

Three Questions Concerning the Foundation of Multi-perspective Classification

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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

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