

OASIS TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

FORMAT OF AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR INFORMATION

Concepts and Definitions

Document Control

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Author(s)	John Chelson
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Version	Note
1.0	First version. First draft of definitions for Vocabulary, Terminology, Ontology and Taxonomy. These are first draft for comment and have yet to be agreed by members of the sub-committee.

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1. Introduction

This document provides a reference source of definitions for the concepts being discussed in the sub-committee SC3 – Terminology and Vocabulary of the OASIS Technical Committee for Format of Automotive Repair Information.

Its purpose is to ensure that all members of the sub-committee have a common understanding of the concepts being discussed and that there is agreement on the definition of those concepts.

It is intended to be a living document where new concepts are added as the project progresses.

The version history on page two of the document will record the agreement of SC3 sub-committee the definitions of the concepts listed in Section 2.

2. Concepts and Definitions

2.1 Content

The text, graphics and other multimedia data that forms the body of information about a particular domain (in our case Automotive Repair Information).

2.2 Meta Data

Meta data are data about data. That is:

- Data that describe other data
- Data that describe content

The term may also refer to any file or database that holds information about another database's structure, attributes, processing or changes.

2.3 Vocabulary

A vocabulary is a fixed set of names (terms), with a fixed meaning, that are used to describe a particular domain (in our case Automotive Repair Information).

When used in the context of XML, a vocabulary can be:

- A namespace
- The elements in an XML DTD or Schema
- The properties in an RDF collection

In this sense a vocabulary can be viewed as the terms used for meta data, rather than content.

2.4 Terminology

A set of terms (words and phrases), with an agreed definition for a domain, used in content. A full terminology may consist of a set of related entities:

- The base term
- A definition
- Synonyms (allowable alternative words or phrases for the same base term)
- Translations
- Variations (allowable in different contexts, eg parts of speech)

2.5 Ontology

An ontology is a shared set of terms describing an application domain which has a common understanding by agents in that domain.

- Ontologies establish a joint terminology between members of a community of interest
- These members can be human or automated agents

An ontology consists of a vocabulary to represent the terms and a set of relationships between those terms which define the common understanding.

2.6 Taxonomy

A hierarchical classification of terms in a domain. A taxonomy can be viewed as a specialisation of an ontology in which the relationship defined between terms is class/sub-class.