

Participatory classification: Evolution and opportunities

David M. Pimentel

Syracuse University School of Information Studies



Definitions

- *Classification*: setting entities in meaningful relation to one another
(cf. Sayers, 1944)
- *Participatory classification*: open-ended process allowing multiple people to collaborate on shared classifications, including creation and ongoing modification



Study

- Examine the evolution of participatory classifications in the English-language Wikipedia
- Unobtrusive sources of evidence:
 - community documentation
 - archives of edit histories



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The Free Encyclopedia

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Religion

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

"Religious" redirects here. For a member of a religious community, see [Religious order](#).

"Religious" redirects here. For the radio format, see [Religious broadcasting](#).

For other uses, see [Religion \(disambiguation\)](#).

A **religion** is a set of [tenets](#) and practices, often centered upon specific [supernatural](#) and [moral](#) claims about [reality](#), the [cosmos](#), and [human nature](#), and often codified as [prayer](#), [ritual](#), or [religious law](#). Religion also encompasses ancestral or cultural [traditions](#), writings, history, and [mythology](#), as well as personal [faith](#) and [religious experience](#). The term "religion" refers to both the personal practices related to communal faith and to group rituals and communication stemming from shared conviction.

In the frame of [western religious thought](#),^[1] religions present a common quality, the "hallmark of patriarchal religious thought": the division of the world in two comprehensive domains, [one sacred, the other profane](#).^[2] Religion is often described as a communal system for the coherence of belief focusing on a system of thought, unseen being, person, or object, that is considered to be [supernatural](#), sacred, [divine](#), or of the highest [truth](#). [Moral codes](#), practices, values, institutions, tradition, rituals, and [scriptures](#) are often traditionally associated with the core belief, and these may have some overlap with concepts in [secular philosophy](#). Religion is also often described as a "[way of life](#)" or a [life stance](#).

The [development of religion](#) has taken many forms in various cultures. "Organized religion"

Religion by country

[North America](#) [\[show\]](#)

[South America](#) [\[show\]](#)

[Europe](#) [\[show\]](#)

[Middle East](#) [\[show\]](#)

[Africa](#) [\[show\]](#)

[Asia](#) [\[show\]](#)

[Oceania](#) [\[show\]](#)

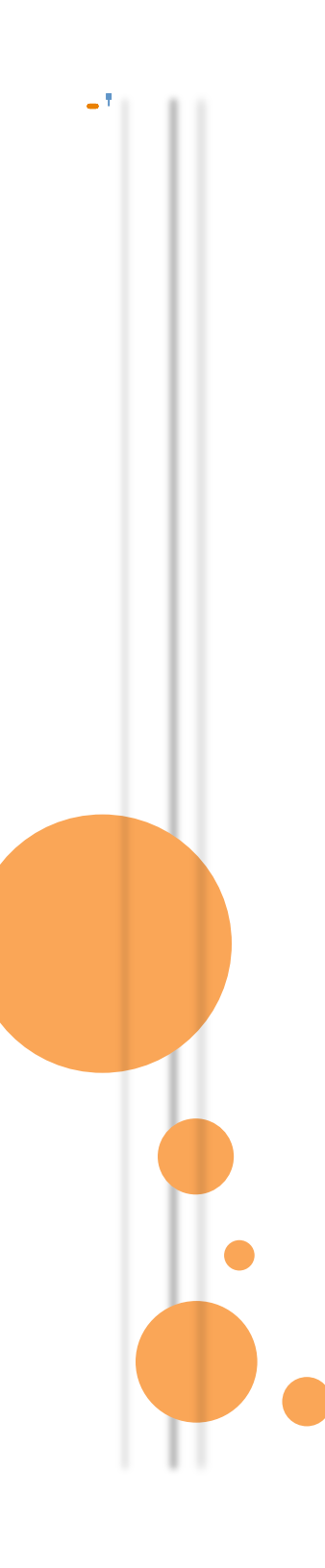
[Demography of religions by country](#)
[Full list of articles on religion by country](#)

