LIBR202 EXERCISE 1A: ATTRIBUTES AND BASIC DATA STRUCTURES

PART II – Using Attributes to Create a Database

Field: Landscape
Values: deserts, mountains, city, skyline, urban, rivers, ponds, gardens, countryside, forests, rural, fields, remote, parks, residential, roads

Field: Structures
Values: train stations, freeways, apartments, high-rises, docks, hospitals, offices, skyscrapers

Field: Place Names
Values: Maine, California, Yosemite

Field: Human being
Values: males, females, adults, Caucasian, doctors

Field: Human Anatomy
Values: biceps, muscles, eyes, eyelashes, pupils, knees, legs

Field: Objects
Values: eyeglasses, stilettos, leg braces, tanks

Field: Climate
Values: Clouds, mist, raindrops, sky

Field: Plant life
Values: leaves, flowers, plants, trees, grass

Field: Animal
Values: lobsters, lizards, dogs, claws, reptiles, crustacean

Field: Color
Values: green, blue, pink

Field: Other
Values: Port-a-potty, art, night, reflection, snowman, water, 2007, smile

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Field: Other
Value: Port-a-potty, art, night, reflection, snowman, water, 2007, smile

Field: Construction
Values: *port-a-potty*, drywall, sledgehammer

Field: *Art*
Values: sculptures, paintings, photography, drawings

Field: Time of Day
Values: *night*, day, dusk, dawn, twilight

Field: mirror
Value: *reflection*, glass

Field: winter
Values: *snowman*, storms, cold, frozen

Field: Classical element
Values: *water*, air, earth, fire

Field: Year

Field: Facial expression
Values: *smile*, frown

PART III - Reflection

I found this exercise to be a big challenge. I had never thought about how a person has to decide how to catalogue a photograph so that the ‘general public’ when searching for something specific in a database could find it. The amount of work it takes and the required double checking and thought is astounding.

When I initially began cataloguing the photographs, I had no idea what I was doing and spent time looking at each image and taking in what it was about and what was in the image and what words a person would use to access that image. I found it hard to decide on what to call a building, how to be specific and also when not to be too specific, to keep it general. I thought about how I go about searching for something, what words I
would use and how to simplify. I also thought about who the users are and what are their most common information needs.

I used the principle of representing subject through full text – the natural language of a document when deciding on the ‘field’ subject headings but I wasn’t sure about using climate or weather but climate incorporates the word ‘sky’ and since I wasn’t sure what to do with that word, I decided on climate. I now realize that ‘weather’ probably would have been more natural.

I also wanted to use the word ‘canine’ instead of ‘dog’ but I thought about how many people refer to their household pet as a canine? I decided most people call their pet a dog and the same goes with feline / cat and a crustacean / lobster.

I’m not really sure about ‘Human Anatomy’ either. I initially called it ‘Anatomy of a Human Being’ but then realized I could shorten it. I feel that it could be simplified even further, maybe call it ‘body parts’.

When trying to decide what to do with my ‘other’ set of values, I used the dictionary to find out a definition for some of the words especially reflection, water, port-a-potty. Port-a-potty was hard because I couldn’t really decide what it was. It’s definitely not a structure, and then I thought it was a man-made object, then I thought about where you see it most and decided on construction sites. If I thought about it, I could maybe come up with something better but for right now, it’ll do.

This exercise really got my brain cells working and I had fun completing it. It opened my eyes as to how difficult it is to decide what values to assign to an image and I had problems being too specific or not specific enough.