# Superordinate Knowledge Based Comprehensive Subset of Conceptual Knowledge for Practical Geo-spatial Application Scenarios

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Abstract—The results presented in this paper are based on the research conducted during the last years. Many multi-disciplinary and practical geo-spatial data and application solutions require to exploit holistically complex scenarios. In many cases, data and algorithms as well as workflows have to be created and tackled individually. The goal of this research is to create an innovative, comprehensive tool base of conceptual knowledge in geo-spatial application scenarios for arbitrary knowledge context in any media. The solution should be complementary to the commonly available geo-spatial features and should fulfill a range of further criteria, especially for a coherent system of knowledge, multidisciplinary, and data-centric. The result should allow to create and refer to facetted knowledge focussed on geo-spatial scenarios. The paper presents the results of an implementation based on the fundamental methodology of superordinate knowledge. The solution is targeting geo-spatial application scenarios and has been used for many practical implementations over more than three decades. The resulting comprehensive subset of conceptual knowledge reference divisions, which was created from this longterm research, is available and first published with this paper.

Keywords-Comprehensive Conceptual Knowledge; Geo-spatial Application Scenarios; Superordinate Knowledge Methodology; UDC; Advanced Data-centric Computing.

#### I. Introduction

It is a truth universally acknowledged, that geo-spatial disciplines are specialised and very much concentrating on providing solutions and tools for spatial data.

When it gets to more complex situations, then, spatial data based on numerical coordinate reference systems and domain only approaches may not be sufficient. This is, for example, the case when describing the target knowledge with mathematical spacial facets and dimensions is not sufficient. Many information and context maybe lost when knowledge is handled as plain data and mapped to preexisting attributes and categories. This is the case when a more holistic and more fundamental approach should be considered. In practice, associating different objectives and intentions, systematic knowledge, and physical features with knowledge, from methodology to implementation and realisation, can provide valuable solutions. The principles of superordinate knowledge provide such fundaments, from methodology to realisation.

The resulting solution should be complementary to the commonly available geo-spatial topologies, taxonomies, and features. In consequence, the means of describing spatial data, objects, entities, and context should be substantially extended.

The resulting solution should fulfill a range of criteria in order to provide a most sustainable, flexible fundament, e.g.:

- Covering a coherent system of knowledge.
- Consistent implementation, quasi-standardised.
- Providing facetted conceptual knowledge features.
- Multi-disciplinary knowledge spectrum.
- Features for multi-lingual implementation.
- Data-centric implementation/method.
- Extensible concept.

Therefore, these criteria should allow advanced features, e.g., documentation of data, objects, scenarios, concepts, algorithms, as well as universal context of knowledge criteria for all kind of knowledge in any media, knowledge documentation, knowledge consistent integration of publications and research data, knowledge mining, wide range of flexible implementation potential, supporting workflow features and documentation.

With this research, a comprehensive subset of conceptual knowledge reference divisions was created, further developed, and finally compiled from the practical application case studies, which have been conducted over the last decades.

The rest of this paper is organised as follows. Section II introduces the state of the art and motivation. Section III discusses previous work, components, and used resources. Section IV presents the required implementation features and sample scenarios. Section V presents the resulting conceptual knowledge solution. Section VI presents evaluation references to directly related implementations, research, development, and cases studies. Section VII summarises the lessons learned, conclusions, and future work.

## II. STATE OF THE ART AND MOTIVATION

Geo-spatial practice is focussed on providing cartographic means for certain space and environment. Widely employed tools are Geoscientific Information Systems and Geographic Information Systems. Most of these tools use geo-referenced data in order to organise and reference information. Available topologies can also provide for the categorisation of geospatial entities. All together these means are very limited when seen in a larger context as required for many complex application scenarios. Regarding that, one of the major deficits is the lack of a consistent and holistic knowledge concept. The fundaments of terminology and understanding knowledge are layed out by Aristotle [1], being an essential part of 'Ethics' [2]. Information sciences can very much benefit from

Aristotle's fundaments and a knowledge-centric approach [3] but for building holistic and sustainable solutions, supporting a modern definition of knowledge [4], they need to go beyond the available technology-based approaches and hypothesis [5] as analysed in Platon's Phaidon.

