Correspondence between Users' Search Terms with the Proposed Terms of EBSCO and IEEE Databases

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Abstract

Purpose: This study aims to investigate correspondence of users' queries with alternative terms of Latin databases namely IEEE and EBSCO. Databases display subjective content of their documents through natural or controlled language vocabularies in specified bibliographic fields along with other bibliographic information that are called papers alternative terms.

Methodology: We used content analysis method for implementation of this research. The statistical community includes EBSCO and IEEE databases in which the transaction logs of users have been investigated during 3 months.

Findings: The findings indicated that users' queries are correspond with free alternative terms rather than controlled alternative ones. However, the relative correspondence between users' queries and controlled alternative terms is more than free alternative ones. Also there was a meaningful difference between users queries correspondence with each kinds of alternative terms. Finally, results indicated that free alternative terms seems can be used in indexing and search engine thesauruses.

Originality/Value: This research seems valuable because of its concentration on the comparison of efficiency of free vocabularies vs. controlled vocabularies in search process and the need to more regard toward them in indexing processes.

Keywords: Alternative Terms, Indexing, Free vocabulary, Controlled Vocabulary.