Classification/subject schemes: architectures, encodings

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Faceted classification

• “Heading”, label, topic, etc. composed of a sequence of elements each containing a controlled term
  – Elements may be separated by punctuation or other annotation device

• E.g. PMEST (Ranganathan)
  – Personality, Matter, Energy, Space, Time
  – Basis of Colon classification
Semi-faceted

• Standard “sub-divisions” added to a primary topic
  – Typically geographic and historic sub-divisions
• E.g. Dewey Decimal Classification
  – “Heading” is a notation, sub-divisions marked by “09” (mostly)
• E.g. Library of Congress Subject Headings
  – Sub-divisions marked by notation (subfield codes) but displayed dumbed-down (“==“)
Other factors/ artefacts

- Sub-division may be mandatory or optional
- Sequencing can be important
  - Law – Sociology (= sociology of the legal process)
  - Sociology – Law (= law applied to sociology)