In sciences, observation is one of the most important fundamental tasks [6]. But, as John Burroughs expressed "There is nothing in which people differ in more than in their powers of observation. Some are only half alive to what is going on around them." [7]. Triggered by the results of a systems cases study, it is obvious that superordinate systematic principles [8] are still widely missing in practice and education. Making a distinction and creating interfaces between methods and the implementation applications [9], the results of this research are illustrated here along with the practical example of the Knowledge Mapping methodology [10] enabling the creation of new object and entity context environments, e.g., implementing methods for knowledge mining context. This motivating background allows to build methods for knowledge mapping on a general methodological fundament.

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has published principles and guidelines for access to research data from public funding [11]. The principles and guidelines are meant to apply to research data that are gathered using public funds for the purposes of producing publicly accessible knowledge. In this context, the OECD especially addresses knowledge, re-use, and knowledge generated from re-use. The means to achieve such recommendations even for complex scenarios is to use the principles of Superordinate Knowledge, which integrate arbitrary knowledge over theory and practice. Core assembly elements of Superordinate Knowledge [8] are methodology, implementation, and realisation. Separation and integration of assemblies have proven beneficial for building solutions with different disciplines, different levels of expertise. Comprehensive focussed subsets of conceptual knowledge can also provide excellent modular and standardised complements for information systems component implementations, e.g., for environmental information management and computation [12]. The conceptual knowledge reference divisions presented here are the result from more than three decades of scientific research in information science and multidisciplinary knowledge.

# III. PREVIOUS WORK, COMPONENTS, AND RESOURCES

For the implementation of case studies, the modules are built by support of a number of major components and resources, which can be used for a wide range of applications, e.g., creation of resources and extraction of entities. The facility for consistently describing knowledge is a valuable quality, especially conceptual knowledge, e.g., using the Universal Decimal Classification (UDC) [13].

The UDC is the world's foremost document indexing language in the form of a multi-lingual classification scheme covering all fields of knowledge and constitutes a sophisticated indexing and retrieval tool. The UDC is designed for subject description and indexing of content of information resources irrespective of the carrier, form, format, and language. UDC is an analytico-synthetic and facetted classification. It uses a knowledge presentation based on disciplines, with synthetic features. UDC schedules are organised as a coherent system of knowledge with associative relationships and references between concepts and related fields. Therefore, the UDC represents a most flexible facetted classification system for all kinds of knowledge in any media. The UDC provides 70,000 subdivisions, in 50 languages, which provides more than 3 million entries and verbal descriptions. The UDC is up to now internationally used in 130 countries, for 150,000-200,000 document collections worldwide. The classification has shown up being especially important for complex, facetted, multidisciplinary, and long-term classification, e.g., with Knowledge Resources. The UDC is the best publicly available implementation of conceptual knowledge to illustrate the width and depth of knowledge dimensions. The UDC allows an efficient and effective processing of knowledge data and provides facilities to obtain a universal and systematical view on classified objects. Operational areas include author-side content classifications and museum collections, e.g., with documentation of resources, library content, bibliographic purposes on publications and references, for digital and realia objects. The Knowledge Resources objects and entities can refer to any conceptual knowledge, e.g., main UDC-based classes, which for this publication are taken from the multi-lingual UDC summary [13] released by the UDC Consortium under a Creative Commons license [14]. Facets can be created with any auxiliary tables, e.g., auxiliaries of place and space, time, language, and form as well as general characteristics, e.g., properties, materials, relations, processes, and operations, persons and personal characteristics.

## IV. IMPLEMENTATION AND BASIC EXAMPLES

## A. Required conceptual knowledge features

Data and objects result from public, commonly available, and specialised Knowledge Resources. The Knowledge Resources are containing factual and conceptual knowledge as well as documentation and instances of procedural and metacognitive knowledge. These resources contain multidisciplinary and multi-lingual data and context. UDC provides auxiliary signs [15], which represent kinds of standardised "operations". UDC allows the creation of facetted knowledge using these features. The conceptual knowledge in focus requires to provide references to any universal knowledge context. References to UDC codes are capable to provide all the required context. The main tables provide an entry point to universal knowledge context [16]. For practical use, classification references can refer to UDC reference codes based on science and knowledge organisation [17]. For conceptual knowledge of place and spatial context the implementation requires to provide references to classification codes. The UDC provides references based on the common auxiliaries of place of the UDC [18]. In that context, besides universal knowledge, additional closely related references are required. UDC can provide appropriate references, e.g., geodesy, surveying, photogrammetry, remote sensing, cartography (UDC:528) [19] and geography, exploration, travel (UDC:910) [20], and nonliterary, nontextual representations of a region (UDC:912) [21].

