

Assignment 1

Team 7

Michael Ballard
Ron Cascella
Nicole Chiodo
Rachael Cowham
Kathryn Whitehouse

April 1, 2009

Table of Contents

Contents

Introduction **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

 Audience 3

 User need 3

Description of Database 4

 Unit of analysis..... 4

 General summary (group discussions & decisions) 4-5

 List of attributes..... 6-9

Data Structure and Validation Lists 10-11

Indexing Rules 12-15

Team 7 Records..... 16-20

Beta Test Records: Team 8 21-30

 Comments on record differences 31

Conclusions..... 32-33

 Teamwork process..... 32

 Team 7 goal achievement..... 32-33

References..... 34

Introduction

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this database is (1) to give Team 7 experience with creating a database and (2) to create a database for experienced knitters that will enable them to keep an inventory of their unused yarn for projects and to help facilitate the donation of superfluous yarn to charitable organizations. Querying the database will be much more efficient than searching through containers upon containers of yarn each time a new project is to begin and will help avoid every knitter's fear of running out of the right yarn after a project has already commenced. This database will use surrogates of team design to describe knitting yarn from an actual collection. Also, this database will utilize natural language as defined by Meadow, Boyce, Kraft, and Barry (2008, p. 59) so it can be usable by the knitting community at large. This will be a great learning process for everyone involved.

Audience

The primary user of the database will be the owner of the yarn collection. Presumably this yarn collection owner will be an experienced knitter. The purpose of using the database would be to help the collection owner keep track of both additions/subtractions to the inventory and to facilitate charitable donations.

User Need

In Fresno, there is a knitting teaching group just for the blind. Yarn weight and texture are important to this group, so the database would need to reflect this. Other groups knit infant beanies for the community hospital, and those people would prefer fine and soft yarn. Still, others may knit items intended for older children who are clients of Exceptional Parents Unlimited (a local resource), and those knitters may want a variety of yarns. Also, secure shelters for battered women and their children are always on the lookout for gifts of knitted items in the winter months. Even the gift of yarn to a summer camp knitting class is appreciated.

But, for all of these charitable impulses, experienced knitters may have a specific idea of what kind of yarn is needed to complete a project. Using the database and combing the surrogates to find the desired combination of attributes would be more efficient and take a lot less time than going through tubs of yarn.

This database was created with Meadow et al's (2008, p. 18) subject specialist end user in mind, so this database is not intended to teach a user anything new about yarn, but it would provide exceptional detail to an experienced knitter with a large collection of unused yarn trying to match the right yarn for the right project or charitable group

Description of the Database

Unit of Analysis

Yarn is interesting to index for all of its attributes. Some attributes can be elicited directly from the label. Other attributes require a subjective evaluation by the indexer. Even with the variety of colors and textures, there are standardized terms to describe yarn thickness and structure.

This database will be an interesting mix of controlled language options and free text entries. The controlled language options are lifted in part from the yarn labels themselves, and also from a reputable yarn reference (Parkes, 2007). Additionally, the terminology used to describe the subjective aspects of yarn packaging, yarn structure, and color styles are also taken from reputable yarn references (Maran Graphics Development Corp, 2005).

General Summary (group discussions and decisions)

Team Meeting 2-10-09

Since the AE exercise was part of the team's preparation for A1, Team 7 thinks it is important to include our discussions and decisions from this assignment to illustrate our preparation for A1. By having each team member's AE fields and attributes combined and displayed on a spreadsheet for the whole team to analyze, Team 7 was able to choose which ones to include for our final data structure for the postcard images. Everyone gave their input and reasons for their decisions, and all recommendations were taken into consideration. By process of elimination, Team 7 created a simple data structure and immediately began writing up our analysis of the assignment. By establishing early on that Team 7 is able to analyze problems and make quick decisions that the whole team is comfortable with, the team adopts a sense of confidence in our ability to get the job done cooperatively and in a timely manner.

Team Meeting 2-16-09

The Term Diagram assignment also helped to prepare Team 7 for A1. A team member prepared an initial diagram in Excel for everyone to discuss during the meeting. This allowed Team 7 to deliberate over the terms, their definitions, their relationship to one another, and their placement within the diagram. The team used the same method of decision making that was used in the previous meeting: everyone expressed their ideas and contributed input, and a final decision was made by the team as a whole, and the assignment was a success. At this point it is clear that Team 7 has established its working method: establish a clear understanding of what needs to be accomplished, debate individual contributions, take a team vote if necessary, decide on a work

product, assign team duties to complete work product in question, submit work product for final team input, submit work product for grade.

