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Barbara A. Cerny

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DEVELOPMENT OF A POLITICAL SCIENCE THESAURUS

by

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INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Department of Energy's Technical Information Center (TIC) and the Executive Office of the President (EOP) Information Center formed a collaboration to develop a political science thesaurus to serve the needs of their respective on-line information storage and retrieval systems. Although there was consensus that the political science vocabulary eventually developed for the two systems would have large areas of overlap, the reasons for its development, vis a vis the system needs, arose from very different perspectives.

TIC developed and maintains the Department of Energy's Energy Data Base on the RECON system which currently contains more than 1,000,000 computer retrievable citations covering all scientific and technical information of use to DOE. This is controlled by the Energy Data Base Subject Thesaurus TID-7000 (EDBT) (1). An earlier project by TIC (2) addressed itself to the development of a structured list of social science concepts designed to extend the thesaurus as energy related literature moved into these domains. This term list was devised a priori rather than a posteriori as TIC is currently doing in the technical fields. The idea was to generate a reference document so that as terms on the new list are found in the literature, they could be incorporated into EDBT. The advantage of this approach is that, with the isolation of potentially energy related social science areas, a broad structure could be built into which terms in the literature could be fit. This could then lend a coherence and rationality to the devised term list relating to these peripherally energy related areas that could match that which currently exists among the technical fields already represented in EDBT.

TIC is now moving into the realm of interaction of energy and politics with the publication of Energy Abstracts for Policy Analysis and the U.S. DOE Issues and Policy Summaries. The latter, which is prepared for the Assistant to the Secretary, Public Affairs, tracks public statements by DOE officials which appear in the form of news releases, Congressional testimony, speeches, media interviews, etc. As the approach taken with the energy and social science vocabulary has proven useful, consideration was given to producing a similar one in the energy and political science domains.

Concurrently, the Executive Office of the President was in the process of designing a documentation control center for all of the EOP materials. This Center is being created by the White House Information Center which was recently formed under the Carter Administration as a part of the new Office of Administration. The Center's purpose is to institutionalize information services to better provide consistent support for the President, his immediate staff, advisors, speechwriters, and others. (3) Eventually, this system
will provide an integrated on-line service for storage and retrieval of documents in the EOP library as well as the materials in the White House Information Center collection such as current and retrospective records, EOP publications, White House News Summaries and Press Releases.

Because of the nature of the Information Center collection, they decided not to adopt a more conventional approach for developing a controlled vocabulary such as studying the collection, the users, etc. Rather, a project was devised, in conjunction with TIC, to take indexes from sources they felt represented the activities of the EOP, merge and sort them and from these create the nucleus of a thesaurus. These sources, known to cover a significant segment of their knowledge base, but difficult to use in their original form, would provide a coherent vocabulary for consideration as indexing of this growing collection was being carried out. Then frequency counts of search requests and indexing terminology could be kept to help generate eventually a structured vocabulary tied to the collections. Other vocabularies, such as that from the current library subject heading list, or ones devised anew, such as from the press release file could then be merged as necessary.

METHODOLOGY

The indexes that the Information Center provided as the original sources to be merged were:

- Index to the Budget of the United States, 1980
- Index to the Budget Appendix, 1980
- General Accounting Office Thesaurus
- Index to the Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance
- Index to Press Releases
- Classification Systems of the Office of Management and Budget

In addition, a computer tape from the National Technical Information Service of their compendium of terms from various sources in the "soft science" areas of policy, political science, management, business, etc. was to be merged, with the above as well as an equivalent tape derived from Technical Information Center's Energy Data Base Thesaurus. These latter, general sources have not yet been included since EOP felt it preferable to work at this time with the present version of the thesaurus rather than expending more effort on a document not tied to their bibliographic reality.
Initial work began with the GAO Thesaurus (4) since it covered a broad spectrum and is in thesaurus format. This tape, consisting of ~3000 main terms, was converted via a Fortran program into an input file for our thesaurus building software (5), some very specific and/or compound terms deleted, and a nucleus of a thesaurus generated. Then the concepts for the System for Arrangement of Subject Matter of the Office of Management and Budget not covered in the GAO Thesaurus were added with help in terminology expansion coming from the Congressional Research Service’s Legislature Index Vocabulary Thesaurus (LIVT) (6). The GAO is very rich in budgetary terminology while the LIVT deals extensively with the President, Congress and politics in general. Terms were then added from the Index to the Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance. The Index to Press Releases was ignored, since the terminology is so inadequate that the Press Release file will require an extensive new vocabulary. This vocabulary, potentially of particular interest to TIC, will have to be developed separately, possibly using a technique of selection of terminology based on frequency counts of words within the Press Releases, and then merged into the thesaurus in a later phase.

