



# SKOS Simple Knowledge Organization System Namespace Document - HTML Variant

18 August 2009 Recommendation Edition

**This version:**

<http://www.w3.org/2009/08/skos-reference/skos.html>

**Latest version:**

<http://www.w3.org/2004/02/skos/core.html>

**Authors:**

[Alistair Miles](#), STFC Rutherford Appleton Laboratory / University of Oxford  
[Sean Bechhofer](#), University of Manchester

---

## Status of this Document

This document describes the schema available from the SKOS namespace.

---

## Introduction

The Simple Knowledge Organization System (SKOS) is a common data model for sharing and linking knowledge organization systems via the Semantic Web. This document provides a brief description of the SKOS Vocabulary.

For detailed information about the SKOS Recommendation, please consult the SKOS Reference [[SKOS-REFERENCE](#)] or the SKOS Primer [[SKOS-PRIMER](#)].

---

## SKOS Schema Overview

The following table gives a non-normative overview of the SKOS vocabulary; it replicates a table found in the (normative) SKOS Reference [[SKOS-REFERENCE](#)]. This document can be referenced directly, by its own URI <http://www.w3.org/2004/02/skos/core.html>, or indirectly, by content negotiation from the SKOS namespace URI <http://www.w3.org/2004/02/skos/core#> as described in Appendix C of SKOS Reference [[SKOS-REFERENCE](#)].

See also the SKOS Namespace Document - RDF/XML Variant [[SKOS-RDF](#)].

## Classes

<a href="#"><u>skos:Collection</u></a>	
URI:	<a href="http://www.w3.org/2004/02/skos/core#Collection">http://www.w3.org/2004/02/skos/core#Collection</a>
Definition:	<a href="#">Section 9. Concept Collections</a>
Label:	<i>Collection</i>
Disjoint classes:	<a href="#">skos:Concept</a> <a href="#">skos:ConceptScheme</a>
<a href="#"><u>skos:Concept</u></a>	
URI:	<a href="http://www.w3.org/2004/02/skos/core#Concept">http://www.w3.org/2004/02/skos/core#Concept</a>
Definition:	<a href="#">Section 3. The skos:Concept Class</a>
Label:	<i>Concept</i>
Disjoint classes:	<a href="#">skos:Collection</a> <a href="#">skos:ConceptScheme</a>
<a href="#"><u>skos:ConceptScheme</u></a>	
URI:	<a href="http://www.w3.org/2004/02/skos/core#ConceptScheme">http://www.w3.org/2004/02/skos/core#ConceptScheme</a>
Definition:	<a href="#">Section 4. Concept Schemes</a>
Label:	<i>Concept Scheme</i>
Disjoint classes:	<a href="#">skos:Collection</a> <a href="#">skos:Concept</a>
<a href="#"><u>skos:OrderedCollection</u></a>	
URI:	<a href="http://www.w3.org/2004/02/skos/core#OrderedCollection">http://www.w3.org/2004/02/skos/core#OrderedCollection</a>
Definition:	<a href="#">Section 9. Concept Collections</a>
Label:	<i>Ordered Collection</i>
Super-classes:	<a href="#">skos:Collection</a>

## Properties

<a href="#"><u>skos:altLabel</u></a>	
URI:	<a href="http://www.w3.org/2004/02/skos/core#altLabel">http://www.w3.org/2004/02/skos/core#altLabel</a>
Definition:	<a href="#">Section 5. Lexical Labels</a>

