

# IOE Thesaurus

Case study

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# Purpose of this talk

Provide a practitioner's practical perspective on the importance of knowledge organization in learning and teaching

# Outline

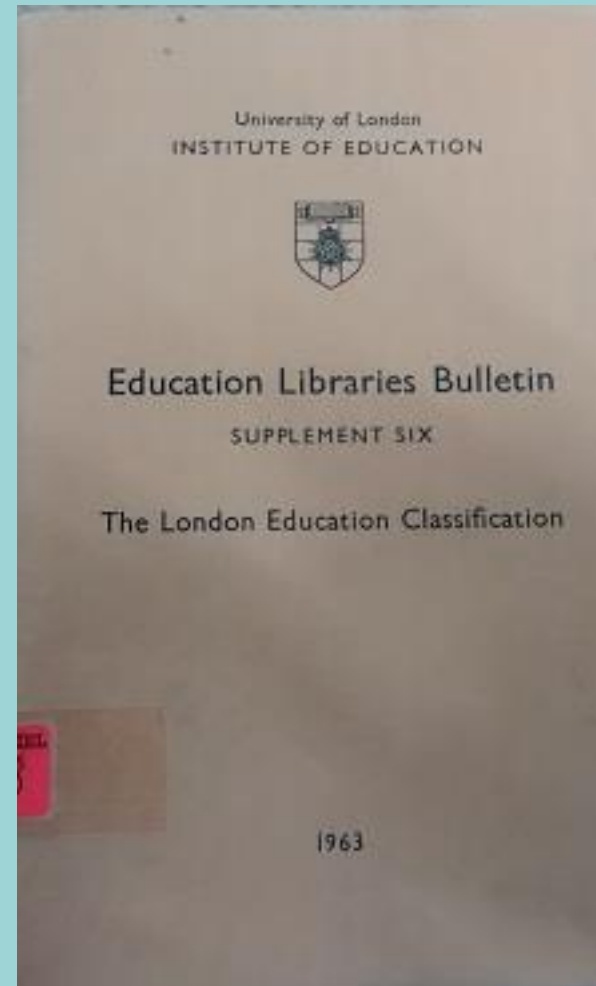
- History and development of the IOE Thesaurus (1961-2013)
- The project to re-write the IOE Thesaurus (2011-2014)
- Practical use of the new IOE Thesaurus – Orsem (2013-)
- Some conclusions

**History &  
development  
of IOE  
Thesaurus  
(1961-2013)**

# DJ Foskett

- IOE Librarian (1957-1978)

# London Education Classification (LEC)



SCHEDULES

Summary of Facets

- B Education, general, principles etc.
- D School buildings and equipment
- F The teaching profession
- G School, college and university officers
- H School, college and university management
- J Educational psychology and measurement
- K Students' work
- L Teaching method
- M - P Curriculum
- R - S Educands and Schools
- T Exceptional children





Illegitimate Tof  
Illiterate Til  
Illness Hum  
Immigrants Tut  
Inability Jah  
Inaptitude Jah  
Ineducable Tid  
Infant Raj  
"Infant school" Rat  
In-service training Ley  
Inspection Bim  
Inspectorate Bin  
Institutes of  
Education Sed  
Insurance Hux  
Integration Hel  
Interest Jak  
Internal examinations Jim  
International  
organisations Bok  
Interview Jik  
Invalid Tev  
Itinerant school Rum



Fab	The teaching profession, general
Fad	Professional status and ethics
Faf	Academic freedom
Fap	Qualification, Certification
Fas	Recruitment, supply
Feb	Salaries and conditions
Feg	Pensions, superannuation
Fib	Leisure time
Fif	Free periods
Fil	Leave
Fis	Sabbatical leave
Fiv	Secondment
Fob	Special categories of teacher
Fod	Visiting teachers
Fog	Part-time
Fom	Peripatetic
Fot	Married
Fov	Women
Fub	Parents and teachers
Fud	Parent-teacher organisations