The first version of the thesaurus so generated consisted of about 2200 word blocks. Since it was a compilation of sources, the level of depth and breadth of explication of concepts varied, and it was very difficult to get a sense of the scope of knowledge base. Hence, the Classification Scheme (Appendix I) was devised. This helped to make Version 1 a more coherent document, while in the working system it will provide an entry vocabulary and a conceptual overview to facilitate searching. The thesaurus and the classification are merely different arrangements of the same vocabulary; the thesaurus is constructed in word blocks with hierarchical and associative relationships (Appendix II), while the Classification is arranged by subject matter numbered and cross referenced. The information in the Classification is also faceted, when possible, to add another dimension.

At this point, Version 1 of the thesaurus and the associated Classification was an abstract structure not tied to actual documents. The next step in the process linked it to EOP's reality by making the thesaurus terms consistent with the EOP Library subject headings (SH). Eventually, the Library collection would be accessible on-line with the thesaurus serving in place of the catalogue. To begin work towards this goal, the subject descriptors were extracted from the SH list and the proper nouns and geographical place names considered to constitute other authority lists. These descriptors were then checked against the thesaurus and added to it if they did not appear with a code signifying that they originated with the SH list. The thesaurus, in this version (Version 2), now consists of ~2800 word blocks.

While Version 1 was of potential use to both EOP and TIC, the differing needs of the two systems seemed to dictate different approaches for subsequent versions. Version 2 moved EOP a step closer to automating their library services, while TIC would probably have been better served by including the general terminology provided by NTIS. It seems that future needs will be best met by proceeding with separate development on both fronts, with potential merging in specific areas of mutual interest such as Press Release terminology.
References


APPENDIX I

Classification Scheme for Political Science Thesaurus
Version 1
This classification represents an organization of terms in Version 1 of the Thesaurus for the Information System of the Executive Office of the President. The terms and concepts were extracted from the following sources:

- Index to the Budget of the U.S., 1980
- Index to the Budget Appendix, 1980
- GAO Thesaurus
- Main subject headings of the Index to the Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance
- Classification System of the Office of Management and Budget
- Legislative Index Vocabulary

Every term in the classification appears in the body of the thesaurus, but not every term in the thesaurus is in the classification. For example, some classification terms such as "Crimes/offenses", "Subsidies", "Insurance", etc. appear with notes to see specific forms. The main body of the thesaurus should then be consulted where narrow terms will appear within the word blocks. In particular, in the domain "Budgets", the myriad of specific terminology is not included. It is obvious from the word blocks.

Facets (in parentheses in the classifications) are used in two ways. The first is a traditional facet within a subject, while the second is an implied term. For example, under "Government" on page 1,

(B03) (By Branches of National Government)

is an implied term, while

(By Presidential Actions)

is a facet of "Executive Power". Implied terms sometimes have numbers in parentheses, if necessary, for clarity or cross referencing, while facets, of course, are never numbered.