Team Meeting 2-23-09

This meeting was the first designated for A1 discussions. As mentioned previously, Team 7 has had adequate practice and preparation to begin A1 with confidence and momentum. A team member suggested yarn as our unit of description, and the team agreed yarn would make a great collection to index. Since this recommendation was made several days before the meeting, another team member had an opportunity to begin working on the database. We were able to view the initial database as a team, make comments, give input, and learn about yarn and indexing. Team 7 makes great use of team meeting times! We discussed the use of gauge and whether or not it should be split into three fields, or left as one. We weighed the benefits and drawbacks of each decision so that everyone understood what was at stake, and we took a team vote. The decision was made to split the gauge into three fields. Success! Decisions like these seem effortless for Team 7 since we have had adequate practice evaluating each other's work as a team. Also, one important thing to note is that each team member takes initiative and contributes as best they can outside of team meetings and discussions so that the team succeeds. These efforts are noted by the team and praise is always awarded so that team morale is kept high.

Team Meeting 3-2-09

Team 7 prepares for beta testing. One team member agreed to compile and zip the appropriate files to submit for beta testing. This meeting was used to discuss last minute changes to the data structure, rules, purpose, and supplemental document. The team agreed that the supplemental was a necessary addition to the beta testing files since chances are that most classmates will be unfamiliar with yarn jargon. The supplemental included images, explanations, and definitions for beta testers to review before they begin entering records into the database. The team discussed providing an additional worksheet for beta testers to take with them when they collect their yard attributes. The decision was made that the yarn supplemental would be enough, and that adding another document might be information overload so Team 7 did not include the additional worksheet.

Team Meeting 3-9-09

Due to the excellent team work of Team 7, our A1 final report is on track for an early completion. This meeting was used to discuss beta testing results and what is left that needs to be done for the final report. The team agreed that someone should compile all the information into one document, then the team can edit and contribute as needed. The team is satisfied with the beta testing results and we learned a lot about our data structure and some of its limitations.

List of Attributes

- Field:** ID
Reason for inclusion: Provides the unique key for each record.
Value: A mandatory, self-assigning, non-repeatable number assigned by DB/TW.
(mandatory/nonrepeatable)
- Field:** Brand Name
Reason for inclusion: Specifies the manufacturer of each item recorded in the database.
Value: Free text entry by indexer.
(mandatory/repeatable)
- Field:** Yarn Name
Reason for inclusion: Provides specific name of yarn indexed.
Value: Free text entry by indexer.
(mandatory/repeatable)
- Field:** Yarn Packaging
Reason for inclusion: Specifies how the yarn is packaged. This lets the knitter know if the yarn is ready to knit in its current configuration, or if it needs additional processing such as unwinding and rewinding by the knitter.
Value: (validation list): skein, ball, hank, cone
(mandatory/repeatable)
- Field:** Yarn Thickness
Reason for inclusion: This describes the thickness of the yarn. This information is crucial when attempting to match yarn to pattern instructions. Yarn thickness can range from fine to bulky. Finer yarns require more stitches per inch and bulky yarns require fewer stitches. The number system for this validation list is from the Craft Yarn Council of America (2009) and can be found on the yarn label of most mass produced American and Canadian yarn. Yarn is typically expressed as:

1/superfine	also described as: sock/fingerling/baby weight
2/fine	also described as: fine, sport
3/light	also described as: sports weight, DK, light worsted
4/medium	also described as: worsted, medium weight, Aran
5/bulky	also described as: bulky weight, chunky, craft, rug
6/super bulky	also describes as: super bulky weight, bulky, roving

Value: (validation list): 1/superfine, 2/fine, 3/light, 4/medium, 5/bulky, 6/super bulky
(mandatory/repeatable)

