

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).

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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