Terminology is a science that focuses on terms, i.e., on words (lexical units) that refer to knowledge in a field of specialization. It aims to reduce the ambiguity of communication by proposing standard definitions of terms based on a (more or less formal) representation of domain knowledge. Terminology therefore has a twofold dimension. A linguistic dimension through the terms and discourses that mobilize them, and a conceptual one through the modeling of specialized knowledge. This dual dimension gives rise to two different, but complementary, approaches to Terminology depending on whether the emphasis is on the term or on the concept. The ISO approach to Terminology is mainly conceptual: the term is a "verbal designation of a general concept in a specific subject field" (ISO 1087-1). This approach is specified by the two transversal standards ISO 1087-1 and ISO 704. The ISO 1087-1 standard "Terminology work - Vocabulary - Part 1: Theory and application" defines the vocabulary and the notions used in Terminology. The ISO 704 standard "Terminology work - Principles and methods" presents the principles and methods of Terminology and Terminology work. Ideally, any ISO standard should follow the recommendations of these two standards.

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