Mini-Lecture Series: Classification Example

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

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

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.

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

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 . . .
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

Choosing facets

- At least one subject facet
- Facets useful for physical arrangement
  
  Hint: Fields with controlled vocabularies work well as facets

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

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

Field values become class values

- **Nationality**
  - Union
  - Confederate
  - British
  - French

- **Style**
  - Monitor
  - Casemate
  - Central Battery Ship
  - Turret Ship

Rules for Name facet

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nationality</th>
<th>Style</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Enter class names and codes . . .

Classification scheme

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nationality (code)</th>
<th>Style (code)</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Union (UN)</td>
<td>Monitor (MN)</td>
<td>(See rules)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confederate (CF)</td>
<td>Casemate (CS)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>British (BR)</td>
<td>Central Battery Ship (CB)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French (FR)</td>
<td>Other (OT)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Classifying objects

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

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

Accomplishments

We have chosen classification facets
AND
created a classification scheme
AND
written input rules
AND
classified objects!
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?