Label:	<i>alternative label</i>
Super-properties:	<a href="http://www.w3.org/2000/01/rdf-schema#label">http://www.w3.org/2000/01/rdf-schema#label</a>
<b><a href="#">skos:broadMatch</a></b>	
URI:	<a href="http://www.w3.org/2004/02/skos/core#broadMatch">http://www.w3.org/2004/02/skos/core#broadMatch</a>
Definition:	<a href="#">Section 10. Mapping Properties</a>
Label:	<i>has broader match</i>
Super-properties:	<a href="#">skos:broader</a> <a href="#">skos:mappingRelation</a>
Inverse of:	<a href="#">skos:narrowMatch</a>
<b><a href="#">skos:broader</a></b>	
URI:	<a href="http://www.w3.org/2004/02/skos/core#broader">http://www.w3.org/2004/02/skos/core#broader</a>
Definition:	<a href="#">Section 8. Semantic Relations</a>
Label:	<i>has broader</i>
Super-properties:	<a href="#">skos:broaderTransitive</a>
Inverse of:	<a href="#">skos:narrower</a>
<b><a href="#">skos:broaderTransitive</a></b>	
URI:	<a href="http://www.w3.org/2004/02/skos/core#broaderTransitive">http://www.w3.org/2004/02/skos/core#broaderTransitive</a>
Definition:	<a href="#">Section 8. Semantic Relations</a>
Label:	<i>has broader transitive</i>
Super-properties:	<a href="#">skos:semanticRelation</a>
Inverse of:	<a href="#">skos:narrowerTransitive</a>
Other characteristics:	Transitive
<b><a href="#">skos:changeNote</a></b>	
URI:	<a href="http://www.w3.org/2004/02/skos/core#changeNote">http://www.w3.org/2004/02/skos/core#changeNote</a>
Definition:	<a href="#">Section 7. Documentation Properties</a>

Label:	<i>change note</i>
Super-properties:	<a href="#">skos:note</a>
<b><a href="#">skos:closeMatch</a></b>	
URI:	<a href="http://www.w3.org/2004/02/skos/core#closeMatch">http://www.w3.org/2004/02/skos/core#closeMatch</a>
Definition:	<a href="#">Section 10. Mapping Properties</a>
Label:	<i>has close match</i>
Super-properties:	<a href="#">skos:mappingRelation</a>
Other characteristics:	Symmetric
<b><a href="#">skos:definition</a></b>	
URI:	<a href="http://www.w3.org/2004/02/skos/core#definition">http://www.w3.org/2004/02/skos/core#definition</a>
Definition:	<a href="#">Section 7. Documentation Properties</a>
Label:	<i>definition</i>
Super-properties:	<a href="#">skos:note</a>
<b><a href="#">skos:editorialNote</a></b>	
URI:	<a href="http://www.w3.org/2004/02/skos/core#editorialNote">http://www.w3.org/2004/02/skos/core#editorialNote</a>
Definition:	<a href="#">Section 7. Documentation Properties</a>
Label:	<i>editorial note</i>
Super-properties:	<a href="#">skos:note</a>
<b><a href="#">skos:exactMatch</a></b>	
URI:	<a href="http://www.w3.org/2004/02/skos/core#exactMatch">http://www.w3.org/2004/02/skos/core#exactMatch</a>
Definition:	<a href="#">Section 10. Mapping Properties</a>
Label:	<i>has exact match</i>
Super-properties:	<a href="#">skos:closeMatch</a>

Other characteristics:	Transitive Symmetric
<b><a href="#">skos:example</a></b>	
URI:	<a href="http://www.w3.org/2004/02/skos/core#example">http://www.w3.org/2004/02/skos/core#example</a>
Definition:	<a href="#">Section 7. Documentation Properties</a>
Label:	<i>example</i>
Super-properties:	<a href="#">skos:note</a>
<b><a href="#">skos:hasTopConcept</a></b>	
URI:	<a href="http://www.w3.org/2004/02/skos/core#hasTopConcept">http://www.w3.org/2004/02/skos/core#hasTopConcept</a>
Definition:	<a href="#">Section 4. Concept Schemes</a>
Label:	<i>label</i>
Domain:	<a href="#">skos:ConceptScheme</a>
Range:	<a href="#">skos:Concept</a>
Inverse of:	<a href="#">skos:topConceptOf</a>
<b><a href="#">skos:hiddenLabel</a></b>	
URI:	<a href="http://www.w3.org/2004/02/skos/core#hiddenLabel">http://www.w3.org/2004/02/skos/core#hiddenLabel</a>
Definition:	<a href="#">Section 5. Lexical Labels</a>
Label:	<i>hidden label</i>
Super-properties:	<a href="http://www.w3.org/2000/01/rdf-schema#label">http://www.w3.org/2000/01/rdf-schema#label</a>
<b><a href="#">skos:historyNote</a></b>	
URI:	<a href="http://www.w3.org/2004/02/skos/core#historyNote">http://www.w3.org/2004/02/skos/core#historyNote</a>
Definition:	<a href="#">Section 7. Documentation Properties</a>
Label:	<i>history note</i>
Super-properties:	<a href="#">skos:note</a>
<b><a href="#">skos:inScheme</a></b>	