Terms in capitals, such as

HEADS OF STATE -- E18.40

in "Government", page 1, are cross references, in this case to

E18.40 Heads of State

in the POLITICS section.
GENERAL TERMS

Accidents
Administration
Agreements
Analysis
Appraisals
Assessments
Authority
Awards
Benefits
Cancellation
Charges
Consumption
Control
Costs
Development
Eligibility criteria
Emergencies
Enforcement
Equipment
Errors
Evaluation
Forecasting
Inventories
Licenses
Materials
Modifications
Monitoring
Options
Organizations
Overviews
Payments
Planning
Policies
Prevention
Privileges
Prizes
Production
Profits
Projections
Protests
Quotas
Rates
Reconsiderations
Reform
Reparations
Safety
Site selection
Shortages
Surveys
Systems management
Testing
Violations
Government

Separation of powers
UF Checks and balances

(By Branches of National Government)
(By Executive Branch)

Executive powers
HEADS OF STATE -- E18.40
TREATIES -- I04

President as Commander-in-Chief
Presidential Appointments
Removal of Officials

(By Presidential actions)
PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS -- B03.24

Executive orders
Executive agreements
Executive veto
Executive reform
Presidential proposals
Impoundment

(By Executive assistance for the President)
Presidential aides

Cabinet
(By offices)
* State Department
* Treasury
etc.

* Executive Office of the President
(By advisors)
* Chief of Staff
* Press Secretary
* Special Assistant for National Security Affairs

(By offices)
* White House Office
* Office of Administration
* Council on Wage and Price Stability
* Office of Science and Technology Policy
* Domestic Policy Staff
* Council of Economic Advisors
* Council on Environmental Quality
* National Security Council
* Special Representative for Trade Negotiations

Office of Management and Budget

* indicates proper name not included in body of Thesaurus
(By functions)
Policies -- A
Public Administration -- C
Programs -- C60.10

B03.62 Relations

B03.80 Executive Agencies
Cabinet -- B03.45
Regulation -- F07.80
Deregulation -- F07.86
Administrative Law -- H02.30
(By offices)
* Federal Bureau of Investigation
* Food and Drug Administration
* Environmental Protection Agency
etc.

B03.82 Independent Regulatory Commissions
(By Commissions)
* Interstate Commerce Commission
* Federal Trade Commission
* Federal Communications Commission
etc.

(B04) (By Vice Presidential powers)
Presidential Succession -- E06.20

B04.10 President of the Senate
(By Legislative Branch)

B08.70 Congressional Privileges
B08.80 Congressional powers

B08.81

(B08.82)

LEGISLATION -- F06/F07
B08.82.10 Authorization
B08.82.20 Appropriations
    see specific appropriation
B08.82.30 Legislative resolutions
B08.83 Congressional oversight
B08.84 Congressional hearings
B08.85 Congressional investigations
B08.86 Impeachments
B08.87 Declaration of War

(By sources of Power)

PUBLIC OPINION -- X08.40

(B09.92)

VOTING -- F12.10
B09.92.10 Congressional voting
B09.94 Congressional party organization
B09.96 Legislative office
B09.96.10 Speaker of the House
B09.96.20 Whip
B09.96.30 Floor manager
B09.97 House/Senate relations
B09.98 Congressional Joint Committees
B09.99 Congressional Conference Committees

(By Legislative assistance for Congress)

B09.10 Congressional agencies
    * Government Accounting Office
    etc.
B09.12 Committees
    CONGRESSIONAL JOINT COMMITTEES -- B08.98
    CONGRESSIONAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEES -- B08.99
B09.12.10 Advisory committees
B09.12.20 Congressional Committees (House)
B09.12.30 Congressional Committees (Senate)

(By legislative process)

CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATIONS -- B08.85
PROPOSED LEGISLATION -- F07.50

B10.10 Legislative procedures
B10.12 Legislative calendars
B10.14 Cloture

(By Judicial Branch)

JUDICIAL PROCESS -- G06/G07
JUDICIAL DECISIONS -- G07.64
 COURTS (LAW) -- G04.10

B20.10 Judicial powers
JUDICIAL REVIEW -- H50.10
ENFORCEMENT -- A
(B30) (By Non-National government) 4 - GOVT.
B30.10 State Government
   (By Executive branch)
   B30.12 Governors

(B30.20) (By Legislative Branch)
B30.22 State Legislatures
   (By members)
   B30.22.10 State Legislators