## B. Examples of conceptual knowledge application

Examples of conceptual knowledge reference divisions according with UDC (UDC:913, Regional geography, [22]; UDC:94, General history, [23]; UDC:(1/9), Common auxiliaries of place, [18]) and UDC conventions are shown in the following four small sample groups:

```
UDC:913(3)
                 ⇒ Geography of the ancient world
UDC:913(3/9)
                 ⇒ Geography of the individual regions and
                    countries of the ancient and modern world
UDC:94(3)
                 ⇒ History of the ancient world
UDC:94(3/9)
                 ⇒ History of individual places of the ancient
                    and modern world
UDC:94(37)
                 ⇒ History of ancient Rome and Italy
                    (to 5th century)
UDC:94(38)
                 ⇒ History of ancient Greece
UDC:(37)(24)
                 ⇒ Ancient Rome and Italy, below sea level
UDC:(38)(24)
                 ⇒ Ancient Greece, below sea level
```

A little more complex facetted example, a single data object entity of a ship wreck realia as referred in a container of extended Knowledge Resources, is shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1. Knowledge Resources, conceptual spatial and geo-references: Lindos object with ship wreck entity, Rhodes, Greece (excerpt).

Passages not relevant for demonstration and not adequate for privacy and safety reasons were shortened to ellipses. The object entity contains documentation, object categories and factual data, conceptual data references, a source reference [24], and data for geo-references. The conceptual knowledge comprises details of non geo-spatial domains, e.g., from main tables UDC:6 and UDC:9, and from geo-spatial context, e.g., auxiliary tables for place and space UDC:(24) UDC:(3/9). For this case, the object entity references can be resolved as:

```
UDC:902
                 ⇒ Archaeology
UDC:903
                 ⇒ Prehistory. Prehistoric remains, artefacts,
                    antiquities
UDC:904
                 ⇒ Cultural remains of historical times
UDC:629.5
                 ⇒ Watercraft engineering. Marine engineering.
                    Boats. Ships. Boatbuilding and shipbuilding
UDC:(38)
                 ⇒ Ancient Greece
UDC:(4)
                 ⇒ Europe
UDC:(24)
                 ⇒ Below sea level. Underground. Subterranean
```

The references can hold further details and sub-contain additional information, e.g., UDC:903 further refers to artefacts in more detail. For a wider and deeper view, we have to refer to a number of successful projects, which were conducted by the author's group and various collaborators over the last decades. All these implementations are significantly based on the solution presented here.

#### V. RESULTING CONCEPTUAL KNOWLEDGE SOLUTION

Table I contains the compilation of a general comprehensive subset of resulting major conceptual knowledge reference divisions for geo-spatial application scenarios. All the conceptual knowledge reference divisions presented are referring to UDC codes, which have been made publicly available. Here, "UDC:" is the designated notation of references used with Knowledge Resources and objects in ongoing projects. The UDC illustrates the width and depth of knowledge dimensions. The full details of organisation and knowledge are available from the UDC. As far a possible, the original verbal descriptions (English for demonstration) were taken, even if the writing of terms and words may differ from the practice used for the rest of this paper. The resulting conceptual knowledge solution comprises a most comprehensive knowledge compendium of geo-spatially dominated facetted knowledge, which can be effectively and efficiently used in geo-spatial application scenarios. Besides the level of detail and arbitrary facetted knowledge, the respective conceptual knowledge reference divisions provide a focussed discipline coverage while spanning a large width and depth of knowledge reference divisions. For example, let us take an additional view on depth for UDC:004 (Computer science and technology. Computing. Data processing), UDC:51 (Mathematics), and UDC:528 (Geodesy. Surveying. Photogrammetry. Remote sensing. Cartography).

