



How an Enterprise-Wide Topic Map can Promote Vocabulary Reusability

Duane Degler, IPGems/Lockheed Martin/SSA





Toward an Enterprise-Wide Topic Map

The Need:

- Develop an archive for scanned program policy content
- Simple to use, generic (used by many different user groups), while still tagging content for maximum relevance

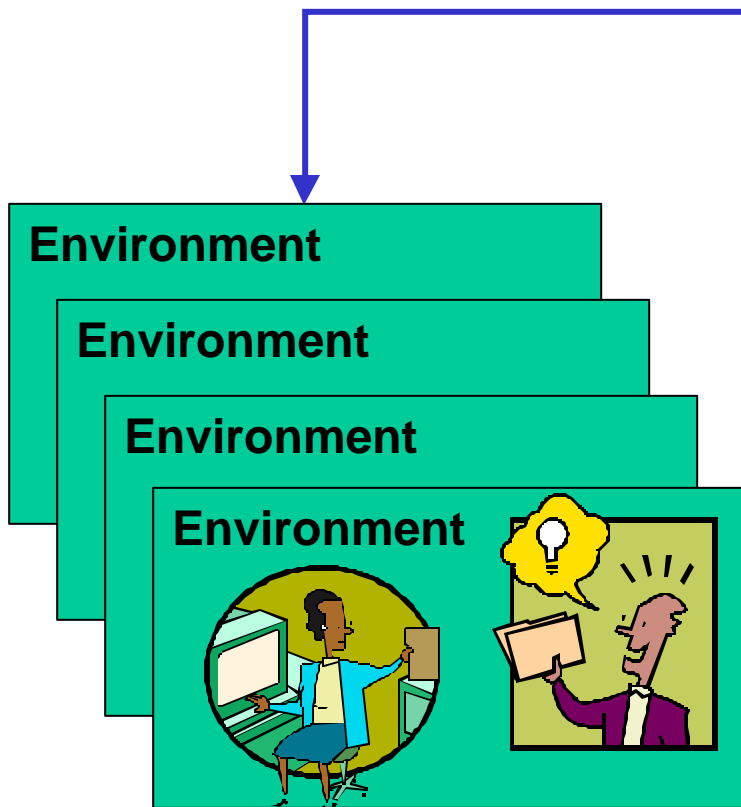
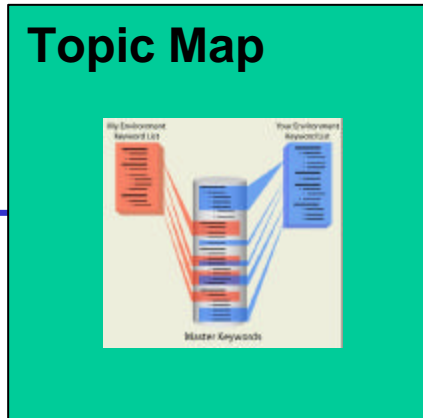
Design Goal:

- Create a sustainable resource for common organizational vocabulary... owned and managed by subject specialists