(B30.40) (By Judicial Branch)
STATE LEGISLATION -- F07.10
STATE LAW -- H08.40
STATE CONSTITUTIONS -- S30.18.30

(B30.50) (By aid)
SUBSIDIES -- C80.32
GRANTS -- C80.12
B30.52 State aid

B40.10 Municipal/Local Government
   (By Executive Branch)
   B40.12 Mayors
   B40.13 City Managers
   B40.14 Commissioners

   (By Judicial Branch)
   MUNICIPAL LEGISLATION -- F07.30

(B50.10) FEDERALISM -- S30.12.10
B50.11 Federal aid
B50.12 Federal/City relations
B50.13 Federal/State relations
B50.14 States Rights
B50.15 Intergovernmental relations
B50.16 State/Local relations
(C02) (By Government personnel)
GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES -- N26.24

By Executive Personnel

Presidents
PRESIDENTIAL AIDES -- B03.41
PRESIDENTIAL PROTECTION -- B16.31.10

Presidential families
Presidential residences
Presidential seal
Ex-Presidents

Vice-Presidents

PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS -- B03.24
PRESIDENTIAL AIDES -- B03.41
JUDGES -- F09.10
CABINET -- B03.45

Commissioners
Diplomats

Legislators
Congressional privileges
Congressional allowances
Franking privileges

Agency personnel
GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES -- N26.24

Judges

(Judge personnel)

Executive Office of the President
By administration and coordination agents
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET -- B03.52.10
PRESIDENTIAL AIDES -- B03.41

By administration and coordination functions
BUDGETS -- C14
EVALUATION -- A
PLANNING -- A
PROCUREMENT -- C20
GRANT ADMINISTRATION -- C80.12.10
Budgets

see specific budget
For brevity, other terms beginning with "Budget" have not been included here.
See main body of thesaurus.

(C14.20) (By budget process)

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET -- B03.52.10

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C20.22 Federal procurement

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  CONTRACTORS -- C20.90

C20.50 Multi-year procurement

C20.60 Year-end procurement

C20.70 Contracts
  (By selection process)

C20.72 Contract award

C20.73 Contract period
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C20.74 Requests for proposals

C20.74.10 Contract authority

C20.74.20 Bids

C20.75 Bidders

C20.90 Contractors

C20.92 Contractor selection

C20.93 Contractor liability

C20.94 Contractor eligibility

C20.95 Contractor responsibility

C21.10 Subcontractors

C21.20 Procurement procedures

C21.30 Procurement policies

(C30) PLANNING -- A

C30.10 Program planning

C30.20 Program evaluation

C30.30 Program reduction

C30.40 Program termination

C30.42 Sunset legislation
(C40)  (By Program operation)
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT -- (B03.52)
CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT -- B03.83
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C40.20 Program promotion
C40.30 Program abuses

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY COMMISSIONS -- B03.82
C50.12 Government investigations
C50.14 Congressional investigations
C50.16 Federal advisory bodies

(C60)  (By Government policies and programs)
C60.10 Programs
AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS -- M08.35
C60.11 Domestic volunteer programs
C60.12 Fair employment programs
    CIVIL RIGHTS -- H60.50
C60.14 Consumer affairs programs
C60.16 Cultural exchange programs
C60.18 Head start programs
C60.19 Urban development programs
C60.21 Health care programs
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C80.12.10 Grants-in-aid
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C80.26 Public assistance programs
C80.26.10 Social Security programs
C80.26.12 Medicare/Medicaid programs
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C80.26.15 Food stamp programs
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(D06.30) Nuclear policies
(D06.40) Windfall profits

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INTERNATIONAL TRADE -- K10.56

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(D12.20) Sanctions
(D12.30) Protectionism
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#### 10 - GOVT.

