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# Developing a tool for searching and learning

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- the potential of an enriched end user thesaurus

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# The domain study

- Focus area
    - The domain of EU
      - EU as a “practical” oriented domain and not as a scientific domain.
  - Methods
    - Domain analysis
      - Based on documentary sources
    - Interview (librarians from a `EU Info Point`)
  - Purpose: To answer following questions
    - What is the characteristics of the EU-domain?
    - Which factors can make searching for EU-information difficult for non-specialists?
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# Elements in the domain study

- Institutions and other document authors
    - Who are producers of information and what is their role and function in the domain?
  - Documents
    - What kind of documents exist, what is the documents function, how does the documents relate to each other?
  - Vocabularies
    - What types of vocabularies exist in the domain, what is the characteristics of the different vocabularies?
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# Characteristics of the EU-domain

## - results (1)

- The domain consists of many different document types and document authors, each with a different function
    - Documents: e.g. legal texts, preparatory work, press releases, speeches, reports and analyses
    - Documents authors: e.g. EU-institutions, national parliaments and government bodies, NGOs, the media, `think-thanks`
  - One important characteristics of the documents is that they very often is connected with each other – these connections is not necessarily visible to non-specialists.
    - E.g. the Danish government is obliged to make notes about all Commission proposals for directives, but not to all proposals for regulations. These notes is often very useful for non-specialists.
  - The internet is the primary sources for information (opposite bibliographic databases)
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# Characteristics of the EU-domain

## - results (2)

- A number of different vocabularies is present in the domain.
    - EU vocabulary – `eurospeak` (often due to the translation process in the EU-institutions and general jargon as in other organizations)
    - Scientific vocabularies (legal, economic and political terms)
    - Vocabularies from different policy areas (environment, agriculture, trade etc.)
    - Expressions used in the medias (e.g. popular names)
    - Vocabularies attached to the procedures in national lawmaking (e.g. terms used in Danish lawmaking often differs from `Danish` terms used in EU-documents)
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# Characteristics of the EU-domain

## - results (3)

- The special nature of the domain *can* make searching for EU-information difficult for non-specialists.
    - Different vocabularies: can make it difficult to formulate search strings
    - Institutions and other document authors: who is the Council, the Council of Minister and the Council of the European Union?
    - Documents: what is a COM-document, a green paper, a directive and a common position?
  - Factual knowledge will help users to get a better understanding of the domain, whichs makes it easier to search the domain and to use the information found.
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# Translation of the results into objectives for an enriched end user thesaurus

- Main objectives:
  - The thesaurus must cover different vocabularies allowing users to enter the thesaurus no matter point of departure.
  - The thesaurus must function as a "translation mechanism" between the different vocabularies in the domain.
  - The thesaurus must be enriched with factual information about institutions, procedures and document types together with thorough definitions, allowing users to improve their knowledge of the domain and the information found.
  - The thesaurus should make relationships between various document types visible to the users.
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# Example (1)

## DIREKTIV

<b>Synonym(er)</b>	EU-direktiv
<b>Definition</b>	Et direktiv er med hensyn til det tilsigtede mål bindende for enhver medlemsstat, som det rettes til, men overlader det til de nationale myndigheder at bestemme form og midler for gennemførelsen ( <u>art. 249 TEF</u> )
<b>Politikområde</b>	<u>EU ret (afledt ret)</u>
<b>Overbegreb(er)</b>	<u>Retsakt</u>
<b>Underbegreber(er)</b>	<u>Kommissionens direktiv</u> <u>Rådets direktiv</u> <u>Rådets og Europa-Parlamentets direktiv</u>
<b>Relaterede begreber</b>	<u>Implementering</u>
<b>Engelsk betegnelse(r)</b>	Directive
<b>Note</b>	For uddybende information for så vidt angår indholdet af et direktiv, jf. Kommissionens forslag samt den danske regerings grundnotat. <b><u>Læs mere her.</u></b>

For information om baggrunden for direktivet er det nødvendigt at finde det oprindelige KOM-dokument, dvs. Kommissionens forslag til direktivet. Her vil Kommissionens begrundelse for at fremsætte forslaget fremgå. Der redegøres typisk for forslaget baggrund og hensigten med de nye bestemmelser.

For resume af Kommissionens forslag til et direktiv samt forslagets betydning for danske forhold m.m., se regeringens faktuelle grundnotat herom. Den danske regering er forpligtet til at udarbejde grundnotater til samtlige direktivforslag og oversende disse til Folketingets Europaudvalg. Grundnotater kommer i form af et bilag.



# Example (2)

## BERIGEDE FØDEVARER

**Synonym(er)** Berigede levnedsmidler

**Definition** Berigede fødevarer er almindelige fødevarer, der er tilsat ekstra vitaminer eller mineraler. **Læs mere her.**

Berigede fødevarer er del af de funktionelle fødevarer. De har ligesom funktionelle fødevarer fået tilsat ingredienser, men ud fra mere snævre sundhedsmæssige begrundelser. Berigede fødevarer har fået tilsat et vitamin eller et mineral med henblik på at:

- Gøre den pågældende fødevarer til en bedre kilde for næringsstoffer
- Erstatte næringsstoffer som går tabt under produktion og lagring
- Udligne naturlige variationer i indholdet af næringsstoffer i en given fødevarer
- Gøre en fødevarer til en substitut for en anden ved at matche indholdet af næringsstoffer i den (kilde: [Landbrugsraadet](#))

Det er eksempelvis tilladt at tilsætte en bestemt mængde C-vitamin til juice som erstatning for det tab, der sker under produktionen.

**Politikområde** Sundhed og forbrugerbeskyttelse (fødevareresikkerhed)

**Overbegreb(er)** Funktionelle fødevarer

**Relaterede begreber** Kosttilskud  
Næringsstoffer  
Vitaminer  
Mineraler

**Engelsk betegnelse(r)** Fortified foods, enriched foodstuffs

**Note** Kommissionen anlagde i 2001 sag an mod Danmark vedr. de restriktive danske regler om tilsætning af vitaminer og mineraler til fødevarer (C-192/01). I september 2003 afsagde Domstolen dom. Danmark tabte sagen.

# Summing up

- Non-specialists often find it difficult to search for EU-information. This is due to the special characteristics of the domain.
  - An enriched end user thesaurus can be a potential tool for non-specialists. Two objectives must at least be fulfilled:
    - The vocabular of the thesaurus must be large and nuanced.
    - The posts must be value added with thorough definitions and relevant factuel information.
  - This gives the thesaurus two purposes:
    - A help to conduct searches
    - A learning tool
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# And next?

- Necessary to improve our knowledge about the different vocabularies in the domain.
  - The analytic domain study should be supplement with studies of real users in order to obtain knowledge about their concrete information needs, searching behaviour etc.
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