

Making one from four – and mastering the authorities

Hans Rengman

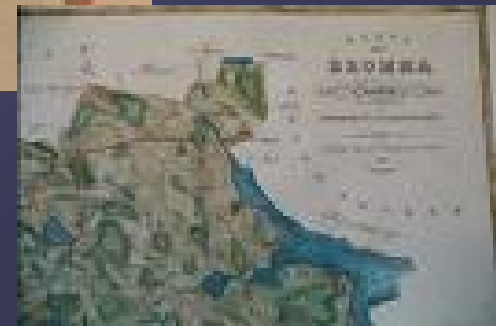
Some remarks on sharing information and resources
from a swedish museum perspective...

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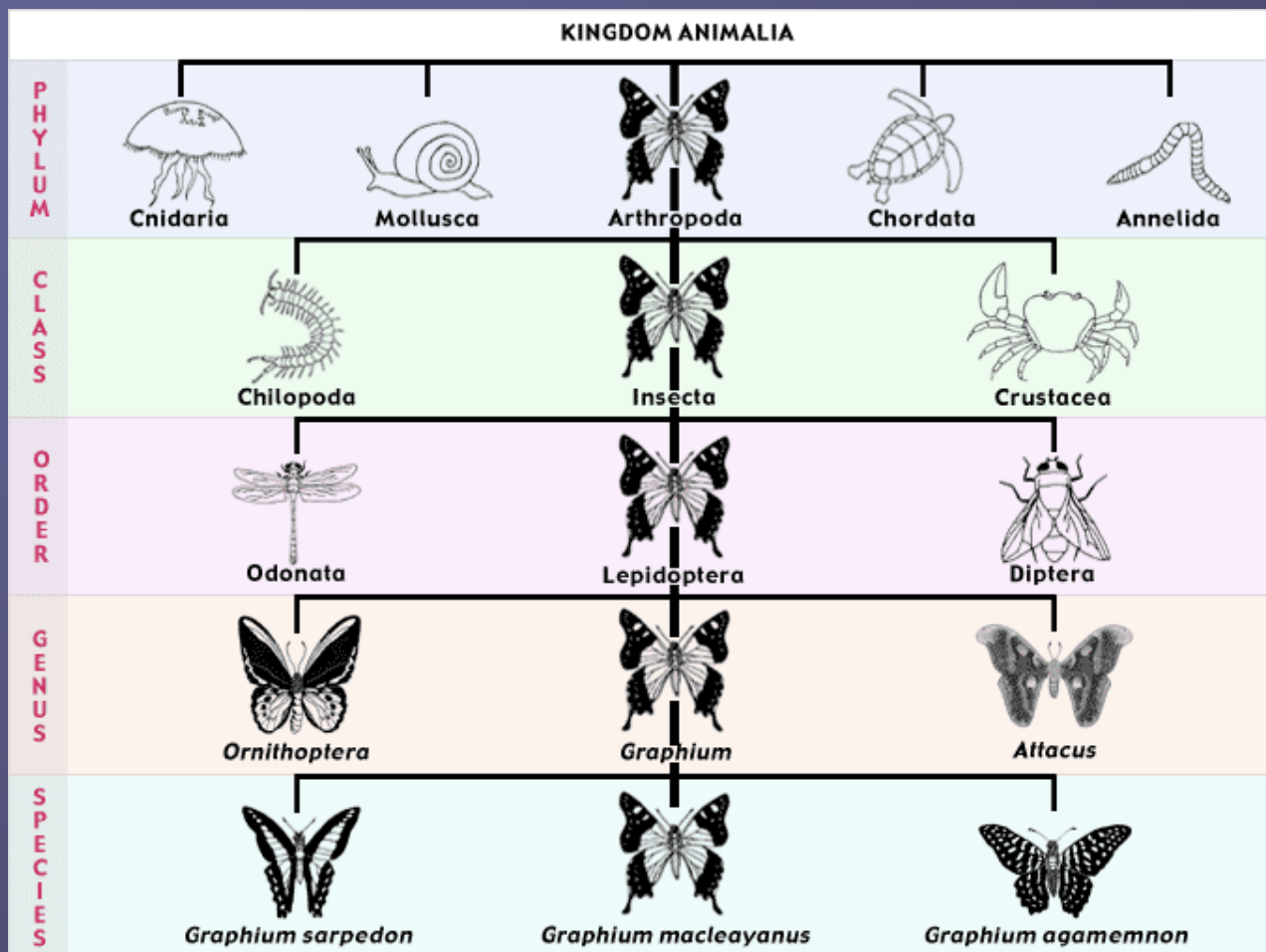
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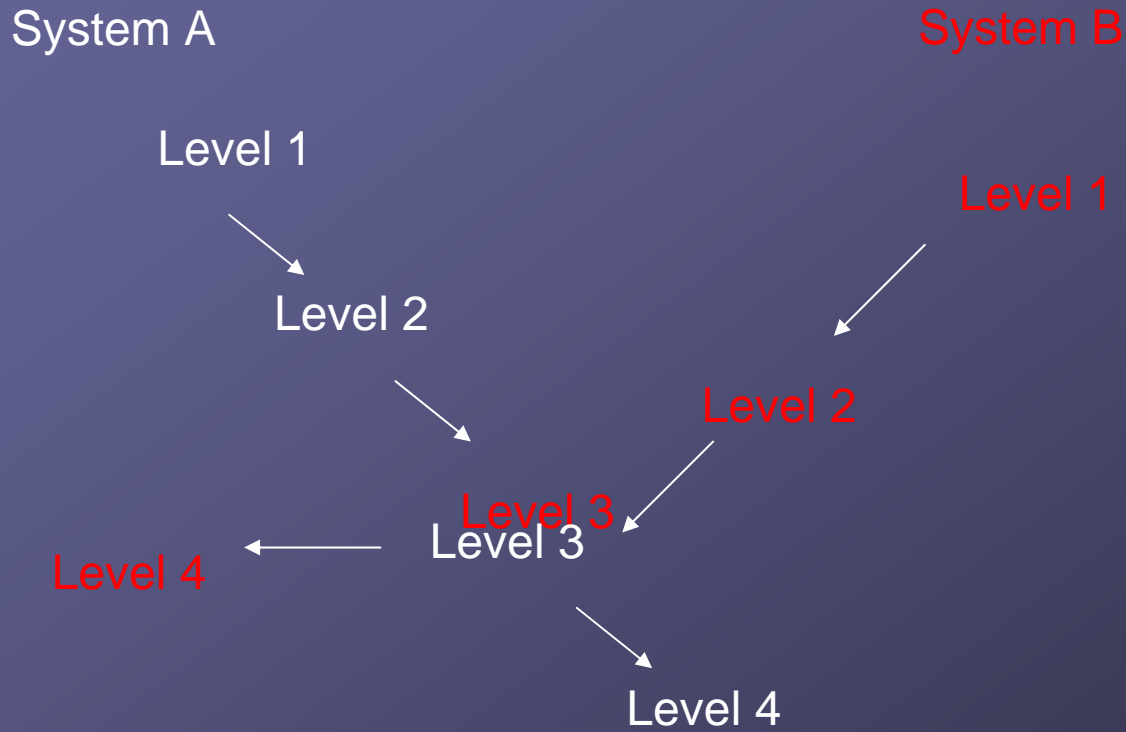
