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Topic (ii): Metadata modelling and terminology issues

**THE NEUCHÂTEL TERMINOLOGY:
CLASSIFICATION DATABASE OBJECT TYPES AND THEIR ATTRIBUTES**

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Invited paper

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Statistical Offices of Sweden, Norway and Denmark were among the participants of the IMIM project (Integrated Metainformation Management System) of the 4th Framework Programme of the EU. The main result of the IMIM project is a software product, BRIDGE, an object-oriented system for metadata management. An informal Nordic co-operation focussing on the classification database part of BRIDGE was started in early 1999. The Federal Statistical Office of Switzerland later joined the group. In June 1999, a meeting on terminology was held in Neuchâtel, Switzerland, with participants from the above-mentioned national statistical offices and Run Software-Werkstatt (developers of the BRIDGE software). This was the birth of the "Neuchâtel Group"².

2. The aim of the Neuchâtel meeting was to clarify some basic concepts and to agree on a common terminology. The meeting resulted in a tentative conceptual model and a draft terminology document, in which the proposed object types of the classification database (e.g. classification, correspondence table), and the attributes connected with each object type, are listed and described.

3. The draft terminology was corrected, amended and further developed during 1999. After meetings in March and June 2000, the current version, Version 1 of August 2000, was considered sufficiently comprehensive to present to a wider audience. The terminology is shown in Annex 1. A simplified object graph in Annex 2 gives an overview of the main object types and relationships of the conceptual model.

4. The objective of this paper is first and foremost to make the Neuchâtel terminology known, especially to those who are involved in similar development work. Another objective is to invite comments and suggestions on how to improve it. The paper should be regarded as a report on work in progress. It is hoped that a new up-dated version (or an addendum) will be made available as a room document at the Work Session on Statistical Metadata in November 2000.

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II. CONTEXT AND SCOPE

5. Classifications are generally regarded as a special kind of metadata for statistics. They are definitional, content-oriented metadata, ordering and describing the meaning of data. A classification database can be described as a register of metaobjects (classifications and related object types), which in turn have their own set of metadata. It usually forms a separate but more or less integrated part of the overall metadata information system of a statistical office.

6. The immediate practical purpose of providing a conceptual framework for the development of a classification database has obviously limited the scope of the Neuchâtel terminology. It is not concerned with the concept of classification in its most general sense. It focuses on statistical classifications and related concepts. Neither is it any loose collection of concepts related to statistical classifications. What it does is to define the key concepts that are relevant for how to structure classification metadata and, indirectly, how to present classification metadata to different kinds of users. Thus, the terminology does not go beyond those object types and those attributes, which were deemed to be of conceptual interest for the structuring of a classification database. Attributes, which are related solely to the technical aspect of the database, have not been included in the terminology.

7. The terminology also represents a more general endeavour to bridge the gap in experience and understanding between classification experts and IT specialists. In the kind of project that, although not explicitly defined as a technical project, all too easily becomes technique-driven, it aims at redressing the balance in favour of the contents-oriented subject matter knowledge side.

III. CLASSIFICATION AND RELATED CONCEPTS

8. According to ISO 704: 1987 (E) Principles and methods of terminology, a term is a word or phrase, which designates a concept. The initial aim of the Neuchâtel meeting was to arrive at a common language. This implies a common perception of the structure of classifications and the links between them. However, agreeing on a concept does not necessarily entail agreeing on the word to designate it. Choosing the terms to designate the concepts has not been a simple and straightforward procedure. Some of the choices made are still open for discussion.

III.1 Classification

9. In the field of statistics the term **classification** normally denotes one of the following concepts:

- i) The general idea of assigning statistical units to categories representing the values of a certain variable.
- ii) A structured list of mutually exclusive categories, each of which describes a possible value of the classification variable. Such a structured list may be linear or hierarchically structured. A linear classification is a list of categories, which are all at one and the same level (e.g. the ISO 3166 country code list, or a classification of marital status). In a hierarchical classification the categories are arranged in a tree-structure with two or more levels, where each level contains a set of mutually exclusive categories.
- iii) One particular structured list of mutually exclusive categories, which is named, has a certain stability and normative status, and is valid for a given period of time (e.g. ISIC Rev.1).
- iv) One particular named set of several consecutive structured lists of mutually exclusive categories, which describe the possible values of the same variable (e.g. ISIC).

