., Ireland J. (2000) *LanguaL 2000: The LanguaL Thesaurus*. COST Action 99 report - EUR 19540 (ISBN 92-828-9758)

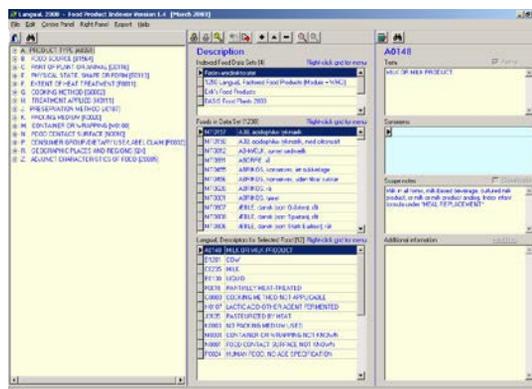
Reports are available from Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, <http://eur-op.eu.int/general/en/>

LANGUAL 2000 - NEW WEB SITE

A new web site for the LanguaL 2000 thesaurus is under development with the support of the Danish Veterinary Food Administration at <http://www.langual.org>. This new web site will include a new presentation of the LanguaL tree structure (the systematic display) with all information included concerning the single descriptors, allowing searches online. It will also provide links to already indexed food composition databases in Denmark, Finland, France, Hungary, Spain and USA as well as LanguaL indexed datasets (FAO/WHO GEMS Food, BASIS) with online links into the Internet based food composition databases. Furthermore, a new thesaurus manager for LanguaL Version 2000 and a food description indexing software being developed. Both the thesaurus manager software and the food description software may be downloaded from the web site together with already indexed food data sets.

LANGUAL Food Product Indexer - NEW SOFTWARE

The Food Product Indexer will allow the user to index own foods using a single interface. The Food Product Indexer link to the systematic display of the LanguaL Thesaurus providing all information available for the single descriptors.



The first version of the LanguaL Food Product Indexer will be available with thesauri in English, French and Danish. A special Thesaurus Manager will make it possible to produce thesauri in other languages.

Significance

The new LanguaL software tools, the Thesaurus Manager and the Food Product Indexer, will solve the problem of difficult access to the comprehensive LanguaL information. It allows the Food Product Indexer to import food datasets for indexing and contains information from already indexed food data sets, thus facilitating the use of the thesaurus when indexing foods in food databanks.

The software will be available by the end of 2003.

CORRESPONDANCE

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