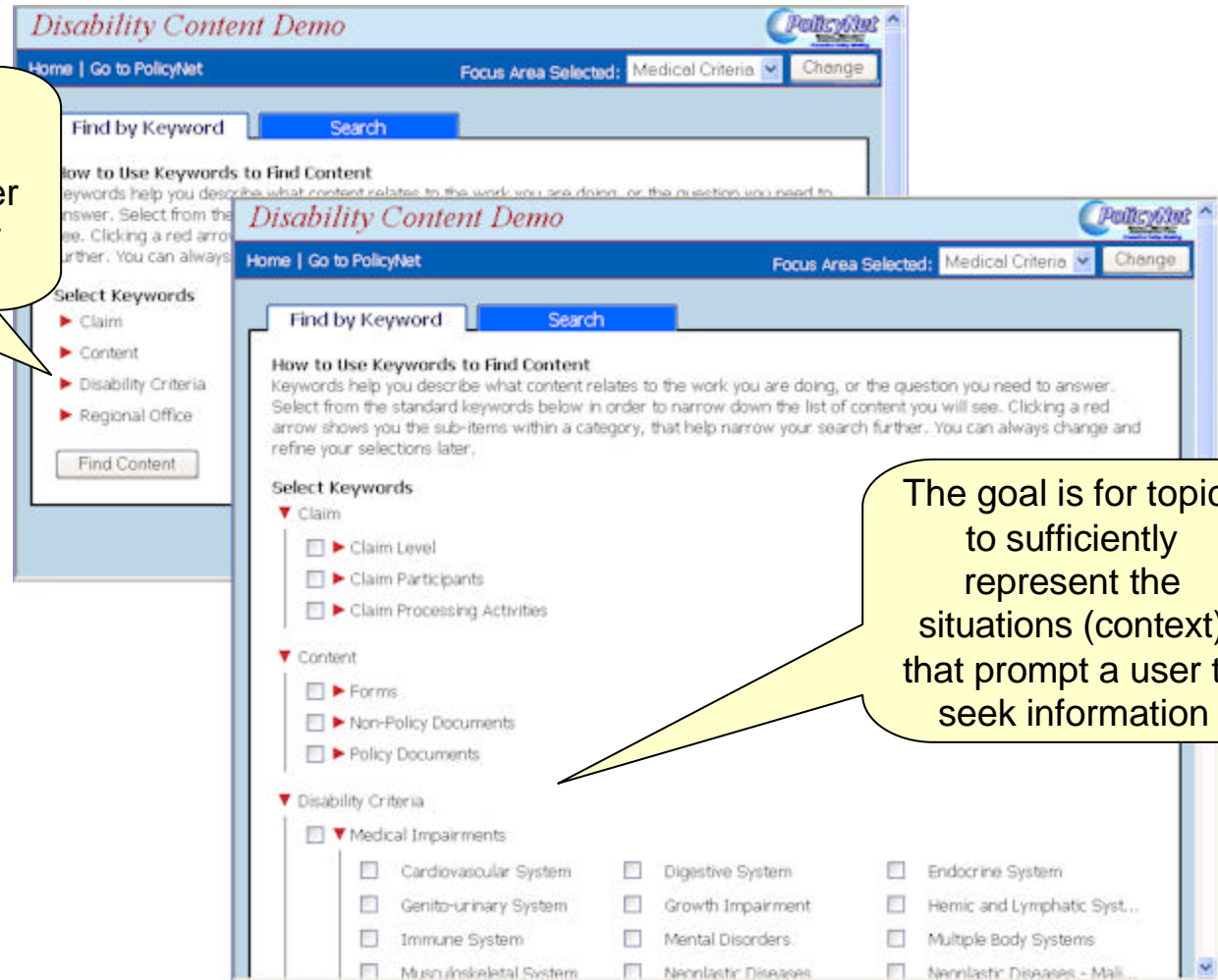
Brief Tour





End User Context... and Simplicity

Initially the full, large topic list is hidden, so the user becomes familiar with it in stages



The goal is for topics to sufficiently represent the situations (context) that prompt a user to seek information





Topic Management Consistency

The screenshot displays the 'Keyword Creator / Editor' web interface. At the top, it shows the user 'Duane Degler' and the date 'November 2, 2003'. The main area is divided into several sections:

- Manage Keywords:** Includes links for 'Change or Remove a Keyword' and 'Create New Keywords'.
- Change or Remove Keyword:** A section for managing existing keywords, with a 'DONE - Return to Home Page' button.
- Create New Keyword:** A form for adding new keywords. It includes:
 - Select Category:** A tree view with categories like 'CCR Environments', 'Claim Details', 'Component', 'Coverage Group', and 'Coverage Group Type'.
 - Keyword type:** A dropdown menu set to '(untyped)'.
 - Keyword:** A text input field.
 - Acronym:** A section with checkboxes for 'Does the keyword have a commonly known acronym?' and 'How well known is this acronym?' (options: 'General public use', 'SSA internal use only').
 - Reference number:** A section with a checkbox for 'Is there a reference number commonly used with this keyword?' and a text input field.
 - Definition:** A text input field for describing the keyword.
 - Notes:** A text input field for additional information.

