

# Evaluating your Terminology with evalTerm

## Get Your Terminology Tidied Up

Your terminology has grown over years and is no longer consistent? Your terminology is rather a glossary than a fully-fledged terminological resource? Your terminology is scattered over different files, resources, databases and comes in different formats?

Then, the time might have come for a clean-up action. Our terminology evaluation tool checks your term collection according to linguistic correctness and conceptual consistency, and according to term formation standards and other criteria.

## Spell Checking

We detect orthographic errors such as incorrect spellings (e.g. *accomodation device*, *acuracy of shape*, *angle of distorsion*), or American vs. British English (e.g. *acrylic fibers*, *acyl ester sulfonate*). Where possible, we provide candidate corrections for misspelled words. So far, we have not come across a single terminological resource without spelling errors.

## Grammar Checking

As terms are best listed in their base form, we flag any occurrence of a term in plural form (e.g. *abduction splints*, *abietic acid derivates*, *computer mice*) and other unwanted linguistic forms such as prepositional expressions (e.g. *with wheel disc brake*) and incorrect syntagmas.

## Term Formation

An important aspect in compiling a terminology is the adherence to common principles of term formation. Terms consisting of a rather large number of words need to be assessed (e.g. *advanced technology attachment with packet interface*, or *car washing plant cleaning products*), as well as the issue of hyphenation (*aboveground storage-tank* vs. *aboveground storage tank*), the writing of numbers (e.g. *3-dimensional sewing* vs. *three dimensional imaging*) and the use of compounds vs. syntagmas (*cost reduction* vs. *reduction of costs*). Our terminology evaluation examines all these facets of term formation and thus contributes to a consistent terminological resource.

## Consistency

A vexing problem for terminology work is consistency. Concept-based terminology work means that only one linguistic expression is used to denote a specific concept. In more popular terms the rule is to use the same term for the same thing. This means on the other hand: Avoid term variation! Our terminology evaluation thus detects a broad range of term variants concerning:

- spelling: *accelerated ageing* vs. *accelerated aging*
- hyphenation: *aero-acoustics* vs. *aeroacoustics*
- derivation: *acoustic holography* vs. *acoustical holography*,
- formation: *absorption of carbon dioxides* vs. *carbon dioxide absorption*
- synonymy: *maintenance costs* vs. *repair costs*



## Features

- spell checking
- correction of misspelled words
- grammar checking
- checking of term formation
- checking of terminology consistency
- detection of duplicates
- presentation of results in an Excel spreadsheet

## Problems Recognised

- spelling errors
- British vs. American English
- unknown words
- terms in inflected form
- ungrammatical syntagmas
- writing of numbers
- hyphenation issues
- complexity of terms
- terminological variants:
  - spelling
  - hyphenation
  - derivation
  - formation
  - synonym

## Unification of Terminological Resources

Terminology evaluation provides the opportunity to unify different terminological resources that may come from different sources. Terminology evaluation detects all kinds of inconsistencies and duplicates. Each term is still referenced according to which source it comes from. This allows for an assessment of which term is relevant for which source, which term is relevant for different or all sources etc. The result of a unification of different resources will be a consistent uniform terminological base.

## Terminology Evaluation Right from the Beginning

Have you just started with building your terminological resource, maybe without even having a list of terms? Or do you want to tidy up your word lists and analyse your documents to collect more terms and integrate them into the already existing resource?

Then, why not combining terminology evaluation with term extraction on the basis of **extraTerm**? You will not only get new term candidates but also information about which term candidates may be problematic according to established term formation principles. Existing terminology or word lists can easily be taken into account in this process.

## Need more Information?

If you have further questions, or would like to know how we can help you with your specific requirements, don't hesitate to contact us.

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