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**D16.12** Law enforcement  
**D16.14** Investigations  
*By method*  
**D16.14.10** Wiretapping  
**D16.15** Arrests  
*By personnel*  
* Federal Bureau of Investigation  
**D16.16** Police  
**D16.17** Immigration and Naturalization Service  

**D16.21** Sentencing  
**D16.22** Correctional institutions  
**D16.26** Halfway houses  
**D16.28** Rehabilitation programs  
**D16.29** Crime prevention  

**D14.31** Protection of officials  
**D16.31.10** Presidential protection  
**D16.31.20** Protection of foreign officials  

**D16.50** National security  
**D16.52** Military forces  
* MERCHANT MARINE -- M12.55.30  
* INTERNATIONAL MILITARY FORCES -- D30.52.22  
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* VOLUNTEER ARMY -- D16.52.063  
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**D16.52.50** Marine Corps  
**D16.52.60** Strategic forces  
**D16.52.70** Military advisors  
**D16.52.80** Military reserves  
**D16.52.90** Military personnel  
**D16.52.91** Retired military personnel  
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**D16.52.94** Women military  
**D16.52.95** Military dependents  
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**D16.53.03** Military training  
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**D16.53.061** Military recruitment  
*By recruitment policies*  
* Volunteer Program*  
**D16.53.063** Selective Service  
**D16.53.064** Draft registration
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International monetary policies

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   X08.10 Advertising
      MARKETING -- K10.10
      POLITICAL ADVERTISING -- E16.20
   X08.12 Deceptive advertising

X08.40 Public opinion
X08.42 Public relations
Y02 Information access
   RIGHT OF PRIVACY -- H06.52
Y20.10 Information security

Y04 Information dissemination
Y04.10 Foreign information exchange
   (By method)
Y04.20 Press conferences
   Y04.22 Presidential press conferences
Y04.30 Conferences
   CONVENTION FACILITIES -- T10.74
Y04.40 Congressional publicity
Y04.50 Press releases
Y04.60 Speeches

Y06 Information systems
Y06.10 Inventory control systems
   SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT -- A

Y08 Information service operations
   INFORMATION INDUSTRY -- X22.10
Y08.10 Information centers
   Libraries
   See specific type of library
Y08.12 Archives
Y08.14 Clearing houses
Y08.16 Records management
Y08.16.10 Records disposition
Y08.16.12 Records retention
Y08.16.14 Documentation
Y08.16.16 Records (documents)
   COMMUNICATIONS (MESSAGES) -- X02
Y08.16.54 Confidential records
Y08.16.55 Classified records
Y08.16.56 Administrative issuances
Y08.16.58 Financial records
Y08.16.62 Medical records
Y08.16.64 Public records
Y08.16.642 Vital records
Y08.16.68 Legal records
   JUDICIAL OPINIONS -- G07.64.20
   LEGAL OPINIONS -- G07.62
Y08.16.72 Procurement records
Y08.16.74 Voting records
   CONGRESSIONAL VOTING -- B 08.92.10
   (By storage)
Y08.16.76 Microforms
APPENDIX II

Sample of
Political Science Thesaurus
Version 2
Cross-References

BT = Broader term - a more general, inclusive concept that subsumes the reciprocal narrower terms. There can be multiple levels of BT's.

NT = Narrow term - the reciprocal of BT.

RT = Related term - some conceptual relationship to the main term that is neither a BT or an NT, or necessarily synonymous. They can be conceived of as a "see also" reference.

USE = Use this entry rather than the non-postable main term. This is used for synonymous or nearly synonymous terms to achieve a degree of uniformity; to lead from abbreviations to the fully spelled out words; or from very specific to a more general term.

UF = Use for - the reciprocal of USE.

SN = Scope note - these delimit the meaning of the terms, give suggestions for its use, and generally try to avoid ambiguities.

SN L = Signifies that the term has come from the EOP Library Subject heading list.

SN L = (Other term) signifies that the term appears in the SH list in (other term) form. The preferred term for future indexing is the thesaurus term.

DF = Definition - either a dictionary definition or a clarification of the definition in terms of this specific system.

The sources of scope notes and definitions are:
1) From the GAO thesaurus if enclosed in parentheses,
2) From the Legislative Index Vocabulary if appended by (LIVT),
3) Otherwise generated by us.

