Ontologies and libraries
(summary)

One of the thesauruses' most important components is the generic chain of hierarchy of concepts (classes) in which the features of the concept of a more general meaning (a more comprehensive class) are „inherited” by the more specific concepts (classes). These systems are traditionally used in search and retrieval of content of documents (sources) in the libraries. In the wake of aspirations toward working out the semantic web there appeared the so-called ontologies which are made up of the generic chains of hierarchy of concepts (classes) and rules formulated according to a logic of first order linked up with them. A key task of these is to secure the aforementioned inheritance of the generic hierarchy and to enable the drawing of conclusions with it. Ontologies can indirectly be traced back, for one, to Aristotle’s system of categories and, for another, to Ranganathans's multidimensional theory of classification, a stimulus to modern classification, and by virtue of the latter, to cultures of the Far East as well. Ontologies are employed in expert systems and knowledge bases in order to provide for a more automated information retrieval in terms of semantics. Their proposal for standardisation was also compiled early in 2003 (Ontology Web Language, OWL).