

# PMEST or not PMEST?

**Enhancing relevance  
with a freely faceted classification**

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*(ILC research project)*

# The dimensions of knowledge organization

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- $\alpha$  (reality in itself)
- $\beta$  phenomena
- $\gamma$  perspectives
- $\delta$  documents
- $\epsilon$  collections
- $\zeta$  information needs
- $\eta$  people
- $\theta$  cognition

*KOSs act as intermediaries  
between documents and needs:*



“every reader [their] book”

# Relevance

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*“... important ... useful ... pertinent ... valuable ...  
of utility ... applicable ... helpful ... appropriate ...  
significant ... topical ... correspondent ...  
fitting ... bearing ... matching ...”*

# Many different definitions (Huang & Soergel 2013)

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“a relationship (R) between  
an **Information Object (I)**  
and an **Information Need (N)**  
(which consists of  
Topic, User, Problem/Task,  
and Situation/Context)  
with focus on R”

## Relevance: An Improved Framework for Explicating the Notion

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# Saracevic (2017)

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*Relevance is the A of a B existing between a C and a D as determined by an E, where slots were filled with fillers as these:*

A	B	C	D	E
measure	correspondence	document	question	user
degree	utility	article	query	judge
dimension	connection	information object	request	information specialist
estimate	fit	information provided	requirement statement	requester
relation	match	fact	point of view	person
appraisal	bearing			

# A subject = some themes

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- base theme
- + particular themes (Cheti)

In the **document-oriented** approach,

the base theme should be cited first (affecting sorting)  
followed by particular themes:

`crop variation - statistical methods`

# Relevance may change in time...

In the **request-oriented** approach, the currently or locally more relevant theme should be privileged (Hjørland 2017), e.g. Fisher (1921):



statistical methods – crop variation



## Studies in crop variation. I. An examination of the yield of dressed grain from Broadbalk

Published online by Cambridge University Press: 27 March 2009

R. A. Fisher

[Hide author details](#) ^

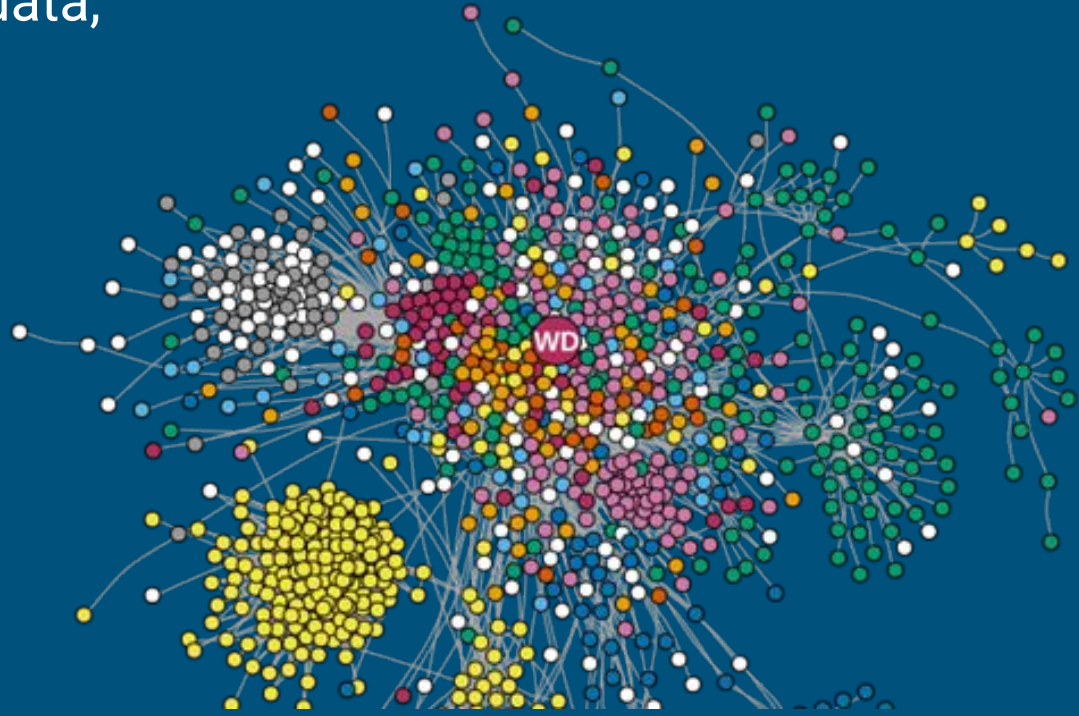
R. A. Fisher

Affiliation: Statistical Laboratory, Rothamsted Experimental Station, Harpenden.

