

Mini-Lecture Series: Classification Example

Mini-Lecture Series

Introduction to Information Organization
INFO 5200

Classification Example

1

Introduction to Information Organization
INFO 5200

Collection description

- IOP collection description:
 - Name: 19th Century Ironclad Warship Models
- Formats and size of collection:
 - 1,110 unique miniature models made of balsawood and other materials



2

Introduction to Information Organization
INFO 5200

User group description

- 350 or so naval war gamers
- Generally male
- Generally ages 17 to 79
- Located in U.S., Britain, France, Iceland and Australia

3

Introduction to Information Organization
INFO 5200

Users' queries (IOP 1.3)

- I need the ships fought at the Battle of Memphis?
- What models are available from Peter Pig?
- What turret ships were in existence in 1868?
- What guns did the USS Monitor carry?
- I want a model of the Hartford. Can I compare a resin model to an alloy model?
- I need a list of ships that were in the European theater around 1866?
- Which model of the Essex is best? I would like to purchase that one.

4

Introduction to Information Organization
INFO 5200

Purpose of classification scheme

To create a system by which the models can be **logically** organized and categorized and **physically** arranged to facilitate rapid access

5

Introduction to Information Organization
INFO 5200

Creating a classification scheme

Recall that the information organization process begins with identifying **object attributes**, which translate into **metadata elements** and then into **record fields**

Now we look at how record fields can translate into **classification facets** . . .

6

Mini-Lecture Series: Classification Example

Creating a classification scheme

1. Identify 3-4 fields that will become facets
2. Choose one field as a primary access facet
3. Determine the order of facets
(e.g., subject, author, title)
4. Develop class values or rules for each facet
5. Develop rule for unique identifier

7

Choosing facets

- At least one subject facet
- Facets useful for physical arrangement

Hint: Fields with controlled vocabularies work well as facets

8

Primary access facet

Nationality

Why? Because most users ask questions like:
"What **Union** ships were at Ft. Fisher?"

So the collection will be arranged on shelves primarily by nationality

9

Other fields chosen as facets

- **Style:** Broad category for physical appearance of ship
- **Name:** Identifier for a specific ship

So the scheme looks like:
nationality.style.name

10

Field values become class values

- Nationality
 - Union
 - Confederate
 - British
 - French
- Style
 - Monitor
 - Casemate
 - Central Battery Ship
 - Turret Ship

11

Rules for Name facet

- Use predominant name of model.
- Drop nationality honorific, such as USS, CSS, KMS.
- Use upper-lowercase style capitalization.

12

Mini-Lecture Series: Classification Example

Create the scheme

- For a faceted scheme, create a table
 - facets as columns beginning with primary facet
 - classes (or foci) as rows

Nationality	Style	Name

- Enter class names and codes . . .

13

Classification scheme

Nationality (code)	Style (code)	Name
Union (UN)	Monitor (MN)	(See rules)
Confederate (CF)	Casemate (CS)	
British (BR)	Central Battery Ship (CB)	
French (FR)	Other (OT)	

14

Classifying objects

- Now use the scheme!

French Central Battery Ship Magenta:
FR.CB.Magenta

Confederate Ram Virginia:
CF.CS.Virginia

British Steam Ship of the Line Renown:
BR.OT.Renown

15

Classifying objects

*What is the code for the
British Central Battery Ship Renown?*

16

Adding unique identifier

The final task is to add a **unique identifier**, such as . . .

- the record ID number
- a unique code already in/on the object

Example: FR.CB.Magenta.37

Classification notation + unique identifier = **call number**

Unique identifier needed if classification scheme is used as basis for physical organization

17

Accomplishments

We have chosen classification facets

AND

created a classification scheme

AND

written input rules

AND

classified objects!

18

Mini-Lecture Series:
Classification Example

Other things to think about

BUT how good is this system?

What if . . .

- we want a facet that is not already a field?
- a ship is a nationality that is not listed as a class?
- a style is a subclass (e.g., box battery ship)?
- there are two models of the same ship?