6. **Field:** Package Weight OZ
Reason for inclusion: Specifies the weight of the packaged yarn.
Value: Express in free text entered by indexer.
(not mandatory/repeatable)
7. **Field:** Yardage
Reason for inclusion: Specifies the number of yards in an intact skein. Yardage is not standardized. A unit of yarn could have as few as 40 yards or over 800, so capturing this measurement is essential to determine if you have enough yarn to satisfy the knitting pattern and complete a project.
Value: Express in free text entered by indexer.
(mandatory/repeatable)
8. **Field:** Fiber Content
Reason for inclusion: There is a lot of variety in yarn fiber. Knitters have a personal preference in yarn or need a specific fiber type to execute a knitting pattern. Some knitters have a strong preference for pure natural fibers; other knitters want only synthetic fibers for their ease of machine washing and drying or for allergy reasons. Yarns can be single fiber but many are blends. There are five fiber content fields to properly express a blend.
Value: (validation list): acrylic, alpaca, angora, bamboo, cashmere, corn, cotton, hemp, lamb's wool, linen, metallic, mohair, nylon, polyester, silk, soy, wool.
(mandatory/repeatable)
9. **Field:** 2nd Fiber Content
Reason for inclusion: to provide a place to record blended yarn fiber types.
Value (validation list): acrylic, alpaca, angora, bamboo, cashmere, corn, cotton, hemp, lamb's wool, linen, metallic, mohair, nylon, polyester, silk, soy, wool.
(not mandatory/repeatable)
10. **Field:** 3rd Fiber Content
Reason for inclusion: to provide a place to record blended yarn fiber types.
Value: (validation list): acrylic, alpaca, angora, bamboo, cashmere, corn, cotton, hemp, lamb's wool, linen, metallic, mohair, nylon, polyester, silk, soy, wool.
(not mandatory/repeatable)
11. **Field:** 4th Fiber Content
Reason for inclusion: to provide a place to record blended yarn fiber types.
Value: (validation list): acrylic, alpaca, angora, bamboo, cashmere, corn, cotton, hemp, lamb's wool, linen, metallic, mohair, nylon, polyester, silk, soy, wool.
(not mandatory/repeatable)
12. **Field:** 5th Fiber Content
Reason for inclusion: to provide a place to record blended yarn fiber types.

Value (validation list): acrylic, alpaca, angora, bamboo, cashmere, corn, cotton, hemp, lamb's wool, linen, metallic, mohair, nylon, polyester, silk, soy, wool.
(not mandatory/repeatable)

13. **Field:** Yarn Structure

Reason for inclusion: This specifies how the yarn looks and feels and is important in determining if a certain yarn will work for a specific project. A supplemental yarn resource with a color photo gallery of yarn structures accompanies this database to assist the indexer in selecting the appropriate value.

Value: Regular, boucle, brushed, chenille, eyelash, nub, ribbon, slub, spiral.
(mandatory/repeatable)

14. **Field:** 4x4 Gauge Stitches

Reason for inclusion: This is an estimate of how many stitches across and how many rows will make a 4 inch by 4 inch swatch assuming a certain needle size. Knitters create gauge swatches to make sure that their technique is not too loose or too tight. It is necessary to record 4x4 gauge stitches and 4x4 gauge needle size to accurately express gauge. A supplemental yarn resource with a detailed description of yarn gauge and how to interpret stitches, rows, and US needle size accompanies this database to aid the indexer.

Value: Express in free text entered by indexer.
(mandatory/repeatable)

15. **Field:** 4x4 Gauge Needle Size

Reason for inclusion: This is an estimate of how many stitches across and how many rows will make a 4 inch by 4 inch swatch assuming a certain needle size. A supplemental yarn resource with a detailed description of yarn gauge and how to interpret stitches, rows, and US needle size accompanies this database to aid the indexer.

Value: Express in free text entered by indexer.
(not mandatory/repeatable)

16. **Field:** 4x4 Gauge Rows

Reason for inclusion: This is an estimate of how many stitches across and how many rows will make a 4 inch by 4 inch swatch assuming a certain needle size. 4x4 gauge rows is optional, but highly desired if it appears on the yarn label. A supplemental yarn resource with a detailed description of yarn gauge and how to interpret stitches, rows, and US needle size accompanies this database to aid the indexer.

Value: Express in free text entered by indexer.
(not mandatory/repeatable)

17. **Field:** Color Style

Reason for inclusion: Specifies what kind of color combination the yarn contains. A supplemental yarn resource with color photos of the color styles

accompanies this database to aid the indexer.

Value: (validation list): multi, twist, striping, sold, tweed, other.
(mandatory/non-repeatable)

18. **Field:** Color Name

Reason for inclusion: Most yarns have a specific color name. This is included to further separate one color of yarn from another.