10. The most common use of the term is to denote concept b, which is also the most general. In common usage the term often implies a hierarchical classification. The distinction between concepts c and d is seldom made explicit. Here as well, the term rather implies a hierarchical classification, and especially one of the group of “large”, traditional, well-established standard classifications.

11. The Terminology of METIS does not have the term classification, but Classification scheme: “An arrangement or division of statistical objects into groups based on characteristics that the objects have in common”.

12. In the conceptual framework of the classification database, it was necessary to identify a concept roughly equivalent to concept d. in paragraph 9. In the Neuchâtel terminology this concept has been named **classification**. The concept of each particular “structured lists of mutually exclusive categories” has been named **classification version**. Thus, here, “classification” is not in itself a list of mutually exclusive categories. It is a kind of umbrella or “name” that comprises or holds together one or several lists of mutually exclusive categories, i.e. classification versions, which are consecutive over time and closely related to each other.

13. The term “classification” is used very loosely throughout this paper and is probably sufficiently well understood. The distinction described in the above paragraph is in fact difficult to uphold in a strict way outside a particular conceptual framework. Doing so would unnecessarily burden the texts with long names or descriptions. Hence the use of the terms **classification level**, **classification item**, **classification index** for concepts, which should rightly be named classification version level, classification version item, classification version index.

14. **Nomenclature** is a concept, which is closely related to classification. Nomenclature has to do with naming. Basically it denotes a list of named entities. Adding system and structure to the list turns it into something that resembles a classification. Although they do not have exactly the same meaning, the terms classification and nomenclature are often regarded as synonyms and used interchangeably. Nomenclature is not a term used in the terminology.

III.2 Variants

15. Classifications and their versions have some sort of status of being official or normative. Sometimes they are covered by a legal act or other formal agreement. It is assumed by the “owner” of the classification that the version will answer all needs and be implemented as it is. This, however, is not always the case. Be it for dissemination or other uses, the classification structure may be found ill suited for the purpose at hand. Levels or categories are too general or too narrow, too detailed in one area, and too broad in another. Over the lifetime of a classification version a number of variants may be created, in which the original categories are split or regrouped to provide context-specific additions or alternatives to the standard aggregation structure. Most of the time these departures from the norm are legitimate, made to meet specific producer requirements or user needs, sometimes they are less so. In any case, alternative groupings exist and have to be documented.

16. It is often debated whether a classification database should be descriptive or prescriptive. A prescriptive database will only contain standard classifications. A descriptive database will also contain non-standard groupings. In reality the demarcation between standard and non-standard classifications or between these and more loosely structured groupings is not very clear. It seems, therefore, that the criterion for inclusion in the database cannot be formal status only, but just as much the usefulness and commonality of the information provided. Indeed, listing the non-standard variants used in a statistical office may be a first and necessary step towards reducing their numbers.

17. Concepts related to variants or non-standard groupings were introduced in the terminology from the start. They have remained in earlier drafts in different shapes and under different names. At the last Neuchâtel group meeting, it was felt that the issue had not been sufficiently explored. It was decided that the object types and attributes relating to variants should be removed until it became clearer how the concepts should be delineated, what the properties are, etc. A new line of approach will be discussed at a Neuchâtel meeting in October 2000. It is hoped that a fresh draft showing a more satisfactory way of dealing with this issue will be available at the METIS meeting in November.

IV. OTHER TERMINOLOGIES

18. The specific aim and structure of the Neuchâtel Terminology makes it a complement rather than a rival to other terminologies in the field of classifications. The UN Glossary of Classification Terms is a multi-purpose glossary relating to statistical classifications. It is a loose collection of concepts without any particular focus. It is much broader in scope than the Neuchâtel terminology. Comparison has shown some convergence between the two lists, but also a few clashes. This is unavoidable since the Neuchâtel terminology was developed for a particular implementation, which calls for quite specific and narrowly defined concepts.