URI:	<a href="http://www.w3.org/2004/02/skos/core#inScheme">http://www.w3.org/2004/02/skos/core#inScheme</a>
Definition:	<a href="#">Section 4. Concept Schemes</a>
Label:	<i>is in scheme</i>
Range:	<a href="#">skos:ConceptScheme</a>
<b><a href="#">skos:mappingRelation</a></b>	
URI:	<a href="http://www.w3.org/2004/02/skos/core#mappingRelation">http://www.w3.org/2004/02/skos/core#mappingRelation</a>
Definition:	<a href="#">Section 10. Mapping Properties</a>
Label:	<i>is in mapping relation with</i>
Super-properties:	<a href="#">skos:semanticRelation</a>
<b><a href="#">skos:member</a></b>	
URI:	<a href="http://www.w3.org/2004/02/skos/core#member">http://www.w3.org/2004/02/skos/core#member</a>
Definition:	<a href="#">Section 9. Concept Collections</a>
Label:	<i>has member</i>
Domain:	<a href="#">skos:Collection</a>
Range:	union of <a href="#">skos:Concept</a> and <a href="#">skos:Collection</a>
<b><a href="#">skos:memberList</a></b>	
URI:	<a href="http://www.w3.org/2004/02/skos/core#memberList">http://www.w3.org/2004/02/skos/core#memberList</a>
Definition:	<a href="#">Section 9. Concept Collections</a>
Label:	<i>has member list</i>
Domain:	<a href="#">skos:OrderedCollection</a>
Range:	<a href="http://www.w3.org/1999/02/22-rdf-syntax-ns#List">http://www.w3.org/1999/02/22-rdf-syntax-ns#List</a>
Other characteristics:	Functional
<b><a href="#">skos:narrowMatch</a></b>	
URI:	<a href="http://www.w3.org/2004/02/skos/core#narrowMatch">http://www.w3.org/2004/02/skos/core#narrowMatch</a>
Definition:	<a href="#">Section 10. Mapping Properties</a>

Label:	<i>has narrower match</i>
Super-properties:	<a href="#">skos:mappingRelation</a> <a href="#">skos:narrower</a>
Inverse of:	<a href="#">skos:broadMatch</a>
<b><a href="#">skos:narrower</a></b>	
URI:	<a href="http://www.w3.org/2004/02/skos/core#narrower">http://www.w3.org/2004/02/skos/core#narrower</a>
Definition:	<a href="#">Section 8. Semantic Relations</a>
Label:	<i>has narrower</i>
Super-properties:	<a href="#">skos:narrowerTransitive</a>
Inverse of:	<a href="#">skos:broader</a>
<b><a href="#">skos:narrowerTransitive</a></b>	
URI:	<a href="http://www.w3.org/2004/02/skos/core#narrowerTransitive">http://www.w3.org/2004/02/skos/core#narrowerTransitive</a>
Definition:	<a href="#">Section 8. Semantic Relations</a>
Label:	<i>has narrower transitive</i>
Super-properties:	<a href="#">skos:semanticRelation</a>
Inverse of:	<a href="#">skos:broaderTransitive</a>
Other characteristics:	Transitive
<b><a href="#">skos:notation</a></b>	
URI:	<a href="http://www.w3.org/2004/02/skos/core#notation">http://www.w3.org/2004/02/skos/core#notation</a>
Definition:	<a href="#">Section 6. Notations</a>
Label:	<i>notation</i>
<b><a href="#">skos:note</a></b>	
URI:	<a href="http://www.w3.org/2004/02/skos/core#note">http://www.w3.org/2004/02/skos/core#note</a>
Definition:	<a href="#">Section 7. Documentation Properties</a>
Label:	<i>note</i>