Value: Enter color from the yarn label in free text; entered by indexer.
(mandatory/repeatable)

19. **Field:** Color Number Code

Reason for inclusion: Some yarns have a manufacturer assigned specific color number in addition to of a color name. When a color name cannot adequately describe a yarn's shade, a manufacturer color number is frequently assigned to that yarn. This is included to give the searcher more ways to locate a specific yarn.

Value: Expressed in free text entered by indexer.
(not mandatory/non-repeatable)

20. **Field:** Dye Lot

Reason for inclusion: Like wallpaper, yarns are dyed in batches. To match colors precisely, one must be careful to select enough of the same dye lot to complete a project. Some yarns intentionally have no dye lot and are clear about this fact. Most others have an alpha-numeric dye lot code.

Value: free text entered by indexer.
(mandatory/repeatable)

21. **Field:** Quantity on hand

Reason for inclusion: Specifies how many intact units (skein, ball, hank, cone) of a specific yarn are available so searchers know whether or not there will be enough to complete a specific project.

Value: free text number entered by indexer.
(mandatory/repeatable)

Data Structure and Validation Lists (imported from DB/TW)

Textbase Structure

Textbase Information

Textbase: C:\Documents and Settings\Rachael\My Documents\LIBR 202-04 Irwin
SP 2009\Group 7\Assignment 1\Yard Database Update_Michael\Team 7
Created: 2/19/2009 6:41:08 PM
Modified: 2/23/2009 9:14:12 PM
Description: Yarn Database

Field Summary:

1. Record Number: Automatic ID, Term
Validation: unique, required, single-only
2. Brand Name: Text, Term & Word
Validation: required
3. Yarn Name: Text, Term & Word
Validation: required
4. Yarn Packaging: Text(subst-list), Term & Word
Validation: required, valid-list
5. Yarn Thickness: Text(subst-list), Term & Word
Validation: required, valid-list
6. Package Weight OZ: Number, Term
Validation: mask *#
7. Yardage: Number, Term
Validation: required, mask *#
8. Fiber Content: Text(subst-list), Term & Word
Validation: required, valid-list
9. 2nd Fiber Content: Text(subst-list), Term & Word
Validation: valid-list
10. 3rd Fiber Content: Text(subst-list), Term & Word
Validation: valid-list
11. 4th Fiber Content: Text(subst-list), Term & Word
Validation: valid-list
12. 5th Fiber Content: Text(subst-list), Term & Word
Validation: valid-list
13. Yarn Structure: Text(subst-list), Term & Word
Validation: required, valid-list
14. 4x4 Gauge_Stiches: Text, Term & Word
Validation: required
15. 4x4 Gauge_NeedleSize: Text, Term & Word
Validation: required
16. 4x4 Gauge_Rows: Text, Term & Word
17. Color Style: Text(subst-list), Term & Word
Validation: required, valid-list
18. Color Name: Text, Term & Word
Validation: required, mask ?*
19. Color Number Code: Number, Term
20. Dyelot: Text, Term & Word

Validation: required
 21. Quantity on hand: Text, Term & Word
 Validation: required

Log file enabled, showing 'Record Number'
 Leading articles: a an the
 Stop words: a an and by for from in of the to
 XML Match Fields:
 1. Record Number

Textbase Defaults:
 Default indexing mode: SHARED IMMEDIATE
 Default sort order: <none>
 Textbase passwords:
 Master password = ''
 0 Access passwords:
 No Silent password

Validation Lists:

acrylic	ball	multi	1/superfine	boucle
alpaca	cone	other	2/fine	brushed
angora	hank	solid	3/light	chenille
bamboo	skein	striping	4/medium	eyelash
cashmere		tweed	5/bulky	nub
corn		twist	6/superbulky	regular
cotton				ribbon
hemp				slub spiral
lambswool				
linen				
lycra				
metallic				
mohair				
nylon				
polyester				
silk				
soy				
wool				