Hans	Wilhelm	Rengman	Uddevalla	Sverige	Herr
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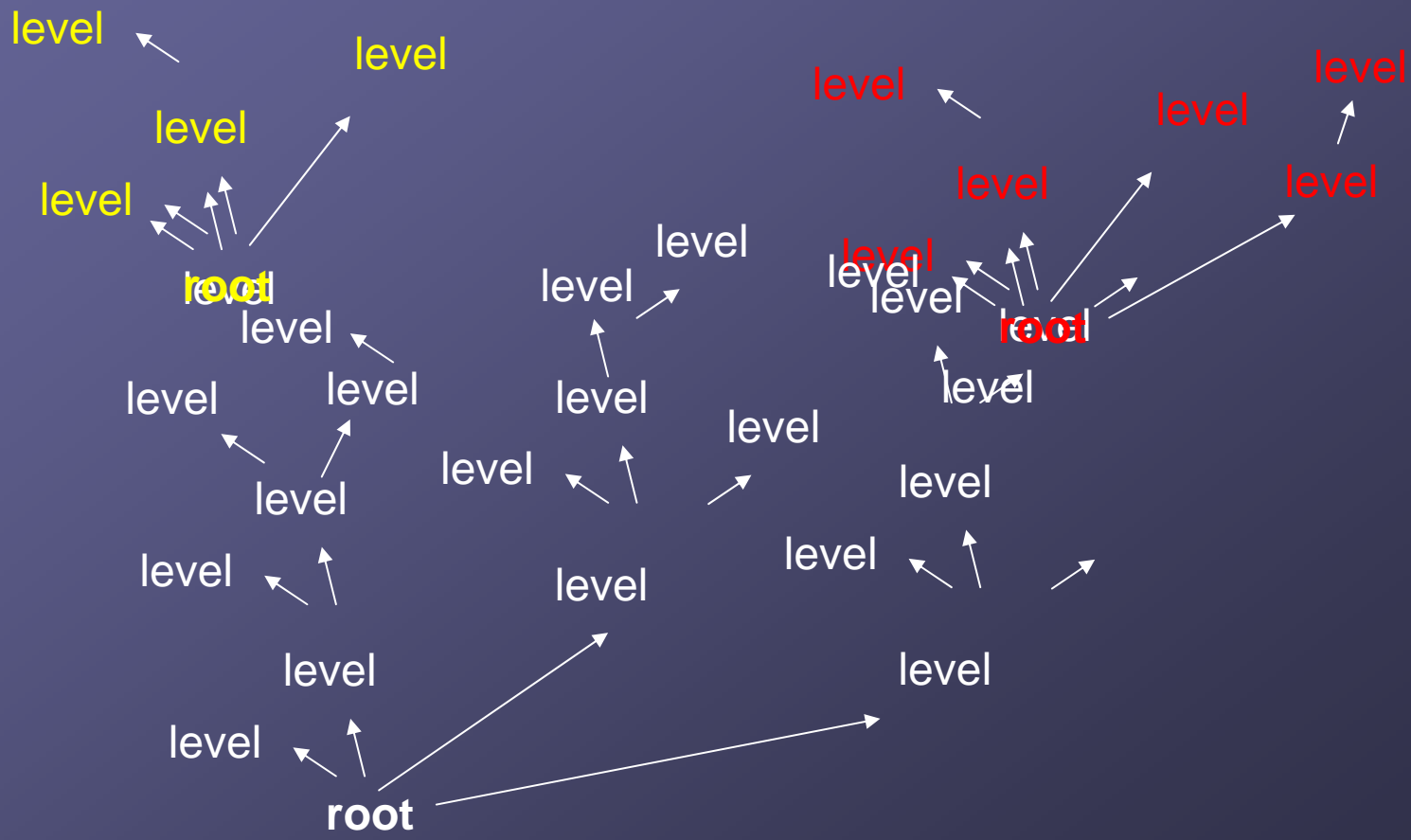
Organic growth