A range of simple and complex associations are managed through an easy, effective interface

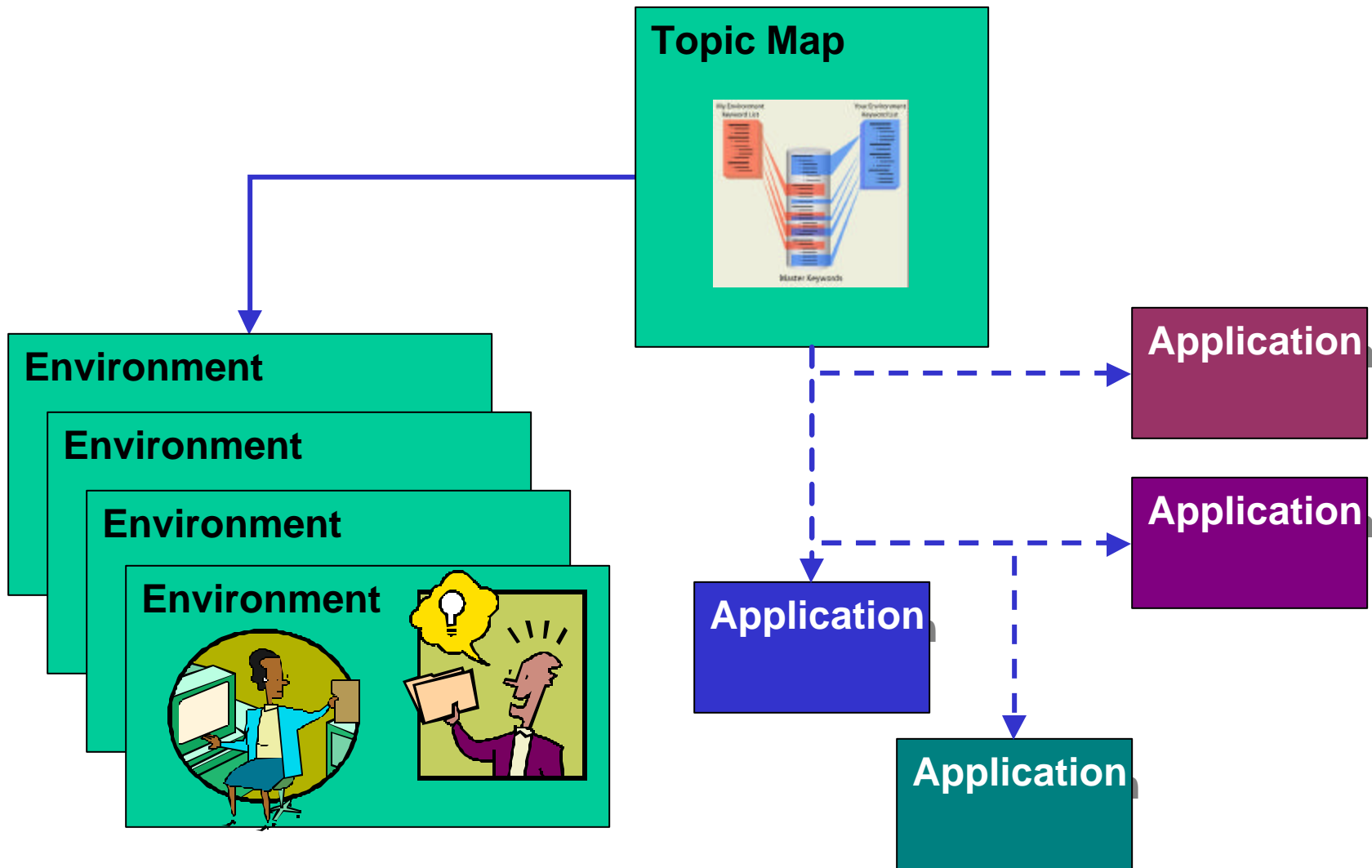
Common topic constructs like typing, acronyms, and hierarchical relationships are easily entered without complex syntax

Additional metadata is also provided by subject specialists





Future Vocabulary/Ontology Resource





Key Design Principles

Content Archive:

- Focus on user/organizational context
- Balance ease of use with metadata richness

Topic Map:

- Hide complexity of topic/association creation
- Capture valuable information once
- Plan for re-usability