Indexing Rules

General Rules

1. The supplemental yarn resource is provided as an aid to help with questions that might come up as you populate the database. Review the supplemental yarn resource as needed. This supplemental resource contains detailed instructions on how to interpret yarn labels, and a color photo gallery of yarn structures and color styles.
2. Use the “browse choices” indexing option to make full use of the controlled vocabulary.
3. Please enter words exactly as they appear on the yarn label with respect to capital letters.
4. Use decimals to express weights like 1.75 instead of 1 3/4.
5. Use American conventions to express yardage, package weight, and suggested needle size. Always ignore metric measurements on the yarn label.
6. Ignore fabric care instructions on the yarn label.
7. Ignore crochet hook suggestions on the yarn label.
8. Even if your yarn appears to be a combination of structures, use your judgment and select the predominant characteristic yarn structure for the database.
9. While this database is optimized for mass produced American and Canadian yarns, it is possible to index boutique yarns. Some handmade and boutique yarns provide incomplete information about 4x4 gauge. Instead of providing the stitches across, the rows, and the US needle size needed to create a 4X4 gauge swatch, they will provide the needle size and number of stitches to create a 1 inch swatch. Example: Needle size 10, 3 1/2 stitches per 1”. To convert this information for use in this database, it should appear like this:

4x4Gauge Stitches	14	(convert 1 inch to 4 inch by multiplying by 4)
4x4 Gauge Needle size	10	(the needle size is unaffected)
4x4 Gauge Rows		leave blank because no information was given

Specific Rules

Field Number(s)	Attribute	Rule	Examples
1.	Unique Identifier	Do not modify this field (automatically defined number)	1 2 3
2	Brand name	Enter the name of the manufacturer from the yarn label.	Lion Brand Yarn Cascade Yarns
3	Yarn Name	Enter the yarn name from the yarn label	Lion Wool Ecological Wool
4.	Yarn Packaging	Write the word, do not abbreviate.	Skein Hank Ball
6.	Package Weight	Express in ounces, end with a number. Ignore metric weights.	1.25
7.	Yardage	Express in yards, end with a number. Ignore metric measurements.	136
8,9,10,11,12.	Fiber Content	This attribute has multiple fields (5) so that fiber blends can be properly expressed. Use as many fields necessary to represent each fiber. Do not worry about percentages; the name of the fiber is sufficient. Use the controlled vocabulary choices.	Fiber Content: Corn 2nd Fiber Content: Linen NOT: Fiber Content: - Corn - Linen
13	Yarn Structure	Must be elicited from the indexer's judgment. Consult the supplemental yarn resource for	Boucle

		<p>color photo examples.</p> <p>Choose the pre-dominant characteristic.</p>	Brushed
14	4X4 Gauge Stitches	<p>Use the “STS” number within the 4x4 gauge symbol on the yarn label.</p> <p>If the yarn label provides the gauge information with stitches per 1 inch, multiply that number by 4.</p>	<p>16</p> <p>[3.5 x 4 = 16]</p> <p>16</p>
15	4X4 Gauge Needle Size	<p>Use the US needle size found within the gauge symbol (often appearing next to a symbol of crossed needles) on the yarn label</p> <p>Ignore the metric needle size.</p>	<p>8</p> <p>NOT: 5mm</p>
16	4x4 Gauge Rows	<p>Use the “R” number (often appearing vertically) within the 4x4 gauge symbol on the yarn label.</p> <p>If the yarn label does not include rows, leave the field blank.</p>	24
17	Color Style	Must be elicited from the indexer’s judgment. Consult the supplemental yarn resource for color photo examples.	<p>Solid</p> <p>Tweed</p>
18.	Color Name	<p>Enter color name as it appears on yarn label. On the package, it may be described as “color”, “col” or “shade.”</p> <p>Some yarn labels will only have a number and no name. If that is the case, place that number here.</p> <p>If a number appears as part of the name (example: 173 grass green), enter “173 grass green”</p>	<p>red bliss OR</p> <p>Red Bliss OR</p> <p>RED BLISS</p> <p>9010</p>

		as the Color Name	173 Grass Green
19.	Color Number Code	Enter color number as it appears on yarn packaging. Some yarns may not have a color number. If that is the case, leave field empty.	1601
20.	Dye Lot	Enter the number as it appears on the yarn packaging. Some boutique yarns may use BATCH to describe Dye lot. Use that number If no dye lot appears on the packaging, then the value in the field is No Dye Lot.	A16321 6830 No Dye Lot
21	Quantity on hand	Index only full intact units of yarn.	1

Team 7 Records

Record Number 1
Brand Name Lion
Yarn Name Babysoft
Yarn Packaging skein
Yarn Thickness 3/light
Package Weight OZ 5
Yardage 459
Fiber Content acrylic
2nd Fiber Content nylon
Yarn Structure regular
4x4 Gauge_Stitches 22
4x4 Gauge_NeedleSize 4
4x4 Gauge_Rows 20
Color Style solid
Color Name pastel yellow
Color Number Code 157
Dye Lot 38341
Quantity on hand 1