Intellectual construction







Sweden – a summary

- Late 1960ies
Nordic museum and
Natural history museum
- Mid 1970ies
Skokloster castle - a
system
OCM - classification
- 1985
SAMOREG – a model
- 1990-1999
Insam, and the ALM-
group
- 1990 beginning
SWETERM
- 1995-6
Sesam – digitalisation...
- 2004 - >
ALM - center
- 2006 - >
Access – digitalisation...

National Museums of World Culture

- Museum for Far Eastern Antiquities
Stockholm
- Mediterranean museum
Stockholm
- Museum of Ethnography
Stockholm
- Museum of World Culture
Gothenburg

Two steps

- Finding a organisation-wide system?
 - Not suitable at the moment
- Enhance information quality!
 - Cleaning
 - Nomenclature and authority files
 - Rules and manuals



Målad	<i>Painted</i>	Gender form	264 000
Målat	<i>Painted</i>	Gender form	469 000
Bemålad	<i>Painted</i>	"Old" form	763
Färgad	<i>Dyed</i>	textiles	
Painted	<i>Painted</i>	guest researcher	
Rödfärgad	<i>Red - coloured</i>	Houses	
Blåmålad	<i>Blue - painted</i>	Boats	
Målning	<i>Painting</i>	Noun – the technique	

Three tracks for the authority files

- Try to make a simple list of terms that is close to everyday language and a tool for common end users.
- Collecting all actual terms in the museums and arrange them in a strict structure – a thesaurus accepted by specialists.
- Leaving it all for single museums to decide.

We also have to deal with...

- A lot more behind the single words than we can see at the first sight
- Personal bias sets the quality of a definition
 - both writing and interpreting
- Research traditions differ
 - tend to invent language and terminology of their own
- In-house traditions form different ways of writing
- The context can be fuzzy - giving wrong signals
- Language issues

Language

- Masters of "concept" instead of translation of "words"
- Translitteration
- The "age dimension"
- The "Google problem" ...
 - no answer = not existing

Transliteration

● Pierre Auguste Renoir	1841 - 1919	Pjers Ogists Renvärs
● Alexander Rizzoni	1836 – 1902	Aleksandrs Riconi

- In KMM:

- A name master – an authority file that once defines the person and all used name forms and their context

KMM

- Joint project consortium with museums, universities and small companies
- The Luleå University of Technology is project owner from now on
- 14 projects
- A part of the ACCESS-project
- Swedish node for the European Union Project MICHAEL+
- The task is to develop the services and open environments that collect, store and distribute the information that end users ask for

Masters

- KMM.ClassMaster (Klassifikationer, Terminologi “Subject Ontologies”)
- KMM.NameMaster (Personer, Namn)
- KMM.OrganisationMaster (Organisationer)
- KMM.GeoMaster (Platser, orter, regioner)
- KMM.CollectionMaster (Michael plus)
- KMM.TimeMaster (? än så länge)

- KMM.Engine (Grundsystem)
- KMM.Content (Datalagring)

KMM

- Technical system developed – suitable to handle many authority systems and to provide them to the users.
 - A general resource for categorisation and documentation with authority lists, thesaurus etc.
 - A general tool for building such authorities
 - A way to force – or help - the user
 - to the high level of standardisation in input
 - to lead the user around any free format traps that can lead to later difficulties.
- Test bed for looking at decision support and expert systems within the field of museum classification
 - Is it possible to make automatic classifications – and to what extent?
 - Automated services and expert systems use in museums material and workflow.

Problems...

- Loosing knowledge by standards?
 - Windsor chair becomes chairs becomes furniture....
 - A matter of precission in levels
- Domain loss - a simplified language?
 - Making a stool become a chair
 - Its "almost the same thing anyhow..."
 - A matter of precission in direction

And here's the tricky question...

- If the user says "bag"
 - – should we stick to "ridicule"
- Compare the libraries "subject headings" and the image bureaus "living classes"
- Is it a matter of **retrieiving** or **documenting**?

Putting together

● NMWC

- Practical studies in original context

● KMM

- Testbed an large scale development

● -> Awareness

- real - basic – information quality
- structure problems and complexity

- NMWC studies have put a finger on the concrete examples and their background
 - Systems for catching multi-institutional data must be constructed in a way that do not cut away one aspect on behalf of the others.
- KMM gives us a possible tool to large scale manipulation of information and a platform
 - Discovery of rational data handling. The risks in driving the standardising too far will be noticed.

The goal should be...

- Natural language
 - to keep the natural language as untouched as possible
- Standard TOOLS
 - to adopt standard terminology as tools and keys “outside” the documentation itself
- Many facets
 - to try to hang on as many tags or information viewpoints as possible
 - a challenge both to the processes and the professional role.
- Discussion and research within these fields
- **Benefit from looking at each others systems with new eyes within the entire ALM and heritage sector.**

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