19. The Eurostat Concepts and Definitions Database, CODED, is another tool for the harmonization of concepts. It is designed to hold concepts and definitions used in all areas of statistics covered by Eurostat. CODED lists a large number of variables, types of statistical objects and other terms relating to specific areas of statistics, as well as a number of classifications. The Neuchâtel terminology and CODED are situated at different conceptual levels and don't seem to have any concepts or terms in common.

V. IMPLEMENTATION

20. The Neuchâtel conceptual framework has subsequently been implemented in the BRIDGE system. A general semantic interface for metadata (ComeIn) has been developed. In the classification database context, the framework has served as a specification for a concept-guided and user-oriented dialogue application, which functions as a browser and a tool for the management of classifications. This application is currently being implemented and tested in the different countries. It will be used to set up, develop and manage the national classification databases.

21. Some of the central object types of the terminology, e.g. classification, classification version, classification item, have quite a number of attributes attached to them. Some of these may seem superfluous. The list of attributes should be regarded as a maximum list. All attributes need not, indeed will not, be implemented in each statistical office.

VI. LAYOUT OF THE TERMINOLOGY

22. In Annex 1, the first page gives an overview of the object types of the terminology, with a shortened description. The object types are listed according to an obvious and simple logic.

23. The following pages of Annex 1 contain the list of all object types and their attributes. The object types are listed in the same order as in the overview. Each object type is defined by a textual description, followed by a list of the attributes associated with the object type. Each attribute is also described. There was an attempt also to order the attributes according to some sort of logic, but this has not yet been carried through. While object type terms are unique, the name of an attribute may differ in meaning when the attribute is associated with a different object type. A few examples have been added to facilitate understanding.

24. Attributes or terms used in the descriptions, which are underlined, refer to an object type listed and described elsewhere in the terminology

25. Time has not allowed a thorough review of the descriptions. They are not consistently written in one language only, but waver between subject matter and IT oriented language. Neither is the type of description consistent throughout. Sometimes it is a bona fide definition; sometimes it indicates how the information will appear in the technical application. In spite of good intentions, it has often been difficult to keep the conceptual and the implementation levels separate. It is hoped that some of the flaws will be remedied in the future.

ANNEX I

Object types

N.B. The object types are more extensively described in the next section, which contains the main list of object types and their attributes.

Classification: Classification describes the ensemble of one or several consecutive classification versions. It is a "name" which serves as an umbrella for the classification version(s).

Classification family: A classification family comprises a number of classifications, which are related from a certain point of view.

Classification version: A classification version is a list of mutually exclusive categories representing the version-specific values of the classification variable. A classification version is valid for a given period of time.

Classification level: Hierarchical classifications are composed of several levels, where the items of each level but the highest are aggregated to the nearest higher level.

Classification item: A classification item represents a category at a certain level within a classification version.

Exclusion reference: An exclusion reference is a part of the explanatory notes associated with a classification item.

Case law: A case law is a ruling concerning the classification of certain statistical objects/units, which do not obviously fit into one category and are not clearly defined by explanatory notes.

Classification index: A classification index is an ordered list (alphabetical, in code order etc) of entries describing properties or types of objects/units to which the classification version applies.

Classification index entry: An index entry is a word or a short text describing a type of object/unit or object property to which the classification version applies.

Item history entry: An item of a classification version can be subject to change. The item history entry describes the change that has occurred.

Correspondence table: A correspondence table expresses the relationship between different versions of the same classification or between versions of different classifications.

Correspondence item: A correspondence item expresses the relation between an item of the source version and a corresponding item of the target version.

Grouping, Extended version: These object types, which represent variants of a classification version, were included in previous drafts but have been left out from the current version of the terminology. There is as yet no definite proposal. See subsection III.2, paragraph 17.

Footnote: Additional information about a classification, a classification version, an index, a correspondence table etc.

