Between Tradition and Innovation

IUFRO's work in forest classification and terminology with a view to a forest ontology

Jarmo Saarikko and Renate Prüller

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Curious about

forest classification

forest terminology **?**

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TERMINOLOGY WORK HAS TRADITION in IUFRO

These projects include:

1933   Flury International Bibliography System
1953   Joint IUFRO-FAO Bibliography Committee
1954   Oxford Decimal Classification (ODC)
         for forestry (CABI)
1971   Terminology of Forest Science, Technology,
         Practice and Products (F.C. Ford-Robertson)
1981   ODC revision started
1990   Vocabulary of Forest Management
1990   FDC trilingual short version
1992   FDC full version in German and English
cont.

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TERMINOLOGY WORK HAS TRADITION in IUFRO

2000   Forest Terminology (proceedings)
2000   Terminology of Forest Management
2003   Multilingual glossary of Forest Genetic
        Resources (with FAO)
2006   Global Forest Decimal Classification
        (with an online database)
2014   GFDC book published online
2017   GFDC multilingual online service
        (development version with additions to the
        Swedish and Spanish versions)

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WHAT ARE WE TALKING ABOUT?

Terminology

"… structured set of concepts and terms used to represent them in a specific subject field" (Wright & Budin, 1997)

"… make aware of difficulties in technical communication"

WHY ARE WE DOING IT?

variety of definitions

concepts change with time

English lingua franca ?

new terms - neologisms

… good terminologies reveal differences

Global Forest Decimal Classification
(GFDC)*

Main features:
- Custom designed by foresters
- Hierarchical subject divisions
- Developed over 100 years
- Classification provides language independent numeric subject hierarchy with 2752 categories and an alphabetical subject index
- GFDC is an official part of UDC
- Online GFDC (FPInnovations, Canada)

*coordinated by J. Saarikko
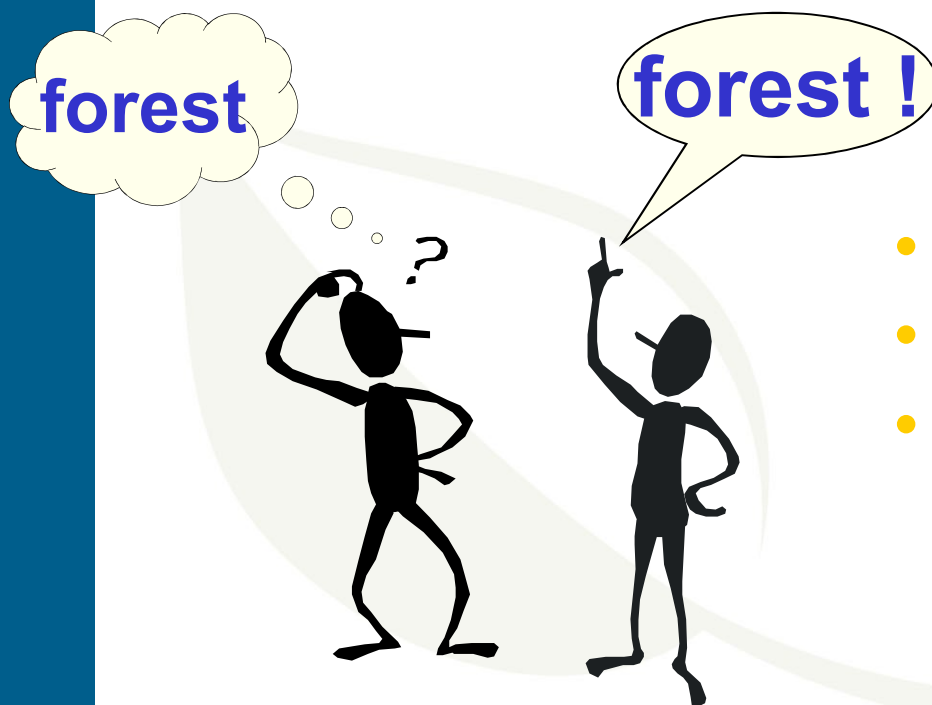
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1 SILVATERM: FACTS and FIGURES

