Three Questions Concerning the Foundation of Multi-perspective Classification

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2017 ASIS&T SIG/CR Workshop
Motivations of Developing Multi-perspective Classification

Why would we want, or not want multi-perspective classification?

The evolving stances in classification theory

• The universe of knowledge
• The pluralistic understanding
• Beyond the pluralistic understanding

(Mai, 2004; 2009; Miksa, 1998; Feinberg, 2007)

Cultural warrant

(Beghtol, 1986; 2005)
Multi-perspective Classifications in Different Contexts

• The local perspective is the dominant perspective (e.g., Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC))

• The local perspective differs from the dominant perspective (e.g., the New Classification Scheme for Chinese Libraries (CCL))

The influences, costs, motivations, and considerations concerning the development of multi-perspective classification may vary in different contexts.
Accommodating Different Perspectives

Example: Chinese classics in the CCL, the NDC, and the DDC

- CCL (1): classify by subject
  in Philosophy, Social sciences, History and geography, Linguistics & Literature, and Arts

- CCL (2): collocate under Generalities
  090 Generalities – Collected Chinese classics

- NDC (Nippon Decimal Classification): collocate under Philosophy
  123 Philosophy – Oriental thought – Chinese classics

- DDC: classify by subject.
  Selective aspects presented in Literature, Philosophy & psychology, and Religion

In a multi-perspective classification, how do we accommodate perspectives that prefer different class organizations?
Imported Perspectives

What are the criteria for the inclusion and exclusion of perspectives?

A controlled vocabulary example:
- LCSH “Comics, strips, etc.”
- Its variant “Manga (Comics, strips, etc.).”

Establishing the criteria for imported perspectives helps us explore and identify the prioritization of purposes for pursuing multi-perspective classification.
What is Multi-perspective Classification?

• Does the proportion of perspectives matter?

• How do we technically accommodate multiple perspectives in one classification?

• If we include different perspectives, so one thing may be classified under multiple classes, is the end product a multi-perspective “classification”?

A possible form of multi-perspective classification: incorporate different perspectives through a limited sanctioned options for the organization of individual classes
References


• Feinberg, M. (2007). Beyond retrieval: A proposal to expand the design space of classification. *NASKO, 1*(1), 43. [https://doi.org/10.7152/nasko.v1i1.12832](https://doi.org/10.7152/nasko.v1i1.12832)

