Using EVOKS to build controlled vocabularies

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Controlled vocabularies play a vital role in describing knowledge within a specific domain. They not only eliminate data ambiguity but also serve as a reference for term definitions, foster semantic interoperability, and facilitate seamless integration with ontologies.

EVOKS, the Editor for Vocabularies to Know Semantics, is a general-purpose vocabulary service that allows for easy creation, import, editing, curation and publishing of vocabularies. Publishing the vocabulary using SKOSMOS (www.skosmos.org) requires just a single click.

To illustrate the usability of EVOKS, we established the MatWerk Acronyms Vocabulary. EVOKS allows users to work collaboratively with other contributors and iterate on the vocabulary creation process. This includes editing and publishing of revised versions.

Use case: Terms in a Metadata Schema using Metadata Editor

Integrating vocabularies into the Metadata Editor eases the use of controlled vocabularies that adhere to FAIR principles, linking terms in a schema through URIs instead of hard-coding them, and enabling the automatic propagation of any changes made within the vocabulary.

Applications can directly access and use the vocabulary via the internet. In this example, we link the term User Role to a field in our Metadata Editor. Terms are defined in a metadata schema. The narrower terms of the preferred term User Role are taken from a controlled vocabulary and are presented as selectable options in the Metadata Editor’s drop-down menu according to the schema. In this way, controlled vocabularies ease interoperability and contribute to FAIRness.