Besides the shown references, UDC:004 also comprises important subdivision context of data and structure, e.g., data handling (UDC:004.62), files (UDC:004.63), databases and their structures (UDC:004.65), and systems for numeric data (UDC:004.67). For practical references, UDC:004 can be used to also hold references to many application scenarios, e.g., algorithms for program construction, low level as well as high level and problem oriented languages, knowledge representation, artificial intelligence application systems, intelligent knowledge-based systems. For practical references with mathematical, geometrical, and topological context, UDC:51 can be used to also hold references to fundamental and general considerations of mathematics, number theory, algebra, geometry, topology, analysis, combinatorial analysis, graph theory, probability, mathematical statistics, computational mathematics, numerical analysis, mathematical cybernetics, operational research as well as mathematical theories and methods. For practical references with geoscience and spatial disciplines, UDC:528 can be used to also hold references to a much deeper discipline based knowledge, e.g., fundamentals derived from potential theory, level surfaces, geoids, geometric/static methods, use of longitudinal and latitudinal measurements, gravity measurement, astro-geodetic determination of position, geographical coordinates, topographic surveying, engineering surveys, special fields of surveying, applications of photogrammetry, fundamental and physical principles, data processing, and interpretation.

The result of conceptual knowledge reference divisions based on the methodology of superordinate knowledge is complementary to geo-spatial topologies and geo-referencing. It can be used complementary with any geoscientific and geo-spatial knowledge in any context.

Table I. Comprehensive subset of resulting conceptual knowledge reference divisions for Geo-Spatial application scenarios, practically used main classification references, Universal Decimal Classification samples (UDC, English; UDCC [13]; CC [14]).

