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

Reading

James Cook University. National Research Classification
s/index.html

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
### 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

**Standard Industrial Classification Codes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CODE</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2111113</td>
<td>NATURAL GAS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2111121</td>
<td>Natural gas liquids from natural gas liquids plants, 1,000 bbls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2111122</td>
<td>Plant condensate from natural gas liquids plants, 1,000 bbls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2111123</td>
<td>Briquettes, 1,000 lbs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2111131</td>
<td>Gas condensate, 1,000 bbls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2111132</td>
<td>Gas condensate from natural gas liquids plants, 1,000 bbls</td>
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**Economic Census [1997] - Numerical List of Manufactured and Natural Mineral Products**

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Australian New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC) (level 1)

- Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting
- Mining
- Manufacturing
- Electricity, Gas and Water Supply
- Construction
- Wholesale Trade
- Retail Trade
- Accommodation, Cafes and Restaurants
- Transport and Storage
- 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

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

- Purpose of a business classification
- How the classifications are used
  - Statistical reporting
  - Assistance
  - Trade [agreements]
- Some examples
- Some challenges