Terminological Conventions

1) Noun forms are used wherever possible.
2) Plurals are used in keeping with precedence, wherever possible. There are exceptions, such as specific processes, properties and conditions.
3) When terms can have more than one meaning, a parenthetical qualifier is added, e.g.

   Records (music)
   Records (documents)

4) Abbreviations are non-preferred terms; a USE reference relates back to the fully spelled version.

5) The syntax of terms is direct, rather than inverted. This frequently occurs in the "SN L = " notes since the LC headings appear in inverted as well as direct form in the EOP Library subject heading list.

6) Slashes are used for two cases, e.g.

   1) Congressional/Agency Relations where the / signifies a joining of the two to be acted upon or, implicitly "relations between Congress and Agencies".
   2) Money/Banking Law where the / indicates a joining of two closely related concepts, or implicitly "money and/or banking law".

7) Alphabetization proceeds word by word so the following list would appear:

   Federal Aid
   Federal Taxes
   Federal/City Relations
   Federalism

8) Hyphens are retained in compound words where they usually occur such as; Year-End Purchasing

   They are deleted in words with prefixed syllables such as;
   Anticommunist movements
   Countercultures
ITI EES

VIATIUNS

SNOl

RT ACRONYMS
RT NAMES
RT NICKNAMES
RT TERMINOLOGY

ABORTIONS
SN01 L-ABORTION
BT1 MEDICAL CARE
RT BIRTH CONTROL
RT FAMILY PLANNING
RT MATERNITY

ABSENTEEISM
BT1 LEAVE
BT2 COMPENSATION
RT SICK LEAVE

ABSTRACTING
USE INFORMATION PROCESSING

ACADEMIC LIBRARIES
SN01 L-LIBRARIES, UNIVERSITIES
AND COLLEGE
UF UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES
BT1 LIBRARIES
BT2 INFORMATION CENTERS
BT3 INFORMATION
RT LAW LIBRARIES
RT RESEARCH LIBRARIES

ACCIDENTS
SN01 USE IN CONJUNCTION WITH
SPECIFIC ACCIDENT SUCH AS
SN02 AIRCRAFT, MINING,
TRAFFIC, NUCLEAR
REACTORS, ETC.
SN03 L
RT DISABILITIES OR HANDICAPS
RT DISASTERS
RT SAFETY
RT SAFETY STANDARDS

ACCOUNTABILITY
RT AUDITS

ACCOUNTANTS
UF CPAS
BT1 OCCUPATIONS
RT ACCOUNTING

ACCOUNTING
SN01 L
UF BOOKKEEPING
NT1 COST ACCOUNTING
RT ACCOUNTANTS
RT ALLOCATION (GOVERNMENT
ACCOUNTING)
RT AMORTIZATION
RT BUSINESS
RT CERTIFYING OFFICERS
RT MICROECONOMICS

ACCOUNTING PERIODS
NT1 BUDGET YEAR
NT1 FISCAL YEAR
NT1 TRANSITION QUARTER

ACCOUNTING SYSTEMS
BT1 COLLECTION PROCEDURES
RT AUDITING SYSTEMS
RT AUTOMATED SYSTEMS
RT BILLING PROCEDURES
RT BUDGETING
RT CONTROL
RT DEPRECIATION
RT ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER
RT INVENTORY CONTROL

ACCOUNTS
NT1 APPROPRIATION ACCOUNTS
NT1 ESCROW ACCOUNTS
NT1 NATIONAL INCOME ACCOUNTS
NT1 TREASURY ACCOUNTS
NT2 FEDERAL FUND ACCOUNTS
NT3 GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS
NT3 INTRAGOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
NT3 PUBLIC ENTERPRISE FUNDS
(REVOLVING)
NT3 SPECIAL FUND ACCOUNTS
NT2 FOREIGN CURRENCY ACCOUNTS
(TREASURY)
NT2 M ACCOUNTS
RT BANK DEPOSITS
RT DEPOSIT FUNDS

ACHIEVEMENT MOTIVATION
SN01 L
RT EMPLOYEE MORALE
RT HUMAN ENGINEERING
RT MERIT SYSTEMS