Object types and attributes

Classification

Classification describes the ensemble of one or several consecutive classification versions. In the context of the classification database, there is no structured list of categories directly associated with the classification. It is a "name" which serves as an umbrella for the classification version(s).

Identifier: A classification is identified by a unique identifier, which may typically be an abbreviation of its title.

Ex.: ISIC, ICD.

Title: A classification has a title as provided by the owner.

Ex.: ISIC - International Standard Industrial Classification; ICD - International Classification of Diseases.

Description: Short general description of the classification, including its purpose, its main subject areas etc.

Objects/units classified: A classification is designed to classify a specific type of object/unit according to a specific attribute.

Ex.: Enterprises by economic activity, products by origin, persons by age.

Context: A classification can be designed in a specific context.

Ex.: ISIC: international classification; NACE: EU classification; NACE-BEL: Belgian classification.

Subject areas: Areas of statistics in which the classification is implemented.

Ex.: ISCO is used in employment and labour force statistics.

Owners: The statistical office or other authority, which created and maintains the version(s) of the classification. A classification may have several owners.

Ex.: ISIC is owned by UNSD; ISCO-COM is owned by ILO and Eurostat.

Family: Classifications may be grouped into classification families.

Ex.: ISIC and NACE belong to the family "Classifications of economic activity".

Versions: A classification has at least one version (classification version).

Ex.: **ISIC:** ISIC Rev.1, ISIC Rev.2, ISIC Rev.3; **NACE:** NACE 70, NACE Rev.1.

Current version: If there are several versions of a classification, one version is assigned as the currently valid version.

Ex.: ISIC Rev. 3; NACE Rev. 1.

Item history entries: A list of all item history entries associated with the classification across the versions of the classification.

Keywords: A classification can be associated with one or a number of keywords.

Ex.: For NACE: "Economic Activity"; "Industry"; "Production".

Footnotes

See also:

Classification version, Classification family

Classification family

A classification family comprises a number of classifications, which are related from a certain point of view. The family may be based, for instance, on a common classification variable (e.g. economic activity) or on a common type of object/unit. Different classification databases may use different types of classification families and have different names for the families, as no standard has been agreed upon.

Identifier: A classification family is identified by a unique identifier.

Title: A classification family has a title.

Ex.: "Geographical classifications"; "Product classifications".

Classifications: A classification family refers to a number of classifications.

Ex: A Product classifications family may comprise e.g. CPA, CPC, HS, CN

See also:
Classification

Classification version

A classification version is a list of mutually exclusive categories representing the version-specific values of the classification variable. If the version is hierarchical, each level in the hierarchy is a set of mutually exclusive categories. A classification version is valid for a given period of time. A new version of a classification differs in essential ways from the previous version. Essential changes are changes that alter the borders between categories, i.e. a statistical object/unit may belong to different categories in the new and the older version. Border changes may be caused by creating or deleting categories, or moving a part of a category to another. The addition of case law, changes in explanatory notes or in the titles do not lead to a new version.

Identifier: A classification version is identified by a unique identifier, which may typically be an abbreviation of its title. It is often distinguished from other versions of the same classification by reference to a revision number or to the year of the version's coming into force.

Ex.: NACE Rev.1, CPA 96.

Title: A classification version has a title as provided by the owner or maintenance unit.

Ex.: Classification of Products by Activity, 1996.

Description: Short general description of the classification version.

Classification: A classification version is a version of one specific classification.

Ex.: CPA 96 is a version of CPA.

Maintenance unit: The unit or group of persons within the organisation who are responsible for the classification version, i.e. for maintaining, updating and changing it.

Contact persons: Person(s) who may be contacted for additional information about the classification version.

Legal base: Indicates that the classification version is covered by a legal act or by some other formal agreement.

Ex.: The legal base for NACE Rev.1 is:

1. Council of the European Communities Regulation (EEC) No. 3037/90 of 9 October 1990 (Official Journal of the European Communities No. L 293, 24.10.1990)
2. Commission of the European Communities Regulation (EEC) No. 761/93 of 24 March 1993 (Official Journal of the European Communities No. L 83, 3.4.1993)

Copyright: Classification versions may have restricted copyrights. Such versions might be excluded from downloading and should be displayed in official publications (e.g. WEB) indicating the copyright owner.

