Overview of Terminology Maintenance in ISO/TC 211 and the Multi-Lingual Glossary of Terms

Reese Plews, Convenor
ISO/TC 211 AG7 Terminology Maintenance Group (TMG)

Shared Concepts Workshop:
“Achieving a shared understanding of concepts”
April 13, & April 15, 2021 (via zoom)
https://sharedconcepts.github.io/

Organizers & Supporting Parties

ISO/TC 211
Danish Agency for Data Supply and Efficiency
Ribose
Background of ISO/TC 211

- ISO/TC 211 Geographic information/Geomatics
  - [https://www.iso.org/committee/54904.html](https://www.iso.org/committee/54904.html)
  - [https://committee.iso.org/home/tc211](https://committee.iso.org/home/tc211)

- Standardization in the field of digital geographic information
  - Working to establish a structured set of standards for information concerning objects or phenomena that are directly or indirectly associated with a location relative to the Earth.

- ISO (International Organization for Standardization) Technical Committee (TC) formed in 1994

- 37 Participating and 33 Observing Members
  - Nominated by Standards Bodies in their respective countries

- Management: Norway (1994 – 2016); Sweden (2017 – present)
  - Chairperson: Ms Agneta Engberg (to 2021/12) / Secretariat: Mr Mats Åhlin
  - Chairperson-elect: Mr. Peter Parslow (chair from 2022/01)
  - Two meetings per year – late spring & late autumn

- 83 published standards with another 23 under development or in revision
  - [https://www.iso.org/committee/54904/x/catalogue/p/0/u/1/w/0/d/0](https://www.iso.org/committee/54904/x/catalogue/p/0/u/1/w/0/d/0)
ISO/TC 211 has
- 6 internal Working Groups (WGs) - 2 joint Working Groups (JWGs) [TC59/SC13, TC204]
- 11 permanent Advisory Groups (AGs)
- Programme Maintenance, Strategy, Outreach, UN-GGIM Advisory, LU/LC, Model Harmonization, Ontologies, XML, Terminology (AG7), Geodetic Control Body, and Chair Advisory Group

ISO/TC 211 maintains a close relationship with The Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) through the Joint Advisory Group (JAG) [AG 4]

Liaison agreements with other ISO TCs and outside organizations
Terminology Maintenance Group (TMG)

• Preliminary discussions prior to 2001
• Establishment of the group in 2001-OCT
  – Made permanent in 2002-MAY; Convened by Mr. Andrew Jones of Australia until 2017; From 2017 by Japan
• Task 1: Terminology Maintenance and Harmonisation
  – Review and assess terminology records in ISO/TC 211’s draft documents
  – Maintain a terminology repository
  – Work to ensure that consistent terms, definitions and concept systems are used in all ISO/TC 211 standards and technical specifications
  – Comments, discussions, and feedback to project leaders and editors
• Task 2: Terminology Publication
  – Disseminate the current terms and definitions to the TC members
  – Work with TC211 members to create a translation of published terms
• Task 3: Cross-Domain Vocabularies
  – Work with other groups to identify cross-domain terminology issues
Terminology Maintenance Group (TMG)
Terminology related standards in ISO/TC 211

• TMG guided development of two terminology standards within ISO/TC 211
• 19104 Geographic information – Terminology
  – https://www.iso.org/standard/63541.html
  – Specifies requirements for the collection, management and publication of terminology in the field of geographic information
  – Framework for the terminology repository maintained by the TMG
  – Revised in 2016
  – Does not aim to contain all of the terminology of the standards in the TC
• 19146 Geographic information – Cross-domain vocabularies
  – Establishes a methodology for cross-mapping vocabularies.
  – Specifies an implementation of ISO 19135-1:2015 for the purpose of registering cross-mapped vocabulary entries.
  – Revised in 2016
Terminology Maintenance Group (TMG) Primary Work Products

- **Terminology Repository**
  - Microsoft Excel workbook with six spreadsheets, and over 230 defined attributes total
  - Since the inception over 630 documents (various drafts [CD, DIS, DTS] and published standards) have been processed into the repository;
  - Close to 2,500 active terminology records and over 13,000 superseded variations of draft terms contained in a persistent archive
  - Processing tasks supported by group of Excel Visual Basic macros; yet human intervention/decision making is still required during management processing
  - Closed processing and management by TMG convenor only

Macro Operation and Interface in The Terminology Repository
Terminology Maintenance Group (TMG)
Primary Work Products

• Terminology Spreadsheet
  – Excel workbook containing a subset of attributes extracted from the Terminology Repository
  – Current and retired terms, abbreviations, and symbols
  – Published quarterly since January 2004, currently 68th Edition; distributed to TC 211 members only; Dynamic publication managed as a “standing document” in the TMG
  – Used by Project Teams and Editors and TC 211 members

• Input to Project Teams (PTs) and the TC
  – Monitoring of terminology development in all working groups from the Working Draft (WD) stage
  – Processing of terms into the repository and formal comment submissions to the TC on [CD, DIS, DTS] drafts; along with informal discussions with PT leaders and editors
  – Comments based on issues identified during insertion into the Terminology Repository and examination of the drafts for grammar, formatting and clarity
  – TMG comments submitted for over 250 draft documents under development since 2002, averaging 10 – 20+ comments per submission
  – TMG meeting held every plenary week; discussing terminology issues and the status of TMG products and cross domain engagement
Terminology Maintenance Group (TMG)
Primary Work Products

- **Multi-Lingual Glossary of Terms (MLGT)**
  - Excel workbook containing terminology entries from Published ISO/TC 211 standards
  - Coordination with National Body (NB) members for translation of terminology entries
  - First published in 2006 with English entries; translations from NB submitted in the following years
  - Release 5 from 2020-JUN currently contains 1,064 normatively published (as of 2020-APR) English entries and close to 7,000 translated entries in 14 languages
  - Openly distributed, from github, for everyone to access and use, as an MS Excel Workbook
    - [https://github.com/ISO-TC211/TMG](https://github.com/ISO-TC211/TMG)

- **An online version of the ISO/TC 211 Multi-Lingual Glossary of Terms (MLGT)**
  - [https://isotc211.geolexica.org](https://isotc211.geolexica.org)
  - Using the Geolexica Platform developed by Ribose
    - [https://www.ribose.com](https://www.ribose.com)
  - Robust web discovery interface with JSON API
  - Easy updated from new editions and translations of the MLGT
  - Content identical to the MLGT Excel Workbook
Moving Forward

- Terminology maintenance and engagement within TC 211 is actively contributing to the work of the TC
- TMG is becoming more engaged in cross-TC and cross-domain activities
- This week’s workshop is one of those activities!

*Thank you and enjoy the workshop this week*

*Thank you for your interest!*