12,000 entries

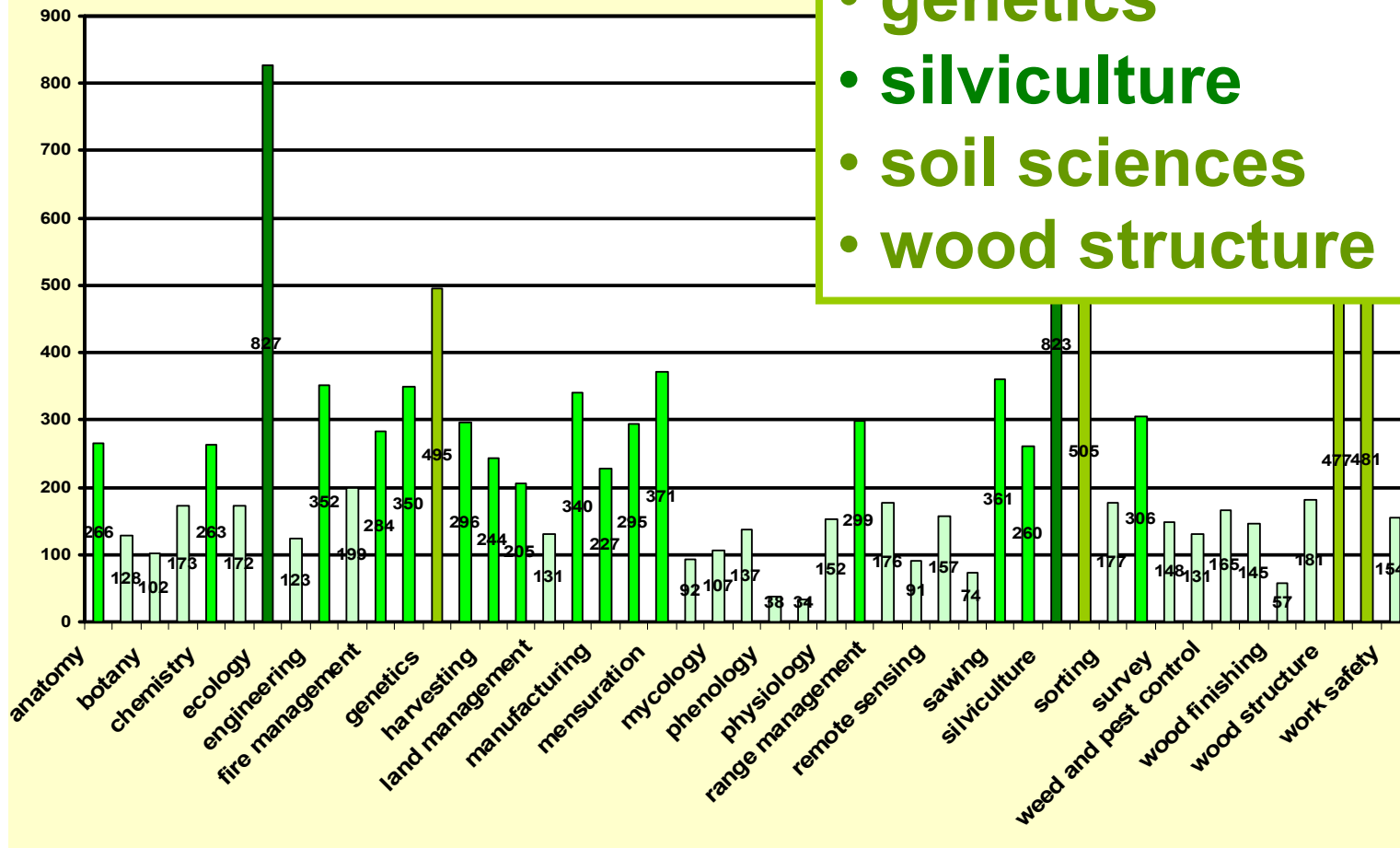- **ecology**
- **genetics**
- **silviculture**
- **soil sciences**
- **wood structure**

SILVATERM: FACTS and FIGURES

> 8 Languages

Language	Percentage
French	95%
Spanish	90%
German Japanese	30%
Italian Portuguese Hungarian	20%
Swahili	10%

**Other languages: Chinese;
Polish, Romanian, Swedish, Russian**

English Term:	afforestation
Short Form:	
Synonym(s):	
Definition:	The establishment of a forest, stand or tree crop on an area not previously forested, or on land from which forest cover has very long been absent.
Cross Reference:	
Note:	If on land from which trees have recently been removed it is termed reforestation.
Source:	*FR
Hyperlink:	http://f9010.ffpri-109.affrc.go.jp/forterm/http://home.att.net/~gklun/DEFpaper.html
IUFRO Unit:	4.04.07 SilvaPlan
Subject Field:	silviculture

Equivalent terms in other languages:

ae:	Aufforstung
hu:	erdösítés
sp:	forestación
fr:	reboisement
pt:	reflorestamento
It:	rimboschimento
sh:	upandajimiti

WHO IS USING IT?

- Forest Scientists
- International Processes
- Decision-makers, politicians
- Students in forestry
- Translators, Interpreters
- Information managers

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TOWARDS THE FUTURE

➢ Library classifications are **not dead**. They have a new life in ordering and searching content online.

  The Universal Decimal Classification was created for information retrieval and management.

➢ Linking GFDC terms and categories with existing terminologies would help in developing a **forest ontology**.

WHAT ARE WE TALKING ABOUT?

Ontology

"… a machine-readable set of definitions that create [a taxonomy of] classes and subclasses and relationships between them" (WebOntology Working Group)

TOWARDS THE FUTURE

❖ To reorganize all the concepts included in both the SilvaTerm database and GFDC classification into a multilingual ontology with hierarchical and other relationships

❖ **Terminology brings the semantics and the content, the classification/ thesaurus brings the structure and relationships and all mixed together with some more ingredients in a machine readable format builds up an ontology.**

Thank you for the attention