Record Number 1
Brand Name Lion
Yarn Name Babysoft
Yarn Packaging skein
Yarn Thickness 3/light
Package Weight OZ 5
Yardage 459
Fiber Content acrylic
2nd Fiber Content nylon
Yarn Structure regular
4x4 Gauge_Stitches 22
4x4 Gauge_NeedleSize 4
4x4 Gauge_Rows 20
Color Style solid
Color Name pastel yellow
Color Number Code 157
Dyelot 38341
Quantity on hand 1

Record Number 2
Brand Name Sensations
Yarn Name Rainbow Classic
Yarn Packaging skein
Yarn Thickness 5/bulky
Package Weight OZ 11
Yardage 562
Fiber Content acrylic
Yarn Structure brushed
4x4 Gauge_Stitches 15
4x4 Gauge_NeedleSize 10
4x4 Gauge_Rows 18

Color Style multi
Color Name Blue/Taupe Multi Rainbow Classic
Color Number Code 15634
Dyelot 1431
Quantity on hand 1

Record Number 3
Brand Name Lion Brand Yarn
Yarn Name Homespun
Yarn Packaging s
Yarn Thickness 5
Package Weight OZ 6
Yardage 185
Fiber Content acrylic
Yarn Structure boucle
4x4 Gauge_Stiches 14
4x4 Gauge_NeedleSize 10
4x4 Gauge_Rows 20
Color Style other
Color Name 312 Edwardian
Dyelot 0105
Quantity on hand 2

Record Number 4
Brand Name Lion Brand yarn
Yarn Name Lion Cotton
Yarn Packaging skein
Yarn Thickness 4/medium
Package Weight OZ 4
Yardage 189
Fiber Content cotton
Yarn Structure regular
4x4 Gauge_Stiches 20
4x4 Gauge_NeedleSize 7
4x4 Gauge_Rows 24
Color Style multi
Color Name 224 Sagebrush
Dyelot 7506
Quantity on hand 1

Record Number 5
Brand Name Sensations
Yarn Name Kashmir
Yarn Packaging s
Yarn Thickness 4
Package Weight OZ 3.5
Yardage 284
Fiber Content w
Yarn Structure regular
4x4 Gauge_Stiches 32
4x4 Gauge_NeedleSize 7
4x4 Gauge_Rows 32
Color Style solid

Color Name pink
 Color Number Code 44397
 Dyelot 288
 Quantity on hand 2

 Record Number 6
 Brand Name Patons
 Yarn Name Classic Wool Merino
 Yarn Packaging s
 Yarn Thickness 4
 Package Weight OZ 3.5
 Yardage 223
 Fiber Content wool
 Yarn Structure regular
 4x4 Gauge_Stiches 20
 4x4 Gauge_NeedleSize 7
 4x4 Gauge_Rows 20
 Color Style twist
 Color Name denim marl
 Color Number Code 77116
 Dyelot 149976
 Quantity on hand 2

Record Number 7
 Brand Name Lion Brand Yarn
 Yarn Name Trellis
 Yarn Packaging s
 Yarn Thickness 5
 Package Weight OZ 1.75
 Yardage 115
 Fiber Content nylon
 Yarn Structure ribbon
 4x4 Gauge_Stiches 15
 4x4 Gauge_NeedleSize 15
 4x4 Gauge_Rows 20
 Color Style multi
 Color Name rainbow
 Color Number Code 304
 Dyelot 52053
 Quantity on hand 2

Record Number 8
 Brand Name Patons
 Yarn Name Carmen
 Yarn Packaging s
 Yarn Thickness 5
 Package Weight OZ 1.75
 Yardage 64
 Fiber Content nylon
 2nd Fiber Content polyester
 Yarn Structure eyelash
 4x4 Gauge_Stiches 13
 4x4 Gauge_NeedleSize 10.5

4x4 Gauge_Rows 16
Color Style other
Color Name camel
Color Number Code 07010
Dyelot 190453
Quantity on hand 1

Record Number 9
Brand Name Patons
Yarn Name Divine
Yarn Packaging s
Yarn Thickness 5
Package Weight OZ 3.5
Yardage 142
Fiber Content acrylic
2nd Fiber Content wool
3rd Fiber Content mohair
4th Fiber Content polyester
Yarn Structure brushed
4x4 Gauge_Stiches 12
4x4 Gauge_NeedleSize 10
4x4 Gauge_Rows 16
Color Style solid
Color Name Night Sky
Color Number Code 06040
Dyelot A2636
Quantity on hand 1

