

Bliss on the Web

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Slides from a talk given at the 2008 AGM of the
Bliss Classification Association

The following slides were used to illustrate a talk discussing ways in which the Bliss classification might be made available on the Web. They do not represent the complete content of the talk, but the information that they contain should be understandable on its own.

The first slide shows an example of how another classification scheme, the Dewey Decimal Classification, has been made available on the Web, showing a hierarchy, notes and rules for synthesis.

Search Browse in

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Centered Entry: 646.42-646.48
Caption: Specific kinds of clothing

Main Classes

- 600 [Technology](#)
- 640 [Home & family management](#)
- 646 [Sewing, clothing, management of personal and family life](#)
- 646.4 [Clothing and accessories construction](#)
- 646.42-646.48 **Specific kinds of clothing**
- 646.42 [*Underwear and hosiery](#)
- 646.43 [*Specific kinds of garments](#)
- 646.45 [*Outer coats, sweaters, wraps](#)
- 646.47 [*Garments for special purposes](#)
- 646.48 [Accessories](#)

Notes

Add to each subdivision identified by * the numbers following 646.4 in 646.4001-646.406 , e.g., construction of shirts for persons with physical disabilities [646.43501](#)

Class comprehensive works in [646.4](#) .

The next three slides show:

- a list of some formats that have been used to represent classification data in computer form
- the format in which the Bliss schedules are currently prepared
- the format in which the UDC schedules are currently stored

Computer formats for classification data

Exchange formats

- Tagged text files
- XML files
 - ◆ BS DD8723-5
 - ◆ SKOS

Internal structures

- Text files
- Relational databases
- XML databases

Problem: no satisfactory format to represent compound concepts made up of combinations of concepts from different facets

Representing a classification in a format that can be processed by computer

Bliss schedule source file format (with notation omitted)
Whole schedule represented as a continuous list

Numbers
indicate
logical and
physical
indentation
levels

05(objects)
06clothing
07(clothing by type)
08socks, stockings, hose
09(properties)
10<colour>
11<blue colour>
11<green colour>
11<red colour>
11<yellow colour>
09(materials)
10<cotton>
10<wool>
11(properties)
12<blue colour>

No distinction is made between node labels showing characteristics of division and labels showing change of facet, both being shown in round brackets (...).

Synonyms shown as a list separated by commas or equals signs.

Concepts “brought down” from other facets have been shown in angle brackets <...>. Originally reversed brackets)...(were used, but these caused problems in processing.

Additional codes show which terms may appear in the index or thesaurus.

UDC export format

Each concept stored as an individual record

Tag	Field	Content
<01>	001	UDC-number
<02>	100	Description
<03>	105	Verbal examples
<04>	110	Note
<05>	111	Note
<06A>	115	Example of combination: direct addition (1st subfield: ^a)
<06B>	115	Example of combination: colon addition (1st subfield: ^b)
<06C>	115	Example of combination: full notation (1st subfield: ^c)
<07>	011	Instruction for parallel division
<08>	120	Example of parallel division
<09>	125	References

The next three slides show the structure of a faceted classification scheme that has to be represented in any computer format, including:

- hierarchical relationships within a facet, with node labels
- combination of concepts from more than one facet to express compound subjects, with facet labels to show when a change of facet occurs.

Concepts in a single facet, subdivided by characteristics of division

clothing

<clothing by type>

jumpers

shirts

socks

<socks by colour>

blue socks

green socks

red socks

yellow socks

<socks by material>

cotton socks

woollen socks

<woollen socks by colour>

blue woollen socks

green woollen socks

trousers

...