[Religion Portal](#) v · d · e

v · d · e	Religion topics		[hide]
Major groups	Abrahamic	Bahá'í Faith · Christianity · Gnosticism · Islam · Judaism · Rastafari · Samaritanism	
	Indian	Ayyavazhi · Buddhism · Hinduism · Jainism · Sikhism	
	Iranian	Manichaeism · Mazdakism · Yarsan · Yazidi · Zoroastrianism	
	East Asian	Chinese · Confucianism · Juche · Taoism · Shinto	
	Modern	Cao Dai · I-Kuan Tao · Neopaganism · Scientology · Spiritism · Tenrikyo · Unitarian Universalism	
	Ethnic / Folk	African · Afro-American · Eurasian · Indigenous Australian · Native American · Pacific · Polynesian	
Ancient religions	Prehistoric		
	Near East	Egyptian · Semitic · Mesopotamian	
	Indo-European	Celtic · Germanic · Illyro-thracian · Greek · Hellenism (Gnosticism · Neoplatonism) · Roman · Slavic · Vedic Hinduism	
Aspects	Apostasy / Disaffiliation · Beliefs · Conversion · Denomination · Deities · God · Meditation · Monasticism · Mysticism · Orthodoxy · Orthopraxy · Mythology · Priesthood · Ritual (liturgy · sacrifice) · Spirituality · Supernatural · Symbols · Truth		
Religious studies	Anthropology · Comparison · Development · History · Origin · Philosophy · Psychology · Sociology · Theology · Theories · Timeline		
Politics	Demographics · Education · Fanaticism · Fundamentalism · Growth · Left-wing / Right-wing · Minorities · National church · Neo-Fascism · Proselytism · Religious freedom · Schism · State religion · Theocracy · Violence (persecution · terrorism · war)		
Secularism and non-religion	Atheism · Criticism of religion · Deconstruction · Irreligion · Nontheism · Religion and science · Secular theology · Secularization · Separation of church and state		
Lists	Topics (basic topics) · Deities · Deification · Denominations · Founders · Mass gatherings · New religious movements · Scholars		
Religion portal			
List of religions and spiritual traditions			

Religion-related topics [edit](#)

Forms of belief	anarchism – transtheism – deism – henotheism – maltheism – monism – monotheism – pantheism – panentheism – polytheism – theism
Religious practices	divination – ecstasy – exorcism – faith – forgiveness – magic – meditation – mysticism – prayer – repentance – sacrifice – shunning – superstition – veneration – worship
Types of religions	ancestor worship – civil religion – folk religion – fundamentalism – mystery religion – New Age – paganism – shamanism – spirituality – totemism – animism
Attributes of some religions	clergy – creed – cult – dogma – orthodoxy – priests
Religion and society	Religion and social issues – cult – sect – denomination – ecclesia – Religious freedom – Religiosity and intelligence – The axis age – Religion of Consumerism – Women as theological figures – Virtue
Elements of some religious worldviews	Dharma Yukam – afterlife – chosen people – creation belief – end of the world – evil – heaven – hell – karma – miracles – moksha – nirvana – resurrection – revelation – soul – spiritual possession – supernatural – Reports of unusual religious childbirths – angel – animal worship – demigod – demon – devas – devil – ekam – god – goddess – prophet – sky father – solar deity – spirit
Practices frowned upon by religions	apostasy – heresy – idolatry – sin
Scholarly approaches to religion	anthropology of religion – comparative religion – psychology of religion – sociology of religion
Comparison	Comparing Eastern and Western religious traditions – Arguments for and against the existence of God
Related subjects	mythology – philosophy of religion – theology – pseudoreligion – Dualism (philosophy of mind) – Idealism (philosophy) – Vitalism
Opposition to religion	religious violence – Criticism of Religion – agnosticism – atheism – secularism – Secular Humanism – Irreligion
Lists	list of religious topics – Major world religions – list of religions – list of religious populations – list of deities – List of people considered to be deities – List of religion scholars – List of largest gatherings in history



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Forms of belief
Religious practices
Types of religions
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•
Major groups Abrahamic
 Indian
 Iranian
 East Asian
 Modern
 Ethnic/Folk
Ancient religions Prehistoric
 Near East
 Indo-European

Aspects
Religious studies
Politics
Secularism and non-religion
Lists



Challenges

- Describing the nature of *evolution*
- Rethinking notions of *evaluation* and *use*
- Granularity of participation and the “edit”



Conceptual models

- Taylor (1986) – information systems as processes that add value to the user experience
- Svenonius (2000) – information organization practices as specialized languages



Basic functions

- insert entries (addition)
- delete entries (subtraction)
- replace entries (substitution)
- reorder entries (i.e.,
 alphabetization, chronological)
- formatting (i.e., capitalization,
 punctuation)