# ...But who will the user be?

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In global open exchange of data,  
request-oriented indexing  
may be a hindrance to  
interoperability.



# Faceted classifications

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, Personality	9	Quality
	8	Quantity
; Matter	7	Part
	6	Property
: Energy	5	Transformation
	4	Opposition
	3	Agent
. Space	2	Place
' Time	1	Time
	0	Perspective

connect concepts  
by standard relationships

Colon Classification

Integrative Levels Classification

# Faceted classmarks

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w17c76w

“feast days, with ritual clothes, with flowers”

w customs

w5 rite

w5f bonfire

w5h ritual meal [etc.]

w53 with *musical instrument* [etc.]

w7 with *symbol*

w7c ritual clothes [etc.]

w76 with *ritual plant part*

w76w flowers [etc.]

# Promoting a facet to an earlier position

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w17c76w

“feast days, with ritual clothes, with flowers”

w176w7c

“feast days, with flowers, with ritual clothes”

# Promoting a free facet to base theme

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**w150xn** “feast days, through dances”  
*grouped with feast days*



**xn90w1** “dances, of feast days”  
*grouped with dances*

# TradEU demonstrator

## Traditional Europe

A selected videography indexed by ILC

*Click on one, two or three entries, following the top-down order, then on the "search" button:*

**🕒 customs:** games · initiation · marriage · Carnival · Easter · May Day · Christmas · music · dance

**🌍 region:** Britain · Ireland · Germany · Benelux · France · Spain · Portugal · Switzerland · Italy

**🌿 symbols:** clothes · effigies · flags · plant parts · animals

**🎭 rites:** dressing up · procession · itinerant begging · bonfire · meal

**🎵 instruments:** song · percussion · drums · stringed · wind



# Selecting facets

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*Click on one, two or three entries, following the top-down order, then on the "search" button:*

🌙 **customs:** games · initiation · marriage · Carnival · Easter · May Day · Christmas · music · dance

🏰 **region:** Britain · Ireland · Germany · Benelux · France · Spain · Portugal · Switzerland · Italy

🌿 **symbols:** clothes · effigies · flags · plant parts · animals

🕯️ **rites:** dressing up · procession · itinerant begging · bonfire · meal

🎵 **instruments:** song · percussion · drums · stringed · wind

92e%xn%

search

resume

# Retrieving indexed videos



xn92eh

dances,  
typical of Andalusia

# Sorting

Facet(s) cited first  
affect sorting.

Especially relevant  
when results  
are numerous...



w1dc92ep7f5b50xn53n

Carnival,  
typical of Navarre,  
with effigy,  
dressing up,  
through dances,  
with aerophones



xn92ee88u

dances,  
typical of Catalonia,  
polities



xn92eh

dances,  
typical of Andalusia

# A promoted facet



w192ezpe76w7h75Uo70sb5dc50wg

feast days,  
typical of Central Portugal,  
with flowers,  
with anthem,  
with cattle,  
with with food and drink,  
procession,  
through sport



w192fs76g50xn53nq53nrw53no53d

feast days,  
typical of Basilicata,  
with stem,  
through dances,  
with bagpipes

## Discussion. 1/4

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- Freely faceted classifications are less rigid than “PMEST”
- We adopted a document-oriented approach
- But user’s needs are expressed in the facets they select which are factual rather than supposed

# Discussion. 2/4

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- Selected facets should be shown first by Gnoli and Cheti's double query method (not implemented yet)



xn92ezpd70sm

dances,  
typical of Northern Portugal,  
with combat

# Discussion. 3/4

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- Why PMEST instead of, say, MPETS ?  
The default citation order is based on decades of research in faceted classification.
- Still, assigning a facet (e.g. custom symbols) in a KOS to a standard category (e.g. Part rather than Agents) will affect sorting...

# Discussion. 4/4

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- The same domain can be classified by different paradigms (Ørom 2003) by prioritizing different facets!
- The ILC research group is studying this for the domain of ethnic groups (D'Almeida et al. in prep.)



...gratos pela vossa atenção! :-)

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