



UNIFIED ASTRONOMY THESAURUS



a community-supported, open source project from the American Astronomical Society

What Is the Unified Astronomy Thesaurus (UAT)?

The UAT is an open, interoperable community thesaurus that organizes astronomy concepts and their relationships into a single high-quality resource. It is designed to enhance semantic enrichment of the scholarly literature, improving how astronomical research is indexed, searched, and shared.

- **High-Quality, Freely Available:** The UAT is built upon authoritative sources and community input, ensuring that its terminology is current and accurate.
- **Unification of Existing Keywords:** The UAT combines divergent and isolated lists of keywords with a single, cohesive standard. Its standardized structure also facilitates interoperability with other systems, aiding in cross-disciplinary research.
- **Community-Driven and Interoperable:** The UAT's open governance ensures it evolves with scientific progress. Its standardized structure also facilitates interoperability with other systems, aiding in cross-disciplinary research.

Why Care About Keywords?

In the era of big data, well-chosen keywords are critical for turning a search query into meaningful results. For scientists, educators, journalists, and the general public, having a structured approach to identifying the main topics within a publication ensures information is more easily found, understood, and leveraged.

High-quality keywords

- make literature searches faster and more effective;
- improve discoverability and help an author's work stand out;
- assist readers in judging the suitability of a publication to their interests; and
- help science journalists and educators translate complex topics for a broader audience, cutting through jargon and enabling cross-disciplinary communication.

Why the UAT Matters

The UAT speeds up the research process, fosters interdisciplinary understanding, and broadens the impact of scientific work.

By setting a widely accepted, flexible standard for astronomical concepts, the UAT ensures that knowledge flows freely between experts and non-experts, improving the quality and reach of astronomy and space science research.