A representação de termos em sistemas de informação, como num computador, é um meio para apresentação de informação. Esta apresentação tem como objectivo o uso destas tecnologias para troca de informação. As palavras são meios de transporte de ideias e conceitos numa linguagem.

For a computer system (CS) a word is just a set of characters. Computer systems do not understand the meaning that each word represents.

can represent bits. Although to represent the idea that each or several terms represent, techniques must be used to be able to represent the ideas behind those terms.

For a computer system represent a word from any language, it must represent its combination of letters, the term, and the meaning associated to that word.

A concept is a general notion or idea, normally formed in humans mind. To transmit a concept present in the mind of someone, humans must be able to use some sort of representation that translates the concepts. In natural languages, like English, this representation is done using a term or a set of terms. When meaning is associated to each term, it translates into words. Words are the units of a language that have the responsibility of providing meaning to terms. When one is using words to speak or to write, is communicating an idea that is in its mind. Sometimes, one word is not enough to express an idea. Consequently, a concept can be represented by one or more words.

Computer systems can only represent sets of bits and bytes that are not understandable for humans. In order to represent a text in a computer

The World Wide Web is a place with a huge amount of information. Nowadays, any person can access to a search engine (like Google) to find information relevant to its intents. For example, if one needs to find information related to a bar, the place to have a drink, using just the term “bar”, that is not enough. The search results could be ambiguous with several meanings like “a place to have a drink”, or a “piece of wood or metal”, or even “a pressure measure unit”. The problem is that the way computer systems represent text is by sets of terms. If one could search by meanings and ideas, and not by terms the results would be much better. However, to have the best results to a search, how can several ambiguous meanings of words be represented? How could a word full of meaning or an idea present in one’s mind (also known as concept) be represented by a computer system?

CVs provide consistency of the terms in a specific domain. CVs provide a structured representation of concepts. One goal of CVs is to provide organization to information with the purpose for retrieval and storage. Other CVs goal is to offer a clear and uniform meaning to each concept. Specifically, CVs try to solve some issues for the representation of text in computer systems.