

11.2 Types of queries

There are different ways of representing a terminology query that can be sent to a [terminology server](#) :

- [Concept](#) and [Refset](#) references: lists of Ids of [concept](#) that can be retrieved from the server.
- Text based queries: text phrases that will be applied to [concept Descriptions](#) in order to retrieve results for the query.
- [Concept](#) definition queries: the query provides a [concept](#) definition, and the server returns all [concepts](#) that are subsumed by, or are equivalent to the definition.
- [Expression](#) retrieval: predicate terminology [expressions](#) that can be applied to all candidate [concepts](#) in the terminology to test for inclusion in the results, with filtering by hierarchy and attributes. These [expressions](#) are defined using a standard [expression](#) grammar that can be parsed and transformed in order to be evaluated against candidate [concepts](#) .
- Query languages: a query language combines any of the previous data retrieval techniques in the same syntax, including references to [concepts](#) by Ids, by text searches, by [refsets](#) or by hierarchy and attributes.