

Hi ____!

I love the topic you've picked for your thesaurus. However, looking at how you've formatted it, I think there are a couple key details about how thesauri work that need clarifying here that I'd like to walk through, if I can. I apologize if I make any mistakes in reading how you've connected your terms along the way- this is just for demonstration purposes. I also apologize if I'm retreading anything you already know! We haven't talked before, so I'm going to be broad.

Listing Terms

So none of the terms in a thesaurus "is" a BT/NT/RT/USE/UF; each term is simply a term. Instead, each term has its own attached *list of relationships* to other terms that use those descriptors.

So to grab a few terms from your thesaurus as an example:

BT Indigenous Slang

NT NDN

UF Indian

RT Native

NT Rez

We can start out by taking off the relationship tags:

Indigenous Slang

NDN

Indian

Native

Rez

Now underneath each term, add **all its relationships to other terms**. For readability, indent the relationships. This means terms appear multiple times throughout the thesaurus. If two terms have a relationship, both should list the other term accordingly:

Indigenous Slang

 NT NDN

 NT Rez

NDN

 BT Indigenous Slang

 RT Native

 UF Indian

Indian

 USE NDN

Native

RT NDN

Rez

BT Indigenous Slang

USE/UF

One more thing to note: all relationships go from one specific term to one specific one term. For example:

Indian USE Indigenous or Native

I understand that you're saying that these options are equally valid alternatives; but thesauri are meant to be used with computers, and computers can't make judgement calls of this kind. I'd suggest picking the "safest" option and building out these connections with RTs instead.

You've also used USE terms to give more general instructions to the user:

Indigenous USE specific nation or tribe affiliation when possible

This isn't really what USE/UF are for. A purpose of thesauri, as controlled vocabularies, is that they contain all terms the system knows, so redirecting to nation or tribe affiliations that don't have their own thesaurus entries isn't possible. Again, computers.

However what you might be looking for here is a **Scope Note(SN)**! This is advice to a human reading the thesaurus about how the term is used.

So with all this in mind, the Indian/Indigenous entries in this thesaurus might look something like this:

Indian USE Indigenous

Indigenous

NT NDN

RT Native

UF Indian

SN Use specific nation or tribe affiliation when possible.

What thesauri are for

So a broader point to make about how you've set up this thesaurus is that a thesaurus is not a list of collected items - it is a list of *subjects for sorting* a group of collected items. You're partly on the mark here: terms like "Indian reservation" are topics that slang can be *about*. But such a thesaurus would not include the slang terms themselves (like Stoodis, for instance) unless there is slang that is *about* "stoodis." Thesauri are not

meant to be a resource for humans to read through and get information from directly; it's meant to be a tool to help sort and navigate a collection of resources, which hold the information (for example, a collection of definitions of various indigenous slang terms, such as Rez and Stoodis).

Anyway, I hope any of this has been helpful - I apologize if I got carried away. Feel free to message me if I explained anything poorly!

-Myles