CONCEPTUAL KNOWLEDGE REFERENCES FOR GEO-SPATIAL SCENARIOS			
Code / Sign Ref.	Verbal Description (EN)	Code/Sign Ref.	Verbal Description (EN)
	Common Auxiliary	Signs	
+	Coordination. Addition (plus sign).		Subgrouping (square brackets).
•	Consecutive extension (oblique stroke sign).	*	Introduces non-UDC notation (asterisk).
	Simple relation (colon sign).  Order-fixing (double colon sign).	A/Z	Direct alphabetical specification. [Reference listing, itemisation]
•	Auxiliary Table	's	[Reference usung, remisation]
JDC:=	Common auxiliaries of language.	UDC:(=)	Common auxiliaries of human ancestry, ethnic
JDC:= JDC:(0)	Common auxiliaries of form.	ODC.(=)	grouping and nationality.
JDC:(1/9)	Common auxiliaries of place.	UDC:-0	Common auxiliaries of general characteristics:
JDC:""	Common auxiliaries of time.		Properties, Materials, Relations/Processes and Persons
	Place and Space	re .	
DC:(1/9)	Common auxiliaries of place.	UDC:(20)	Ecosphere
JDC:(1)	Place and space in general. Localization. Orientation	UDC:(21)	Surface of the Earth in general.
JDC:(100)	Universal as to place. International. All countries in general		Land areas in particular.
JDC:(1-0/-9)	Special auxiliary subdivision for boundaries and	LIDC.(22)	Natural zones and regions
JDC:(1-0)	spatial forms of various kinds Zones	UDC:(23)	Above sea level. Surface relief. Above ground generally. Mountains
JDC:(1-0) JDC:(1-1)	Orientation. Points of the compass. Relative position	UDC:(24)	Below sea level. Underground. Subterranean
DC:(1-1)	Lowest administrative units. Localities	UDC:(25)	Natural flat ground (at, above or below sea level). Th
JDC:(1-5)	Dependent or semi-dependent territories	ODC.(23)	ground in its natural condition, cultivated or inhabited
JDC:(1-6)	States or groupings of states from various points of view	UDC:(26)	Oceans, seas and interconnections
JDC:(1-7)	Places and areas according to privacy, publicness and	UDC:(28)	Inland waters
. ,	other special features	UDC:(29)	The world according to physiographic features
JDC:(1-8)	Location. Source. Transit. Destination	UDC:(3/9)	Individual places of the ancient and modern world
JDC:(1-9)	Regionalization according to specialized points of view	UDC:(3)	Places of the ancient and mediaeval world
JDC:(2)	Physiographic designation	UDC:(4/9)	Countries and places of the modern world
	Main Tables		
JDC:0	Science and Knowledge. Organization. Computer Science.	UDC:5	Mathematics. Natural Sciences
	Information. Documentation. Librarianship. Institutions. Publications	UDC:6	Applied Sciences. Medicine, Technology
JDC:1	Philosophy. Psychology	UDC:7	The Arts. Entertainment. Sport
JDC:2 JDC:3	Religion. Theology Social Sciences	UDC:8 UDC:9	Linguistics. Literature Geography. Biography. History
DC.3			Geography. Biography. History
JDC:001	Science, Knowledge, Or		Activity and against Communication and control
JDC:001 JDC:002	Science and knowledge in general. Organization of intellectual work Documentation. Books. Writings. Authorship	ODC:007	Activity and organizing. Communication and control theory generally (cybernetics). 'Human engineering'
JDC:002 JDC:003	Writing systems and scripts	UDC:01	Bibliography and bibliographies. Catalogues
JDC:004	Computer science and technology. Computing. Data processing	UDC:02	Librarianship
DC:004.4	Software	UDC:030	General reference works (as subject)
DC:004.6	Computer data	UDC:050	Serial publications, periodicals (as subject)
DC:004.7	Computer communication. Computer networks	UDC:06	Organizations of a general nature
DC:004.8	Artificial intelligence	UDC:061	Organizations and other types of cooperation
JDC:005	Management	UDC:069	Museums. Permanent exhibitions
JDC:005.94	Knowledge management	UDC:070	Newspapers (as subject). The Press. Journalism
JDC:006 JDC:008	Standardization of products, operations, weights, measures and time Civilization. Culture. Progress	UDC:08 UDC:09	Polygraphies. Collective works Manuscripts. Rare and remarkable works
JDC.000	Geo-spatial Focus Divisions F		
IDC:51	*		
JDC:51 JDC:528	Mathematics  Geodesy Surveying Photogrammetry Pemote centing Cartography	UDC:550.3	Geophysics Geobiology. Geological actions of organisms
JDC:528 JDC:528.2	Geodesy. Surveying. Photogrammetry. Remote sensing. Cartography Figure of the Earth. Earth measurement. Mathematical	UDC:550.7 UDC:550.8	Applied geology and geophysics. Geological
JDC.J20.2	geodesy. Physical geodesy. Astronomical geodesy	0.000.0	prospecting and exploration. Interpretation of results
JDC:528.3	Geodetic surveying	UDC:551	General geology. Meteorology. Climatology.
JDC:528.4	Field surveying. Land surveying. Cadastral survey.	120.001	Historical geology. Stratigraphy. Palaeogeography
	Topography. Engineering survey. Special fields of surveying	UDC:551.8	Palaeogeography
JDC:528.7	Photogrammetry: aerial, terrestrial	UDC:778	Special applications and techniques of photography
JDC:528.8	Remote sensing	UDC:91	Geography. Exploration of the Earth and of
DC:528.9	Cartography. Mapping (textual documents)		individual countries. Travel. Regional geography
JDC:528.94	Thematic cartography. Topical cartography		(systematic geography). Theoretical geography
DC.320.74			
JDC:53 JDC:55	Physics Earth Sciences. Geological sciences	UDC:912 UDC:913	Nonliterary, nontextual representations of a region

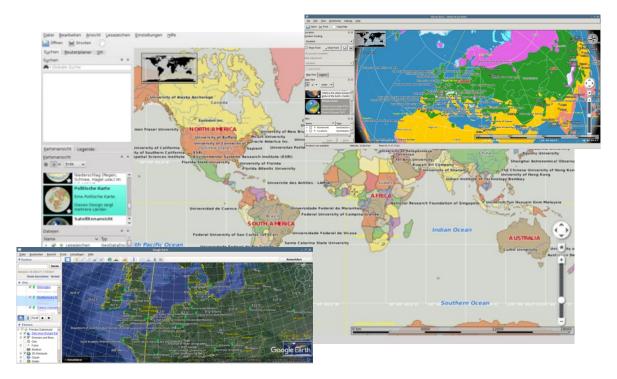


Figure 2. Collage of different implementation cases based on the resulting conceptual knowledge (Table I) from this research: Knowledge mapping, integration, mining; the samples illustrate context creation and dynamical visualisation. For technical details please see the references for the case studies given in the text.

The result can provide solutions wherever conceptual knowledge references are involved. The methodologies and implementations make sure that powerful sets of unique attributes and features are available. The number of possible use cases is practically unlimited. The case studies showed that a wide range of application scenarios can benefit from the principles of superordinate knowledge and considering conceptual knowledge as complementary means for consistently documenting and handling knowledge. The passages in the following section refer to discussions and details for an excerpt of successful implementations.

