

GAO

Office of Information Management and
Communications

November 1998

GAO Thesaurus

Introduction

The General Accounting Office (GAO) is a nonpartisan agency within the legislative branch of the federal government. It evaluates federal programs, offers legal opinions, and provides Congress and the public with accurate analysis and objective recommendations on how to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the government. GAO offers a range of products to communicate the results of its work. These products are widely disseminated to a highly diverse audience. To facilitate retrieval of these documents, summaries are entered into a searchable database. Customized database searches are available and may be requested by calling the GAO Document Distribution Center at 202-512-6000.

Alphabetical Thesaurus of Subject Terms

This fourth edition of the GAO Thesaurus lists more than 2500 terms which are used to index GAO documents and to retrieve information from the GAO documents database. The thesaurus is divided into two parts: an alphabetical thesaurus of subject terms and a keyword out of context (KWOC) index.

The alphabetical listing includes five types of cross references:

- USE Use the preferred term which is a preferred synonym, near-synonym, or word-form variant.
- UF Used for. The indicated term is a nonpreferred synonym, near-synonym, or word-form variant.
- BT Broader term
- NT Narrower term
- RT Related term

Scope notes (SN) are included for terms that might otherwise be misunderstood or misinterpreted.

KWOC (Key Word Out of Context)

The KWOC index includes all significant words in all preferred terms consisting of more than one significant word such as "Contract costs" will be listed under both "Contract" and "Costs." Terms containing the same significant word may or may not be related hierarchically. Nonpreferred terms, common articles, prepositions, etc. are excluded from the KWOC list.

**Comments and
Suggestions**

The GAO Thesaurus is updated periodically to include new terms and other changes. Please direct comments and suggestions to:

U.S. General Accounting Office
Office of Information Management and Communications
Information Services Center
441 G Street, N.W., Room 7N16
Attn: Paula DeRoy
documents@gao.gov

Contents

Introduction	i
Thesaurus of Subject Terms	1
KWOC	111

Ordering Information

The first copy of each GAO report and testimony is free. Additional copies are \$2 each. Orders should be sent to the following address, accompanied by a check or money order made out to the Superintendent of Documents, when necessary. VISA and MasterCard credit cards are accepted, also. Orders for 100 or more copies to be mailed to a single address are discounted 25 percent.

Orders by mail:

**U.S. General Accounting Office
P.O. Box 37050
Washington, DC 20013**

or visit:

**Room 1100
700 4th St. NW (corner of 4th and G Sts. NW)
U.S. General Accounting Office
Washington, DC**

Orders may also be placed by calling (202) 512-6000 or by using fax number (202) 512-6061, or TDD (202) 512-2537.

Each day, GAO issues a list of newly available reports and testimony. To receive facsimile copies of the daily list or any list from the past 30 days, please call (202) 512-6000 using a touchtone phone. A recorded menu will provide information on how to obtain these lists.

For information on how to access GAO reports on the INTERNET, send an e-mail message with "info" in the body to:

info@www.gao.gov

or visit GAO's World Wide Web Home Page at:

<http://www.gao.gov>

**United States
General Accounting Office
Washington, D.C. 20548-0001**

**Bulk Rate
Postage & Fees Paid
GAO
Permit No. G100**

**Official Business
Penalty for Private Use \$300**

Address Correction Requested
