Keywords and beyond

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The term *keyword* may relate to different parts of human interests such as linguistic or informatics. The dictionary has described three definitions from various views:

1. A word that serves as a key, as to the meaning of another word, a sentence, passage, or the like: Search the database for the keyword "Ireland."
2. A word used to encipher or decipher a cryptogram, as a pattern for a transposition procedure or the basis for a complex substitution.
3. Also called catchword. Library Science. A significant or memorable word or term in the title, abstract, or text of an item being indexed, used as the index entry. [1]

It is necessary to understand that *keyword* is abstract term. As you can see above, it seems to be very complicated to define *keywords* themselves. The definition of *keyword* is mainly driven by the topic and context.

My field of study covers development of web-oriented portal solution for optimization medical curriculum at Masaryk University. There should be interesting apply various principles for easy categorization, clear visualization and advanced searching. In my point of view, *keywords* can be powerful help for ensuring effective search functions within huge amount of educational data. For example each *keyword* can play a role of connector between courses, annotations, learning outcomes and learning unit. In this case *keywords* are defined as a short and apt phrase, which plainly describe an object. In case of large textual study materials, *keywords* can be determined by the word-frequency statistical analysis. There appears one very important complication – Czech language. All chosen methods have to be adapted and deeply evaluated before application.

[1]   Dictionary.com [Online]. Available: http://dictionary.reference.com/ [Accessed: 03-October-2011].