Value-Added lens

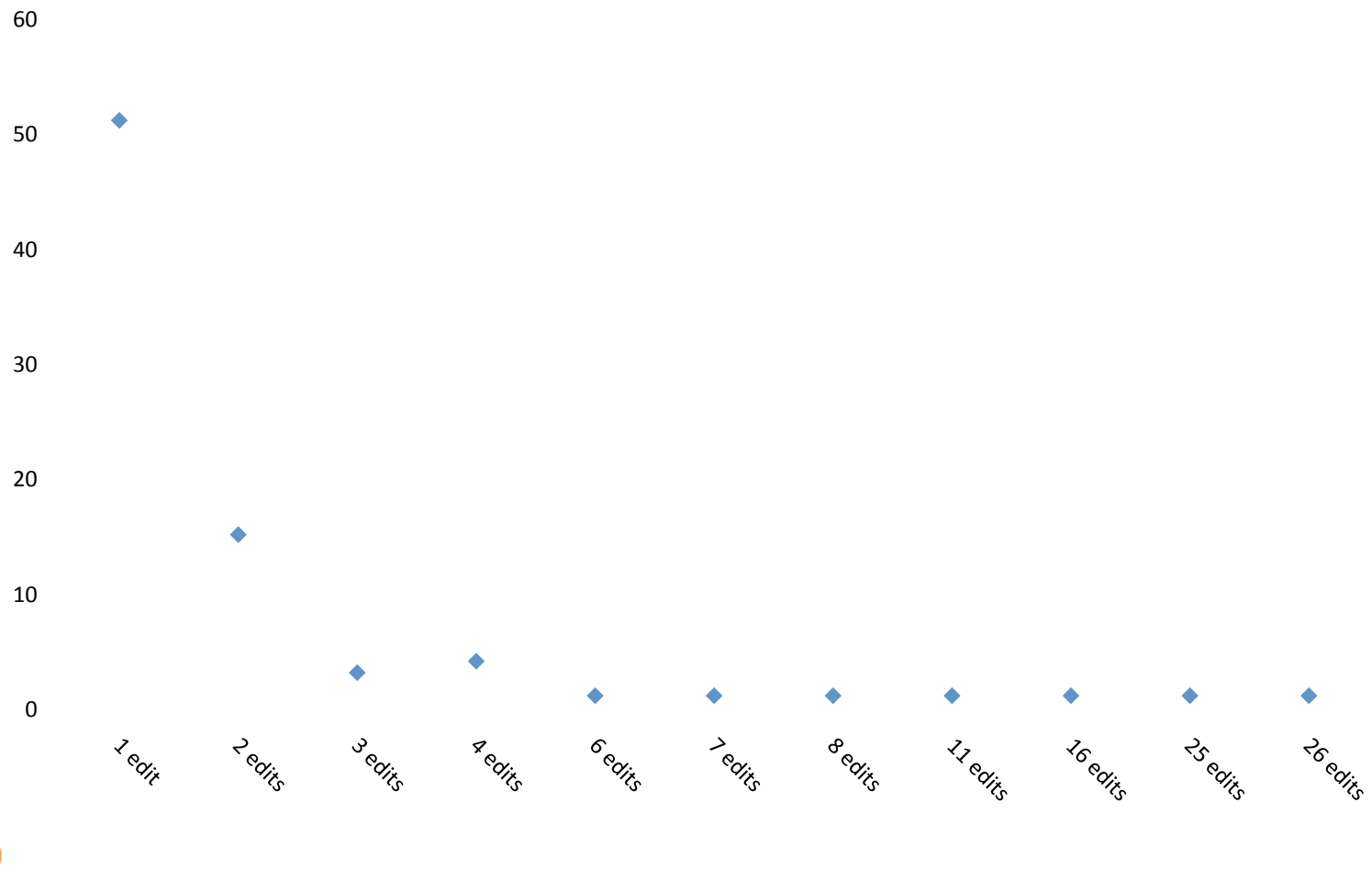
	Taylor's terminology
Addition	Browsing/ Access 2
Subtraction	Selectivity
Replacement: Link /Label	Precision
Reorder	Ordering
Formatting	Accuracy/ Formatting

Linguistic lens

	Page	Subheading
Addition	Semantic	Syntactic
Subtraction	Semantic	Syntactic
Replacement: Link /Label		Semantic
Reorder		Syntactic
Formatting		Pragmatic

v · d · e	Religion topics		[hide]
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Religion portal			
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Number of participants, grouped by # of edits made



Edit granularity - simple

Revision as of 17:21, 3 June 2006 (edit)

Jeff3000 (Talk | contribs)

(adding *Spirituality Studies*)

← Previous edit

Revision as of 02:26, 25 July 2006 (edit) (undo)

Monkeykiss (Talk | contribs)

(non-religious belief.. better term, not all of them opposes religion by nature, some may choose to oppose religion, that's irreligion.)

Next edit →

Line 45:

```
|align="center"
- |align="left" valign="top">Opposition to religion
|align="left" valign="top"<small>[[religious violence]] &#8211;
[[Criticism of Religion]] &#8211; [[agnosticism]] &#8211;
[[atheism]] &#8211; [[secularism]] &#8211; [[Secular
Humanism]] &#8211; [[Irreligion]]</small>
```

Line 45:

```
|align="center"
+ |align="left" valign="top">Non-religious beliefs
|align="left" valign="top"<small>[[religious violence]] &#8211;
[[Criticism of Religion]] &#8211; [[agnosticism]] &#8211;
[[atheism]] &#8211; [[secularism]] &#8211; [[Secular
Humanism]] &#8211; [[Irreligion]]</small>
```


Gross edit counts

	Taylor's terminology	Page	Subheading
Addition	Browsing/ Access 2	74	10
Subtraction	Selectivity	34	6
Replacement	Precision	45	12
Reorder & Formatting	Ordering/ Accuracy/ Formatting	49	6
Undo	Flexibility		8



Next steps

- Refine analytical model to better account for multiple types of modifications in a single “edit”
- Look for patterns among edits made by repeat participants
- Better articulate the nature of disputed/contested revisions



Opportunities for LIS

- Better understand the ways people contribute to open classifications;
 - Mine these for enhancements or alternative perspectives;
 - Bridge traditional-expert and emergent-social systems;
- Extend Taylor and Svenonius models into participatory environments

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