Dissemination allowed: Indicates whether or not the classification version may be published or disseminated (e.g. on the Web).

Publications: A list of the publications in which the classification version has been published.

Under construction: Indicates whether or the not the version is under construction.

Release date: Date on which the classification version was released.

Termination date: Date on which the successor version of the actual classification version was released.

Predecessor version: The nearest previous classification version to the actual version.

Successor version: The classification version immediately following the actual version.

Derived from: A classification version can be derived from one of the classification versions of another classification. The derived version can either inherit the structure of the classification version from which it is derived, usually adding more detail, or use a large part of the items of the classification version from which it is derived and rearrange them in a different structure. Indicates the classification version from which the actual version is derived.

Ex.: NACE Rev.1 is derived from ISIC Rev.3; CPA 93 is derived from the Provisional CPC (1991).

Introduction: The introduction provides a detailed description of the classification version, the background for its creation, the classification variable and objects/units classified, classification rules etc.

Languages available: A classification version can exist in one or several languages. Indicates the languages available, whether the version is completely or partially translated, and which part is available in which language.

Current version: Indicates whether or not the classification version is the currently valid version.

Levels: The structure of a classification version is defined by its levels (classification level). In a linear classification version all categories are at one and the same level. In a hierarchical classification version the categories are arranged in two or more different levels.

Items: A classification version is composed of categories structured in one or more levels. Each category is represented by a classification item, which defines the content and the borders of the category.

Case laws: A list of all case laws associated with the classification version.

Updates possible: Indicates whether or not updates are allowed within the classification version, i.e. without leading to a new version. Such updates will usually be minor changes, which do not alter the borders within the structure of the classification versions.

Last update: If allowed: date of the last update.

Changes: Verbal summary description of changes which have occurred in the classification version.

Item history entries: A list of the item history entries, which describe the changes from the previous version to the actual version.

Update history entries: If the classification version can be updated, this is a list of the item history entries, which describe the updates within the actual version.

Correspondence tables: A classification version may be linked to other classification versions through correspondence tables.

Ex.: Correspondence table between NACE Rev.1 and ISIC Rev.3.

Classification indexes: A classification version can be associated with one or a number of indexes in which index entries are linked to the appropriate classification item.

Footnotes

See also:

Classification, Classification level, Classification item, Case law, Correspondence tables, Classification index, Item history entry

Classification level

Hierarchical classifications are composed of several levels, where the items of each level but the highest are aggregated to the nearest higher level. A linear classification has only one level.

Level number: The number associated with the level. Levels are numbered consecutively starting with level 1 at the highest level.

Level name: The name given to the level.

Ex.: Sections, Sub-sections, Divisions, Groups and Classes in NACE Rev.1.

Items: An ordered list of the categories (classification items) that constitute the level.

Number of items: The number of items (categories) at the level.

Code type: Indicates whether the item code at the level is alphabetical, numerical or alphanumerical.

Code structure: Indicates how the code is constructed of numbers, letters and separators.

Ex. In NACE Rev.1 the code structure at the Class level is 99.99

Level coverage: Indicates whether the level covers the whole classification or only part of it. Incomplete coverage means that one or several items at the nearest higher level are not further subdivided.

Ex.: Only 2 of 17 Sections of NACE Rev.1 are subdivided into subsections.

Dummy code: Rule for the construction of dummy codes from the codes of the next higher level when an incomplete level is made complete.

Ex.: The NACE Rev.1 subsection dummy codes may be created by doubling the section code letter, i.e. Section code: B, subsection dummy code: BB

Description: Text describing the content and particular purpose of the level.

Ex.: NACE sub-sections were introduced to provide more detail at an aggregate level.

See also:

Classification version, Classification item

Classification item

A classification item represents a category at a certain level within a classification version. It defines the content and the borders of the category. A statistical object/unit can be classified to one and only one item at each level of a classification version. An item is associated with a code and a title and may include explanatory notes.

