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The Finnish General Upper Ontology YSO

There are advanced technologies for intelligent services of the semantic web, but the technologies alone are not enough: these services also need information in computer readable format. As the thesauri, which are currently used in describing resources, are meant for human users, the FinnONTO project decided to develop the widely used Finnish General Thesaurus (maintained by The National Library of Finland) into a general Finnish upper ontology so that also computers could use the information included in it.

Work on the general ontology has been going on since 2004 in different phases and with varying intensity. At the moment, the general ontology consists of about 20 000 concepts and it has already been merged with several special ontologies. The general ontology can be used through ONKI ontology server (<http://www.yso.fi/onki/yso/>) and the service can even be easily integrated into systems using the ontology. In order to achieve compatibility between different systems and to save development costs, the FinnONTO project promotes the public use of the free Finnish General Upper Ontology.