Sam Baf; Sad Gib Ge1

Sam Baf; Sad Gib Ge1

Lab Hat

San Jeb Heb

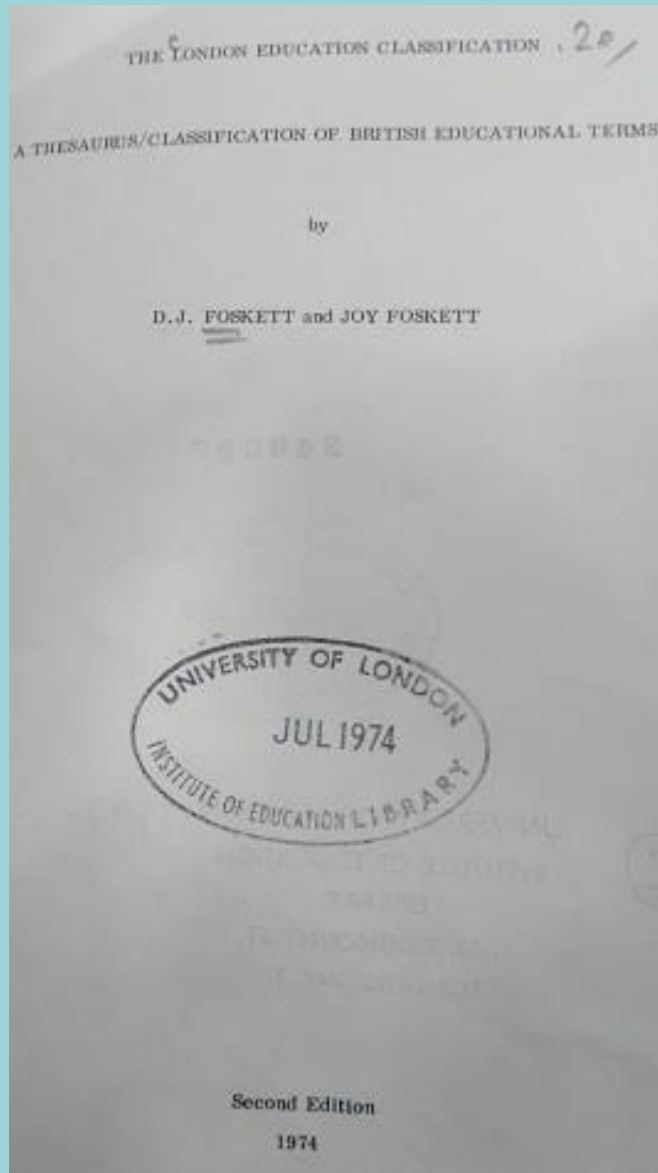
Rav Jag Heg

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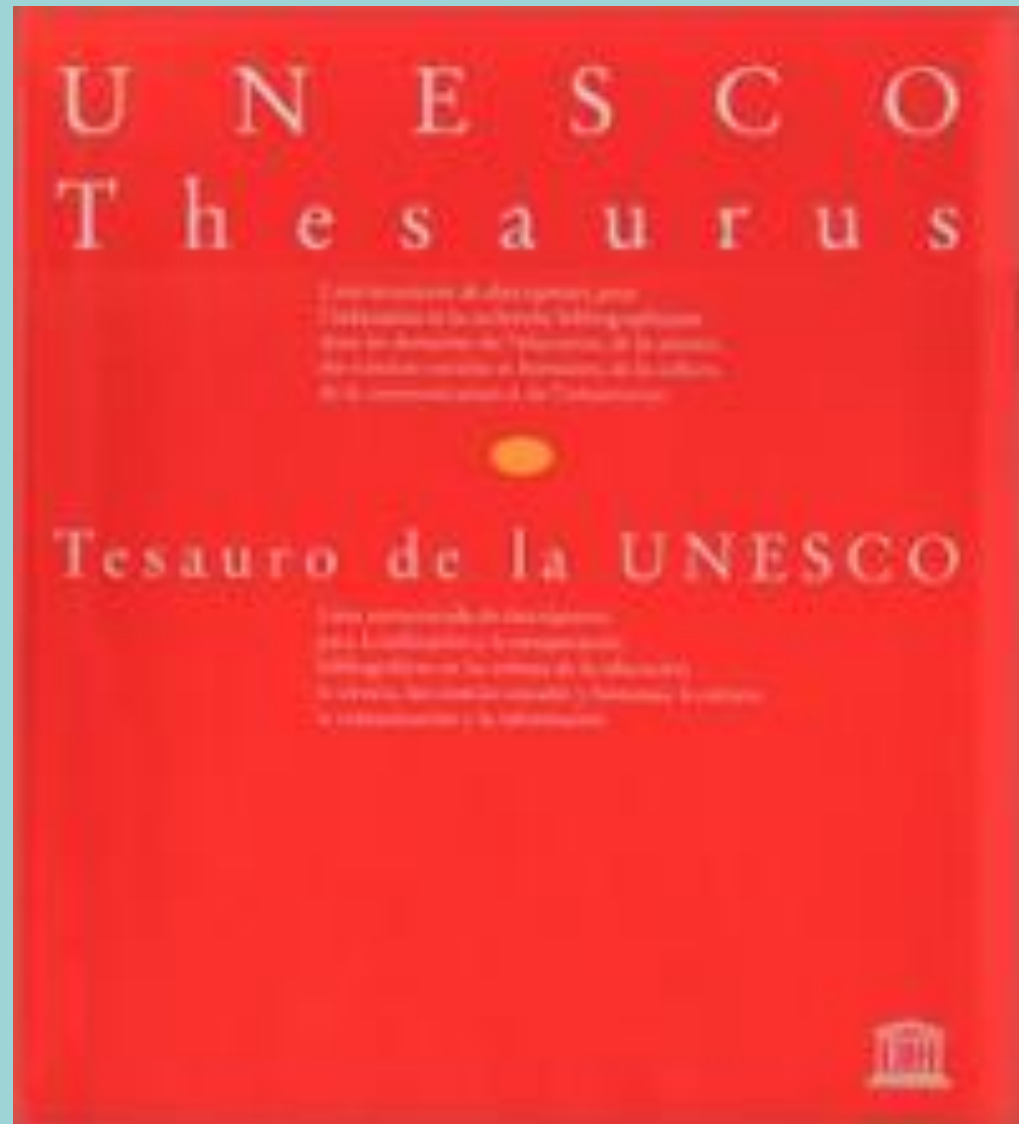
Ram Lig Lag Hob

LEC2



Teaching Methods	Lab	
SN	Techniques & aids used by teachers	Tec SN
BT	Teaching	
NT	Coaching	
	Group Work	
	Micro Teaching	
	Remedial Teaching	UF
	Sleep Teaching	
RT	Lecture	BT
	Lesson	RT
	School Visits & Travel	
	Supervision	
	Systems of Teaching	
	Training Methods	

# ULIENESCO (1980-1990)



# **London Education Thesaurus (LET) (1990 – 2013)**

## LET: issues (2011)

- Lack of structure, 3,400 Pt'ss including:
  - 951 top terms
  - 112 orphans
  - c.800 'pairs'
  - 31% of LET terms had no BT

Also 1,380 NPT's

# LET: issues

- Lack of version control
  - By 2012 there were 12 different version of LET in use
  - Both electronic and paper versions in use
  - Every version was different



# LET: issues

- Outdated terminology
  - Deviants RT Mentally ill, RT Homosexuals
  - Blacks
  - Homeless people BT Social problems

**Project to re-  
write the IOE  
Thesaurus  
(2011-2014)**

# Project plan (2011-2014)

**Phase 1** – Planning and preparation (Oct 11 – Feb 12)

**Phase 2** - Identify candidate terms for LET (Mar – July 12)

**Phase 3** – Create new LET structure and tidy up terminology (Aug 12 – Mar 13)

**Phase 4** – Enhance with SN's, RT's, NPT's (Cataloguing & Collection Development teams) (June – July 13)

**Phase 5** – Publish IOE Thesaurus (Aug 13- Oct 14)

## **Phase 1** – Planning and preparation (Oct 11 – Feb 12)

Oct 12 – Cataloguing /Collection Development team meeting - agree plan

Feb 12:

Via ISKO email list I met the following people to seek advice:

