The GLYPH System:
A GRADING SYSTEM FOR GOOD AND BEST PRACTICES FOR MULTILINGUAL THESAURI USED BY CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS
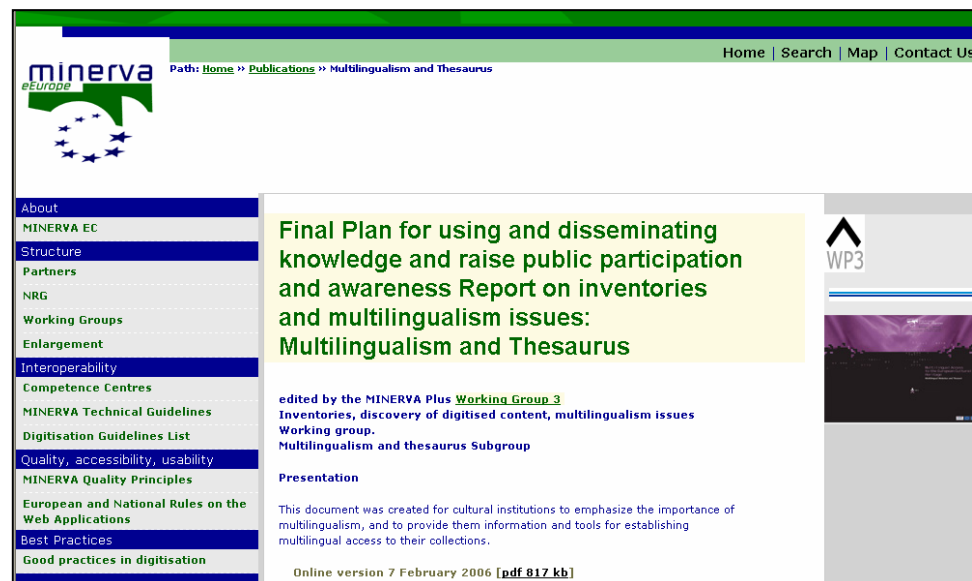
Ministerial Network for Valorizing Activities in Digitization, (Minerva) strives to standardize the concerted action for digitization programs over the last four years. Its purpose is the development of digital content industries in a sustainable knowledge society and is based on the cultural and scientific knowledge resources that form the collective and evolving memory of their diverse societies.

The MinervaPlus Israel Workgroup 3 (WP3) has joined this effort in the last year in the Minerva Plus Project by participating in the collection and correlation of survey results from multilingual lexicons in national cultural institutions. The WP3 focused its efforts in "Inventories, discovery of digitized content, multilingualism issues, including Multilingualism and thesaurus". The aim of the survey was to determine the number of institutions using multilingual controlled lexicons, and to then share these findings with Minerva Europe within the pan-European forum.

A presentation of the results from the Survey of Heritage Institutions in Israel was prepared after reviewing findings from 116 cultural institutions. The lack of a grading method required the Minerva Israel WP3 to extrapolate from the survey results a grading criterion by which a lexicon of the highest standard could be identified. This enabled the results to be quantified as Good and Best Practices. These criteria formulate GLYPH System – a grading system for multilingual lexicons. The system grades the multilingual capabilities of the lexicon, its accessibility and functionality.

The controlled vocabularies developed internally by pan-European cultural institutions are a valuable asset both on a national level and an international level. By identifying the currently available list and standardizing their multilingual qualities, these lists can serve many other institutions in the future. This knowledge would be best shared to serve the cataloguing needs of other national and international cultural institutions. In the conclusion of the MinervaPlus publication "Multilingual Access to the European Cultural Heritage Multilingual Websites and Thesauri" it is recommended "During the joint work only the Israeli working group used an evaluation method for their thesauri, the GLYPH criteria. It would be our second recommendation for the future for international experts to test and evaluate the GLYPH criteria…" The resulting knowledge would be best harnessed to serve the cataloguing needs of other national and international cultural institutions with the hope of allowing freely accessible content in the languages of all European Union constituents.

Internet:
http://www.minervaeurope.org/publications/multilingualismandthesaurus.htm