



CoRIS Thesauri

Keyword Structure - Guidance Document

May - 2013

General guidance on how to structure a keyword when requesting new terms to be added to either the CoRIS Theme or Place Keyword lists

CoRIS Theme Keywords

1. Use GCMD Science Keywords

http://gcmd.nasa.gov/learn/keyword_list.html

Any term that is on the GCMD Science Keywords list can be automatically added to the CoRIS Keyword list.

There may need to be minor reformatting done to the GCMD keyword depending on which section of the website you pull the term from. GCMD recently launched various web services which allow you to access the list via different mechanisms and in different formats.

The current GCMD CSV format -

"EARTH SCIENCE","ATMOSPHERE","AIR QUALITY","TROPOSPHERIC OZONE"

Would need to be reformatted along these lines in order to be added to the CoRIS keyword list
EARTH SCIENCE > ATMOSPHERE > AIR QUALITY > TROPOSPHERIC OZONE

2. Terms must start with

One of the following two terms

- EARTH SCIENCE
- EARTH SCIENCE SERVICES

3. At any level of the keyword taxonomy, all topics, terms, and variables should be chosen to be mutually exclusive, minimizing overlap as much as possible.

4. Keyword Structure goes from the broadest (or most general) term to the narrowest (or most specific) term

Correct Order of terms

- EARTH SCIENCE > Oceans > Ocean Waves > Wave Length

Incorrect order of terms

- EARTH SCIENCE > Oceans > Wave Length > Ocean Waves

The second group is incorrect because Ocean Waves is a more general topic and Wave Length is a component of the category or term Ocean Waves.

5. If you are adding multiple terms that belong to one category the broader terms should all be the same or parallel to each other.

For example if you wanted to start adding new terms to the Ocean Wave keyword group you would start with new terms at the fourth position in the hierarchy.

- EARTH SCIENCE > Oceans > Ocean Waves > New Term 1
- EARTH SCIENCE > Oceans > Ocean Waves > New Term 2
- EARTH SCIENCE > Oceans > Ocean Waves > New Term 3

6. Keywords should not be associated with words that convey value judgments.

Example:

"Air Quality" should be used in preference to "Pollution".

Air Quality would be a better choice because while you might have been testing for pollution your results could show that the air was cleaner than expected but the word "pollution" automatically conveys to most users that there is a problem with the air quality.

7. Any "slashed" keywords should be clarified so that each side of the slashed word(s) can stand alone for searching by the user.

Example:

- Use: Atmosphere > Atmospheric Radiation > Optical Depth/Optical Thickness
- Do Not Use: Atmosphere > Atmospheric Radiation > Optical Depth/Thickness.

If a user was searching for Optical Thickness using the second keyword would not return any results though the concept of Optical Thickness has been captured in the metadata. This makes the first choice a better selection.

8. Modifier that only describe the spatial characteristics of an item

Capture the generic term as one keyword

- EARTH SCIENCE > Biosphere > Zoology > Corals > Reef Monitoring and Assessment

Capture the spatial qualifier as a separate narrower keyword one level further down the hierarchy

- EARTH SCIENCE > Biosphere > Zoology > Corals > Reef Monitoring and Assessment > Pacific Reef Monitoring and Assessment

9. Avoid overly complex scientific concepts or equations, or internal organization names or references to something

These terms if needed can be captured as free keywords in the Thesaurus=None section. Examples of items not suitable for the CoRIS keyword lists under this rule would include:

- Station IDs
- Cruise IDs

10. Duplicate terms should be avoided if one serves as a surrogate for another.

i.e. you would want to choose only one of the following two terms

- EARTH SCIENCE > Oceans > Ocean Temperature > Sea Surface Temperature
- EARTH SCIENCE > Oceans > Ocean Temperature > SST

If a concept is commonly known by both the Acronym and the full term structuring a keyword like this will be accepted

- EARTH SCIENCE > Oceans > Ocean Temperature > Sea Surface Temperature (SST)

CoRIS Place Keywords

When requesting a location to be added to the CoRIS Place Keywords list please provide information to construct both the Ocean/Basin and Country/Territory version of the keyword

- OCEAN BASIN > Pacific Ocean > Central Pacific Ocean > Hawaiian Islands > Maui Island > Kaanapali (20N156W0011)
- COUNTRY/TERRITORY > United States of America > Hawaii > Maui > Kaanapali (20N156W0011)

Required Information

- Name of the specific location that you would like to add to the list
- Country or territory associated with that location.
- Latitude/Longitude coordinates for that location. Approximate coordinates are usually o.k. as we round both values to the nearest degree

Associated information, to be provided if known

- Ocean
 - Pacific Ocean
 - Atlantic Ocean
 - Indian Ocean
- Smaller associated water bodies (if relevant)
 - Sea names
 - Gulfs
 - Bays
- State or province
- Island name (if relevant)
- County, municipality of other regional geographic terms (if relevant)