- Leonard Will (“you must have educational terms in”; “do not try and have too many staff working on it too early on – the coordination will be impossible”)
- Fran Alexander (BBC Taxonomy Manager) (“At the end of the day it will always go polyhierarchical”)
- Helen Challinor, DfE (shamelessly ripped off her terminology rules)

28 February go to Library Management Team with proposal for new LET & to agree to the terminology rules

## **Phase 2 Identify candidate terms for LET (Mar – July 12)**

### **What is LET? What is an LET term?**

Problems:

- No definitive LET (12 versions)
- None of which had a meaningful logical structure
- All contained several hundred (differing) terms not used to index IOE material
- All versions were missing various indexing terms
- Some indexing terms didn't appear in any version of LET

## Phase 2 Identify candidate terms for LET (Mar – July 12)

### What is LET? What is an LET term?

**Answer:** there was no LET, there were only LET terms, and an LET term was a term in the 690 field of the LMS.

- We ran a report listing all 690 terms
- And then began the project to create a structure using 690 terms and to apply the terminology rules to them

## **Phase 3 – Create new LET structure; tidy up terminology (Aug 12 – Mar 2013)**

Create structure (from the indexing terms);

Remove errors, correct omissions;

Apply terminology rules (based on DfE's rules)

**Phase 4 – Enhance New LET** with SN's, RT's, NPT's  
(Cataloguing & Collection Development teams) (June – July  
2013)

**Phase 5 – Publish IOE Thesaurus Aug 2013 - Oct 14**

Strategy meeting; Quality control; Removal of any remaining  
bias in the vocabulary (that is not a reflection of the  
collection)

IOE Thesaurus <http://eprints.ioe.ac.uk/18585/>





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## IOE Thesaurus

Johnson, Bryan (2014) *IOE Thesaurus*. Institute of Education, London

-  Text (IOE Thesarus v1 TEXT)  
IOE Thesaurus (text).txt - Published Version  
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**Item Type:** Other

**Depositing User:** IOE Repository Editor (3)

**Date Deposited:** 20 Oct 2014 12:16

**Last Modified:** 31 Oct 2014 09:47

## IOE Thesaurus (some statistics)

5863 terms (pre-project: 4,780)

29 top terms (pre-project 951)

3507 PT's (pre-project 3,400)

2356 NPT's (pre-project 1,380)

1,431 SN's (pre-project 286)

0 orphans (pre-project 112)

Time taken (estimate): 300 man hours!

Children and families

Cognition and learning

Curriculum, courses and organisation

Educational organisations

Evaluation and assessment

Form terms

Geographical locations

Health and illness

Human needs and recreation

Humanities as a branch of learning

Information and communication technology

Interaction between education and its social context

Labour and employment

Language and language development

Languages and language groups

Learners, teachers and educational personnel  
Levels of educational systems  
Literacy, reading and writing  
Mathematics and numeracy  
Peoples and cultures  
Psychology and human development  
Research, information and theory  
Science as a branch of learning  
Services, facilities and equipment  
Social context for human activity  
Social sciences as a branch of learning  
Special educational needs and learning difficulties  
Subjects of instruction  
Teaching and study

## Lessons learnt

1. Adopt terminology rules early: enforce them - they are rules not guidelines!

## Lessons learnt

We found the first 3 rules were particularly important:

1. The terms used should be consistent, meaningful, logical and predictable
2. Established use within the UK education research community should provide a guide for selecting education domain terms
3. For non-education domain terminology every day usage should provide a guide

## Lessons learnt

2. If you have too many people working on the project you spend more time trying to organise than doing – we found 3 was a good compromise

But I did find that it was feasible to include lots of people (9) when the structure had been created and the PT's edited and we had moved into the phase of trying to populate the thesaurus with as many NPT's, SN's & RT's as possible

## Lessons learnt

3. It's not life and death – no one will care about it as much as Cataloguers.
4. Version control is a wonderful thing – there can always be a next version!