# VI. EVALUATION FROM IMPLEMENTATION CASES

Many years of research and practical solution developments contributed to creating a comprehensive subset of conceptual knowledge, which is the fundament deployed for general practical solutions, e.g., with geo-spatial applications and with geo-data knowledge mining and processing. The conceptual knowledge framework employed here, especially UDC, has passed the test of time and is so mature and used in so many scenarios that the ongoing knowledge development itself is iterating with its application.

The previously unpublished results of practical conceptual knowledge are first presented here (Table I). The following case studies are based on these results and present small but illustrative excerpts (Figure 2) in form of a cross-section of conducted research and development, of Knowledge Resources, algorithms, intelligent workflows, and implementations. Here, for example, a knowledge mining process employing knowledge objects based on the referred conceptual

knowledge can use all the width and depth of knowledge behind the comprehensive subset to automatically or semiautomatically create new context and visualisation for a data set containing non-georeferenced text entities (affiliations in floating text), e.g., geographical, political, and climate zone context.

Besides the knowledge fundament and framework being focus of this research paper, the references in the next passages contain further details for the practical case studies, the implemented methods and the technologies, which were used for the different case studies.

- Knowledge integration allows to create new views and insights by computing Spatial Cogwheel modules [25].
- Knowledge mining: Creating Knowledge Resources and employing classification and concordances can provide a base for advanced knowledge discovery and computational solutions [26]. The integration of Knowledge Resources and advanced association processing can be beneficial in many disciplines as it provides multidisciplinary and multi-lingual support [27]. Methods like the Content Factor can be used for advanced knowledge processing [28]. The integration of appropriate methods can be used for further advancing the Knowledge Resources, as well as the mining processes [29].
- The methodology of knowledge mapping allows to create flexible methods in order to handle spatial representations and knowledge mining by creating a multidimensional context for arbitrary objects and entities [10].

- *Dynamical visualisation:* The methodology can be used for enabling knowledge based methods for computation and computational and dynamical visualisation [30].
- Association and phonetic features: The methodology supports phonetic association and mining methods [31].
- Verbal description: The employment of implemented methods can be supported and make use of multilingual verbal descriptions and concordances [32] as the conceptual knowledge is consistently available in 50 languages, providing millions of basic conceptual knowledge references.

## VII. CONCLUSION

This research achieved to create a comprehensive tool base of conceptual knowledge in geo-spatial application scenarios for all kinds of knowledge context in any media. The implemented superordinate knowledge based solution fulfills all the required criteria as was presented and discussed in this paper. The result was employed to successfully implement a wide range of different geo-spatial cases.

With this research, a comprehensive subset of references to conceptual knowledge, allowing geo-spatially dominated facetted knowledge, was created, further developed, and finally compiled from the application case studies, which have been conducted over the last three decades. Knowledge based fundaments, e.g., those built on UDC, showed to have a very high impact on knowledge creation and mining in theory and practice, not only for spatial knowledge.

The knowledge approach proved to be a fundamental "enabler" and contributed significantly to many solutions. Covering a coherent system of knowledge provides a holistic and consistent environment for any scenario, which is supported by excellent features for facetted knowledge. The referenced conceptual knowledge itself is consistent due to its development and publication via editions. Implementations support fully multi-disciplinary context and multi-lingual instances for many languages. Solutions are extensible to integrate and fit special purposes. The methodology is data-centric and scalable for width and depth of knowledge as well as for infrastructure requirements. All the cases so far implementing the presented solution provided seamless integration with common geo-spatial practices and showed excellent sustainability, knowledge coverage, long-term characteristics, and scalability. In review of these results, all major institutions, e.g., libraries focussing on information science and research data management, are using and developing conceptual knowledge with their core tasks, which opens up a wide range of excellent knowledge sources, which can be considered high value resources. Moreover, such Knowledge Resources are complementary, independent of the fact that they can incorporate different methods and approaches, e.g., thesauri, semantic frameworks, ontologies, and phonetic interfaces for the content they handle.

Future research on theory and practice will concentrate on further developing the spectrum of references and creating knowledge reference based solutions for scenarios and disciplines.

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