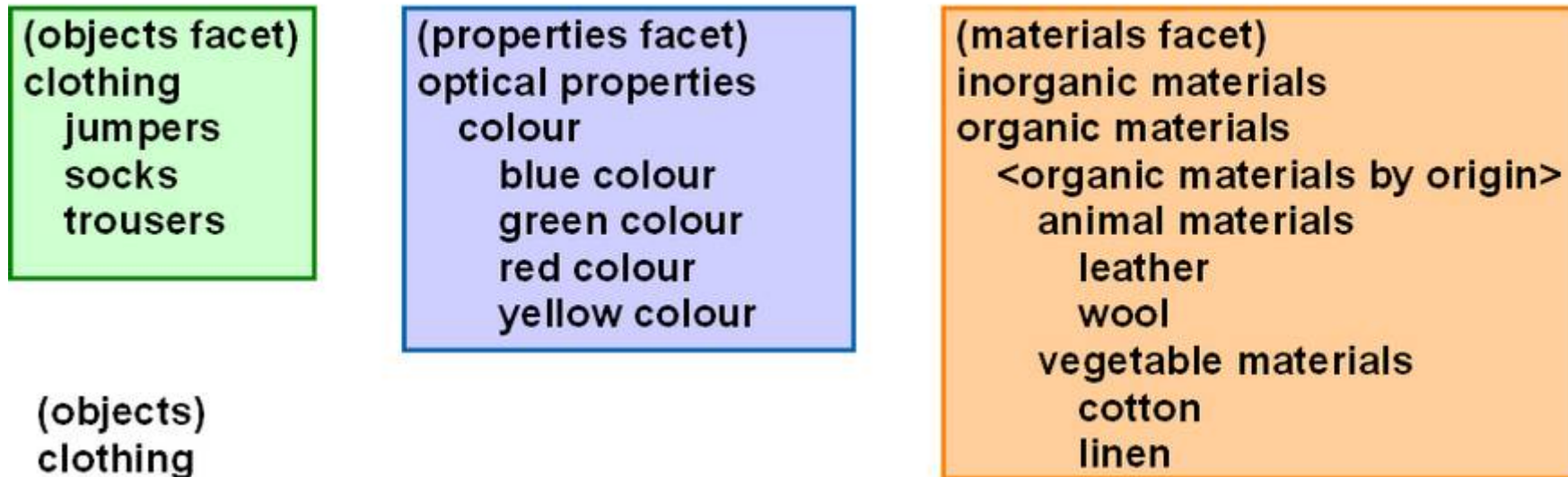
Every item is a specific type of 'clothing',
i.e. the relationships are all BT/NT

Node labels showing *characteristics of division* are not labels for concepts and do not have a hierarchical relationship to the concepts.

They contain the word "by". In Bliss sometimes the parent term is omitted or replaced by "kinds", e.g. <by colour> or <kinds by colour>.

SKOS can encode this type of structure

Concepts in multiple facets, pre-coordinated as necessary



Node labels showing names of facets – “facet labels” – show different facets from which concepts have been *combined*. The relationship of concepts across these labels is not hierarchical; it *may* be RT/RT, but not always.

This class represents the compound
socks : wool : blue colour

Classification schedules show *examples* of pre-coordination. Users are expected to create others as required. SKOS can not yet encode this type of structure.

Pre-coordination which cannot be represented as arrays within a single facet

(objects facet)
clothes
jumpers
socks
trousers

(activities facet)
manufacturing
knitting
sewing
maintaining
darning
washing

(materials facet)
<materials by application>
cleansing materials
detergents
soaps

(objects)
clothing
socks
(activities)
washing
(materials)
detergents
soaps

Should anything be listed
here that is not listed here?

This class represents the compound
concept “soaps for washing socks”
expressed as:
socks : washing : soaps

Facets are combined here in the citation order
objects – activities – materials (as agents)

Citation order is difficult to automate because
it depends not only on the facets themselves
but also on the role which each plays in the
compound concept, e.g. “as agents” here.

How to move forward?

Web representation of printed pages?

Existing format for current developments?

Restructure schedules to unify facets?

Give node labels and facet labels distinct, standardised formats?

Consider changing notation to make facets explicit?

Experiment with database format?

Cooperate with UDC / SKOS / anyone else?

Projects to devise and test formats

Projects to restructure schedules?

Projects to move schedules into new formats?