Code: A classification item is identified by an alphabetical, numerical or alphanumerical code, which is in line with the code structure of the classification level. The code is unique within the classification version to which the item belongs.

Official title: A classification item has a title as provided by the owner or maintenance unit. The title describes the content of the category.

Short title: An item can be expressed in terms of a short title, for example for dissemination purposes.

Medium title: An item can be expressed in terms of a medium-length title, for example for dissemination purposes.

Alternative titles: An item can be expressed in terms of one or several alternative titles. Each alternative title may be associated with a title type that indicates the use of the title.

Ex.: Self-explanatory titles in CN; Titles in plural form (e.g. Men, Women) for dissemination purposes; gender related titles

Explanatory notes: A classification item may be associated with explanatory notes, which further describe and clarify the contents of the category. Explanatory notes consist of:

General note: Contains either additional information about the category, or a general description of the category, which is not structured according to the "includes", "includes also", "excludes" pattern.

Includes: Specifies the contents of the category.

Includes also: A list of borderline cases, which belong to the described category.

Excludes: A list of borderline cases, which do not belong to the described category. Excluded cases are described by a set of exclusion references.

Case laws: Refers to one or more case law rulings related to the classification item.

Classification version: The classification version to which the item belongs.

Level number: The number of the level to which the item belongs.

Sub items: Each item, which is not at the lowest level of the classification version, may contain one or a number of sub items, i.e. items at the next lower level of the classification version.

Ex.: In NACE Rev.1, the Group level items 10.1, 10.2 and 10.3 are sub items of the Division level item 10.

Parent item: The item at the next higher level of the classification version of which the actual item is a sub item.

Ex.: In NACE Rev.1 item 10 is the parent of item 10.1.

Generated: Indicates whether or not the item has been generated to make the level to which it belongs complete.

Ex.: In NACE Rev.1 one may generate items AA, BB, FF to make the subsection level complete.

Last item: Indicates whether or not the item is the last "true" item (i.e. non-generated item) in its line, i.e. does not contain any non-generated sub items or non-generated items at further lower levels.

Currently valid: If updates are allowed in the classification version, an item may be restricted in its validity, i.e. it may become valid or invalid after the classification version has been released. Indicates whether or not the item is currently valid.

Invalidity periods: If updates are allowed in the classification version, an item may be restricted in its validity, i.e. it may become invalid after the classification version has been released and it may become valid again before a new version has been released.

Start of invalidity period: Date at which the item became invalid

End of invalidity period: Date at which the item became valid

Linked items: Items of other classification versions with which the item is linked through correspondence tables.

Ex.: CPA 96 item 22.11.31 is linked with CPC 91 item 32220 and HS 96 item 4901.91

Item history entries: Refers to one or more item history entries associated with the item

Index entries: A list of all the classification index entries, which are associated with the item.

Footnotes

See also:

Classification level, Classification version, Exclusion reference, Case law, Item history entry, Classification index, Classification index entry

Exclusion reference

An exclusion reference is a part of the explanatory notes associated with a classification item. The exclusion reference describes an object/unit type characteristic, which does not belong to the item. The reference may refer to one or more other items of the same classification version to which the excluded characteristic belongs.

Identifier: An exclusion reference is identified by a unique identifier.

Description: Text describing the object/unit type characteristic, which is excluded from the item.

Ex.: (From NACE Rev.1, Class 28.74, This class excludes:) manufacture of clock or watch springs

Items: Zero or more other items of the same classification version, to which the excluded object/unit type characteristic belongs.

Ex.: (From NACE Rev.1, example above): 33.50

See also:

Classification item

Case law

A case law is a ruling concerning the classification of certain statistical objects/units, which do not obviously fit into one category and are not clearly defined by explanatory notes. A case law is related to one classification version only. It may be associated with one classification item only.

Description: Detailed description of the case law.

Item: Classification item associated with the case law.

