

LIS 530 - ASSIGNMENT 2

SUBJECT ANALYSIS AND INDEXING

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1. SUBJECT ANALYSIS

Subjects, in order of importance:

1. **Library services:** Using the purposive method I distilled that the main purpose of the article is to show how and what adult library services helped the community. The author wishes to use this example and its analysis to encourage other counties to follow.
2. **Information needs:** The article described the process of how the community's information needs were uncovered and then how the library responded to those. This interaction seemed the most emphasized to me; the whole article is based on these interactions, making "information needs" the subject resulting the use of the figure-ground method.
3. **Agriculture:** The people of Jefferson County, the literal subject of the article, are engaged in agriculture. As this is their fulltime activity I could not exclude this central theme. The purpose of all of the above is to make their business more successful. This is the underlying unity, to which he author appeals.
4. **Marketing:** Curry attributes the success of the program to its marketing strategy. She describes both the strategy and performs a scientific audit on it. She builds the article up from the ground based on the proven assumption that marketing worked here.
5. **Jefferson County:** This essay is using Jefferson County, both its population and its library services, as an illustration of a larger theme. However the specific characteristics of the case make up most of the article. Jefferson County is "constantly referred to" to provide the relevant context.

I put "library services" first; because that is the concept the article is built around. They address the "information needs" of the patrons thus that came next. These first two concepts are deeply intertwined; it

was difficult to decide which one to put first. However the article focused on solutions, so that prevailed in my ordering too. All the information needs discussed are related to agriculture, the logical next subject. The population had to be made aware of the answers the library offered to information needs and this was done through effective marketing, my next term in the order. Finally the specific location is a unique characteristic that cannot be left out.

Not selected subjects:

Rural community – I was considering it, because the author tries to provide ideas and guidance that can be used for most rural communities. But because of the "specific entry" principle I opted to Jefferson County instead.

2a. FREE INDEXING

- 1. Library services for adults**
- 2. Farm information center**
- 3. Agribusiness database**
- 4. Computer literacy**
- 5. Rural libraries**
- 6. Marketing**
- 7. Jefferson County of Florida**

I decided to use pre-coordinate vocabulary, because I had to limit my list to seven items and pre-coordination allows complex concepts to be shown as single terms. Also, some terms make more sense this way; for example library "library services for adults" is clearer than saying "adult library services" which could mean pornography rental shop too. Similarly, I had to add "of Florida" to Jefferson County, because the US has 26 states with a county named Jefferson. (Technically the correct number is 25 plus one, because Louisiana has parishes and not counties.)

I broke down "information needs" into the three ways the library ended up addressing them (farm information center, agribusiness database and computer literacy), because of the "specificity principle:" these specific terms can be more useful for a researcher using the database than the generic one.

I was not given the exhaustivity rule of the database I am indexing for. If it would be similar to LCSH's 20% rule I could not have used some of the terms above, because less than 20 percent of the article is talking about them (such as "agribusiness database.") However we did not have this rule and I felt it is an important subject of the article; thus I included it.

Coextensivity policy was also missing from our instructions. Therefore I assumed that it is not necessarily strict and not all topics need to be expressed by my indexing terms. For example the introductory literature review is not represented by my terms. I believe that the aforementioned section only had context setting function and not as important in the article's overall message.

2b DERIVED INDEXING

1. **Adult library services** (page 16): This corresponds one-to-one to the first concept listed in 1. But it also narrows it by specifying that it is for adults. I used this order of the three words, because this is how they are seen in the title of the essay.

The next three items are the specific library services offered as solutions. Each of them is important (and pre-coordinated); because this is how the library could respond to the information needs

2. **Farm information center** (page 18)
3. **Remote access to database in agribusiness** (page 19)
4. **Computer literacy in farm management** (page 19)
5. **Jefferson County of Florida** (page 16): The location is still an important descriptor.

- 6. Marketing** (page 17): While marketing per se is not the topic of this article per, but it does talk about its different aspects in the context of the programs. The word is even used in one of the section headings.
- 7. Rural library development** (page 17): This term does not correspond directly to any of the terms in 1, but relates to all the previous items. I chose this term, because this is what the author supports with her article. It is a good indexing term because makes the article findable for anybody interested in this particular topic.

2c ASSIGNED INDEXING

The selected ERIC terms are in the third, while their justification is in the last column of the table below.

Free	Derived	Assigned/ERIC terms	Comments on ERIC terms
Library services for adults	Adult library services	* Library Services	I did not find any terms that would have combined in a meaningful way "adults" with "library services." I considered and discarded "Adult Education" and "Adult Literacy."
Farm information center	Farm information center	* Information Centers * Farm Management	The two ERIC terms together cover well, what a "Farm information center" is about.
Agribusiness database	Remote access to database in agribusiness	* Agribusiness * Access to Information * Databases	The combination of the three ERIC terms in the row of "Agribusiness database" corresponds well to the equivalent of the complex, pre-coordinated concept of the derived indexing.
Computer literacy	Computer literacy in farm management	* Computer Literacy	Because I already listed the "Farm Management" ERIC term above, I did not have to include it again as an additional descriptor for this term.
Rural libraries	Rural library development	* Rural Areas * Library Development	Taken together these two terms constitute a close enough

			approximation of "Rural library development" to be included here.
Marketing	Marketing	* Marketing	"Marketing" was a simple enough term to be incorporated in all three type of indexing as is.
Jefferson County of Florida	Jefferson County of Florida		ERIC does not have terms for any geographical area. They have adjectives, like Canadian, but I found nothing I could have used in lieu of Jefferson County or even Florida.

Free indexing was difficult for me. I felt that I should be able to define what the subjects of the article are without using the words of the article. I probably failed in this regard, as my terms are much based on the articles. The four methods (purposive, figure-ground, constant reference, and appeal to unity) helped, but maybe not enough. I feel that I would have been more successful using the requirement/user-oriented method, because it might be easier to index if I have a specific use(r) in mind.

From the three type of indexing I was most comfortable with derived one. I found that for this article I did not really need to go beyond the words found in the article itself, because they represented the subjects well. I particularly enjoyed that I could used complex, thus pre-coordinated terms with rich embedded meaning.

I also found the assigned indexing exercise refreshing. It reminded me of the mathematical operation of factoring. I had to break multiple concepts to its most basic elements. This process was different from the other methods of indexing.