Revision

• Recent lectures have looked at Function Analysis

• One aspect of the Function Analysis was to develop a suitable Business Classification Scheme.

Outline

• Purpose of a business classification
• How the classifications are used
  – Statistical reporting
  – Assistance
  – Trade [agreements]
• Some examples
• Some challenges
Once more with feeling.....

What’s a fundamental difference between an IS and an IM system? And what does this mean for classification systems for business?

Purpose of a Classification

- To enable information
  - to be stored in an organised manner
  - to facilitate timely access and
  - easier access to the
  - right information required
  - to support a business process.
- More generally, the purpose is to enable information to be managed in a manner that is relevant to the agency’s business goals and objectives

**Reading**

James Cook University. National Research Classification
Aims of the classification scheme

• To support the enterprise
• Relevance [suitability]
• Logic
• Consistency
• Efficiency
• Quality
• Management of materials themselves

Relevance

• The scheme must relate to the enterprise’s needs.
• An appropriate scheme will be as small as it needs to be, but provide for growth [extensible].
• The facet[s] that provide the basis for the scheme must reflect the requirements of the enterprise.

Logical

• The classification should be able to be apprehended by looking at it.
• I.e. if it is a system of numbers, then these should be able to be understood by users without the need for extensive training. [Is this possible?]
• Precisely because the system of classification is arbitrary, it must have a broad-based logic, and not “merely” an internal logic.
Consistency

- The scheme must provide for specific terms. [Scope notes and other hierarchical structures may be needed to make this clear.]
- The scheme must provide for a consistent mapping between the creators’ understandings and the users’ understandings of terms.

Efficiency

- The classification is meant to bring information objects to meet the information needs of users quickly and easily.
- The lectures on retrieval of information indicate that the essential problem of IR is mapping query to retrieval structure, and classification is one key way to achieve that.

Two Aspects of Quality

- The aim of the classification is to so support the enterprise that better quality outcomes are possible.
- The application of the classification system is a quality dependant task – without suitable control of its application it will impede the enterprise. [There is (still) a need for authority.]
Records Management itself

- Management of the information that is stored.
- i.e. Use of the classification scheme to decide when records are
  - split,
  - merged,
  - removed,
  - stored [archived]
  - etc.

Custom Schemes or Off-The-Shelf

- A custom developed scheme will have
  - the advantage of specificity;
  - The disadvantages of non-standardisation.
- Standard Industrial Classification
  Schemes, for example, will better enable the local system to interface with external systems, reporting, data migration, transfer to new systems, etc.

How Industrial Classifications are used

- Statistics
- Funding models
- [Government] Policy process
- Trade management
- Research modeling
Examples

- Standard Industry Code [U.S. Statistics]
- The Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC) has been developed for use in both countries for the production and analysis of industry statistics.
- Research Fields, Courses & Disciplines (RFCD)
  The categories in the Research Fields, Courses & Disciplines classification include recognised academic disciplines & related major sub-fields

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Standard Industrial Classification Codes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CODE</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Agricultural Production - Crops (e.g., grains, fruits)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Fishing, Hunting, and Trapping</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Metal Mining</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Economic Census [1997] - Numerical List of Manufactured and Natural Mineral Products

- Natural Gas
- Oil
- Natural gas liquids
- Plant condensate, crude, gasoline, and other natural gas liquids
- Plant condensate from natural gas liquids
- Other natural gas liquids
Australian New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC) (level 1)

- Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting Services
- Manufacturing
- Electricity, Gas and Water Supply
- Construction
- Wholesale Trade
- Retail Trade
- Accommodation, Cafes and Restaurants
- Transport and Storage
- Communication Services
- Finance and Insurance
- Property and Business Services
- Government Administration and Defence
- Education
- Health and Community Services
- Cultural and Recreational Services
- Personal and Other Services

Research Fields, Courses and Disciplines Classification (RFCD)

- Arts
- Agricultural, Veterinary and Environmental Sciences
- Architecture, Urban Environment and Building
- Behavioural and Cognitive Sciences
- Biological Sciences
- Chemical Sciences
- Commerce, Management, Tourism and Services
- Earth Sciences
- Economics
- Education
- Engineering and Technology
- History and Archaeology
- Information, Computing and Communication Sciences
- Journalism, Librarianship and Curatorial Studies
- Language and Culture
- Law, Justice and Law Enforcement
- Mathematical Sciences
- Medical and Health Sciences
- Philosophy and Religion
- Physical Sciences
- Policy and Political Science
- Studies in Human Society

Where Does SIMS research fit in this?

Problems with Classification Schemes

- Single location of multi-faceted objects
- Terminology – variations in
  - Place
  - Time
- Changing unanticipated technologies
- Changing unanticipated legal and other social environments
- Changing support technologies/infrastructure
Summary

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- Some challenges