**Orsem (2013-)**

## **Orsem:** Online repository of STEM Examination

Material: 1896-1997

- Working with AQA, Pearson, Cambridge Assessment, University of Bristol, University of Durham, National Library of Scotland, SQA & ULCC
- Digitised 300,000 pages of STEM examination material
- Images will be made freely available via a repository embedded in a website
- We have used sections of the IOE Thesaurus to split images, create metadata records, & as the basis of the Orsem facets

THUMBNAILS

<< >>

## Human Biology: Paper 5W: 9042

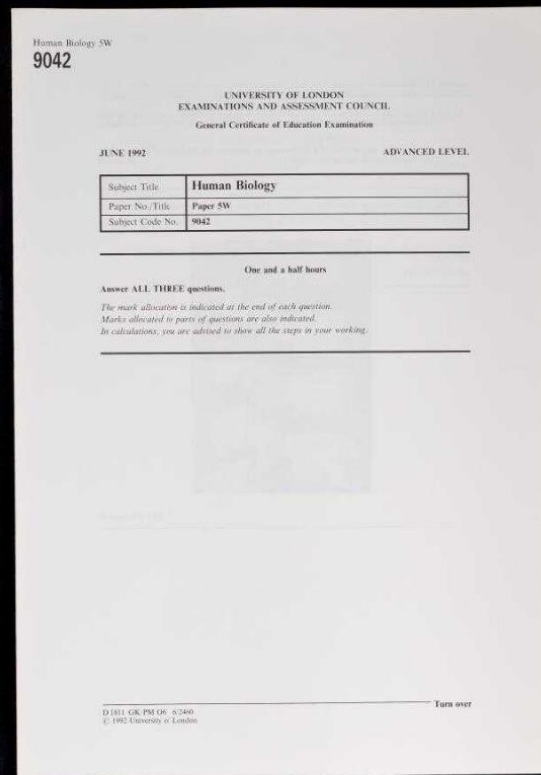


1



2

3



>> MORE INFORMATION

ITEM TYPE  
Examination papers

TITLE  
Human Biology: Paper 5W: 9042

EXAM BOARDS  
University of London

SUBJECTS  
Human Biology

QUALIFICATION TYPE  
General Certificate of Education (Advanced)

BARCODE  
8803397304

COVERAGE  
1992

DIGITSER  
Bespoke

SEASON  
June

# Orsem facets

## »» MORE INFORMATION

### ITEM TYPE

Examination papers

### TITLE

Human Biology: Paper 5W: 9042

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General Certificate of Education  
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8803397304

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1992

### DIGITISER

Bespoke

### SEASON

June

Showing 1 to 10 of 10 results.

Type	Subject	Qualification	Coverage
Examination papers <b>6</b>	Human Biology <b>7</b>	General Certificate of Education (Advanced) <b>8</b>	1993 <b>1</b>
Examiners reports <b>3</b>	Practical <b>5</b>	General Certificate of Education <b>2</b>	
Statistics <b>1</b>	Chemistry <b>5</b>		
	Biology <b>3</b>		
	All Subjects <b>2</b>		

 <p>Statistics 1992-1993</p>	 <p>Human Biology: 3 1992</p>	 <p>Subject report: Chemistry 1992</p>	 <p>Human Biology: Paper 5W: 9042 1992</p>	 <p>Subject report: Biology and Human Biology 1992</p>	 <p>Chemistry: 4A: Practical 1992</p>
 <p>Chemistry: Paper 2 - Chemistry: 9080 1992</p>	 <p>Human Biology: Paper 4C-Option C: 9042: ... 1992</p>	 <p>Comments and replies 1992</p>	 <p>Human Biology: Paper 2W: 8042/9042 1992</p>		

Linking related content is essential (e.g. exam papers with the relevant syllabuses)

Example of linking related content by subject:

Science

NT Biology

NT Human Biology

We will also use IOE Thesaurus terms to programmatically ‘split’ the images of the examination papers by putting them in scripts which will search the ORC engine’s XML

**Some  
conclusions**



Maintaining (or creating!) your own in-house Knowledge organisation systems can be expensive and time-consuming – but I think for us it has been worth it as it has enabled subsequent projects (e.g. Orsem) which would otherwise have been unfeasible

Thank you, are there any questions?