<a href="#"><b>skos:prefLabel</b></a>	
URI:	<a href="http://www.w3.org/2004/02/skos/core#prefLabel">http://www.w3.org/2004/02/skos/core#prefLabel</a>
Definition:	<a href="#">Section 5. Lexical Labels</a>
Label:	<i>preferred label</i>
Super-properties:	<a href="http://www.w3.org/2000/01/rdf-schema#label">http://www.w3.org/2000/01/rdf-schema#label</a>
<a href="#"><b>skos:related</b></a>	
URI:	<a href="http://www.w3.org/2004/02/skos/core#related">http://www.w3.org/2004/02/skos/core#related</a>
Definition:	<a href="#">Section 8. Semantic Relations</a>
Label:	<i>has related</i>
Super-properties:	<a href="#">skos:semanticRelation</a>
Other characteristics:	Symmetric
<a href="#"><b>skos:relatedMatch</b></a>	
URI:	<a href="http://www.w3.org/2004/02/skos/core#relatedMatch">http://www.w3.org/2004/02/skos/core#relatedMatch</a>
Definition:	<a href="#">Section 10. Mapping Properties</a>
Label:	<i>has related match</i>
Super-properties:	<a href="#">skos:mappingRelation</a> <a href="#">skos:related</a>
Other characteristics:	Symmetric
<a href="#"><b>skos:scopeNote</b></a>	
URI:	<a href="http://www.w3.org/2004/02/skos/core#scopeNote">http://www.w3.org/2004/02/skos/core#scopeNote</a>
Definition:	<a href="#">Section 7. Documentation Properties</a>
Label:	<i>scope note</i>
Super-properties:	<a href="#">skos:note</a>
<a href="#"><b>skos:semanticRelation</b></a>	



URI:	<a href="http://www.w3.org/2004/02/skos/core#semanticRelation">http://www.w3.org/2004/02/skos/core#semanticRelation</a>
Definition:	<a href="#">Section 8. Semantic Relations</a>
Label:	<i>is in semantic relation with</i>
Domain:	<a href="#">skos:Concept</a>
Range:	<a href="#">skos:Concept</a>
<b><a href="#">skos:topConceptOf</a></b>	
URI:	<a href="http://www.w3.org/2004/02/skos/core#topConceptOf">http://www.w3.org/2004/02/skos/core#topConceptOf</a>
Definition:	<a href="#">Section 4. Concept Schemes</a>
Label:	<i>is top concept in scheme</i>
Super-properties:	<a href="#">skos:inScheme</a>
Inverse of:	<a href="#">skos:hasTopConcept</a>

## References

### [SKOS-REFERENCE]

[SKOS Reference](#), Alistair Miles, Sean Bechhofer, Editors. [Latest version](#) available at <http://www.w3.org/TR/skos-reference>.

### [SKOS-RDF]

[SKOS Namespace - RDF/XML Variant](#). [Latest version](#) available at <http://www.w3.org/TR/skos-reference/skos.rdf>

### [SKOS-PRIMER]

[SKOS Primer](#), Antoine Isaac, Ed Summers, Editors. [Latest version](#) available at <http://www.w3.org/TR/skos-primer>.

## Acknowledgements

This document is the result of extensive discussions within the W3C's [Semantic Web Deployment Working Group](#). The document drew on the experiences of earlier groups and projects including [SWAD-Europe](#) and W3C's [Semantic Web Best Practices and Deployment Working Group](#). Members of the W3C's [public-esw-thes](#) also made valuable contributions.

\$Revision: 1.2 \$ of \$Date: 2011/08/06 11:16:36 \$