See also:

Classification item, Classification version

Classification index

A classification index is an ordered list (alphabetical, in code order etc) of entries describing properties or types of objects/units to which the classification version applies. Each index entry refers to exactly one item of the classification version. Indexes serve a general information purpose as extended descriptions of the contents of items and are especially used as support tools when classifying statistical objects/units.

Identifier: An index is identified by a name. If there are several indexes for a classification version they will usually be indexes in different languages. In this case the language should be part of the index name.

Maintenance unit: The unit or group of persons within the organisation responsible for the index, i.e. for adding, changing or deleting index entries.

Contact persons: Person(s) who may be contacted for additional information about the classification index.

Classification version: An index is related to one particular classification version.

Index entries: A list of all classification index entries associated with the classification version.

Languages: A classification index can exist in several languages. Indicates the languages available. If an index exists in several languages, the number of entries in each language may be different, as the number of terms describing the same phenomenon can change from one language to another.

Publications: A list of the publications in which the classification index has been published.

Footnotes

See also:

Classification version, Classification index entry

Classification index entry

An index entry is a word or a short text (e.g. the name of a locality, an economic activity or an occupational title) describing a type of object/unit or object property to which the classification version applies. Each index entry refers to exactly one item of the classification version. Although an index entry may be associated with an item at any level of the classification version, index entries are normally associated with items at the lowest level.

Identifier: Each index entry is identified by a unique identifier.

Text: Text describing the type of object/unit or object property.

Item: The classification item with which the index entry is associated.

See also:

Classification item, Classification index

Correspondence table

A correspondence table expresses the relationship between different versions of the same classification or between versions of different classifications. In the first case the correspondence table links two versions of a classification to facilitate comparability over time. In the second instance it expresses the relationship between different classifications. Correspondences are bi-directional.

Identifier: A correspondence table is identified by a unique identifier which may typically include the identifiers of the versions involved.

Title: A correspondence table has a title as provided by the owner.

Owners: The statistical office, other authority or section which created and maintains the correspondence table. A correspondence table may have several owners.

Maintenance unit: The unit or group of persons who are responsible for the correspondence table, i.e. for maintaining and updating it.

Contact persons: The person(s) who may be contacted for additional information about the correspondence table.

Description: The description contains information about the scope and aim of the correspondence and the principles on which it is based.

Source version: The classification version from which the correspondence is made.

Target version: The classification version to which the correspondence is directed.

Source level: The correspondence is normally restricted to a certain level in the source version. In this case target items are assigned only to source items on the given level. If no level is indicated target items can be assigned to any level of the source version.

Target level: The correspondence is normally restricted to a certain level in the target version. In this case source items are assigned only to target items on the given level. If no level is indicated source items can be assigned to any level of the target version.

Relationship type: A correspondence can define a 1:1, 1:N, N:1 or M:N relationship between source and target items.

Source complete: Indicates that all source items (on the source level) correspond to one or more target items.

Target complete: Indicates that all target items (on the target level) correspond to one or more source item.

Publications: A list of the publications in which the correspondence table has been published.

Footnotes

See also:

[Classification version](#), [Classification item](#), [Correspondence item](#)

Correspondence item

A correspondence item expresses the relation between an item of the source version and a corresponding item of the target version. Depending on the type of correspondence table, there may be several correspondence items for a single source or target item.

Source item: The source item refers to the classification item in the source version.

Target item: The target item refers to the classification item in the target version.

See also:

Classification version, Classification item, Correspondence table

Item history entry

An item of a classification version can be subject to change. The item history entry describes the change that has occurred.

Event date: Date when the change occurred.

Classification version: The classification version that is created or updated by the change.

Creation/update: Indicates whether this is a creating or updating change.

Event type: For a given classification, a set of event types may be defined and recorded.

Ex.: Change of name, split, merger.

Event description: Text describing the "before and after" of the change.

Ex.: Municipality: change of name from xxx to yyy, merger with municipality zzz.

Items: The classification items of any version with which the history entry is associated.

See also:

Classification item, Classification version

Footnote

Additional information about a classification, a classification version, a classification index, a correspondence table etc.

Description: The text to be displayed for the footnote.

Conceptual framework