Record Number 10
Brand Name Lion Brand Yarn
Yarn Name Lion Wool
Yarn Packaging s
Yarn Thickness 4
Package Weight OZ 3
Yardage 158
Fiber Content w
Yarn Structure regular
4x4 Gauge_Stiches 16
4x4 Gauge_NeedleSize 8
4x4 Gauge_Rows 24
Color Style solid
Color Name Ebony
Color Number Code 153
Dyelot 36668
Quantity on hand 1

Record Number 11
Brand Name Cascade yarns
Yarn Name Baby Alpaca Chunky
Yarn Packaging hank
Yarn Thickness 5/bulky
Package Weight OZ 3.5
Yardage 108

Fiber Content alpaca
Yarn Structure regular
4x4 Gauge_Stiches 14
4x4 Gauge_NeedleSize 10
Color Style solid
Color Name 570
Color Number Code 570
Dyelot 9509
Quantity on hand 2

Record Number 12
Brand Name Lion Brand Yarn
Yarn Name Jiffy
Yarn Packaging s
Yarn Thickness 5
Package Weight OZ 3
Yardage 135
Fiber Content acrylic
Yarn Structure brushed
4x4 Gauge_Stiches 14.5
4x4 Gauge_NeedleSize 10
4x4 Gauge_Rows 18
Color Style solid
Color Name 173 Grass Green
Dyelot 37081
Quantity on hand 1

Beta Test Records: Team 8

Chelsea Kirkland

Record Number 1
Brand Name Deborah Norville
Yarn Name Serenity
Yarn Packaging skein
Yarn Thickness 5/bulky
Package Weight OZ 3.5
Yardage 186
Fiber Content acrylic
2nd Fiber Content nylon
Yarn Structure regular
4x4 Gauge_Stitches 20
4x4 Gauge_NeedleSize 7-9
4x4 Gauge_Rows 22
Color Style solid
Color Name Jade
Color Number Code 1389386
Dye Lot no dye lot
Quantity on hand 186

Record Number 2
Brand Name Lion Brand
Yarn Name Babysoft
Yarn Packaging ball
Yarn Thickness 3/light
Package Weight OZ 5
Yardage 459
Fiber Content acrylic
2nd Fiber Content polyester
Yarn Structure brushed
4x4 Gauge_Stitches 22
4x4 Gauge_NeedleSize 6
4x4 Gauge_Rows 30
Color Style solid
Color Name lemon drop
Color Number Code 920-159
Dye Lot No Dye Lot
Quantity on hand 459

Record Number 3
Brand Name Bernat
Yarn Name Baby Boucle
Yarn Packaging skein
Yarn Thickness 5/bulky
Package Weight OZ 3.5
Yardage 180
Fiber Content acrylic
2nd Fiber Content polyester

Yarn Structure boucle
4x4 Gauge_Stitches 15
4x4 Gauge_NeedleSize 8
4x4 Gauge_Rows 22
Color Style twist
Color Name Water Slide
Color Number Code 36921
Dye Lot no dye lot
Quantity on hand 180

Record Number 4
Brand Name Patons
Yarn Name Silk Bamboo
Yarn Packaging ball
Yarn Thickness 3/light
Package Weight OZ 2.2
Yardage 102
Fiber Content bamboo
2nd Fiber Content silk
Yarn Structure regular
4x4 Gauge_Stitches 22
4x4 Gauge_NeedleSize 6
4x4 Gauge_Rows 26
Color Style solid
Color Name Sapphire
Color Number Code 85107
Dye Lot 735406
Quantity on hand 102

Sam Shields

Record Number 1
Brand Name Moda Dea
Yarn Name Prima
Yarn Packaging skein
Yarn Thickness 1/superfine
Package Weight OZ 1.76
Yardage 72
Fiber Content nylon
2nd Fiber Content polyester
Yarn Structure eyelash
4x4 Gauge_Stitches 14
4x4 Gauge_NeedleSize 10.5
4x4 Gauge_Rows 22
Color Style multi
Color Name Natural
Color Number Code 3259
Dye Lot 14591
Quantity on hand 1

Record Number 2
Brand Name Lion Brand Yarn
Yarn Name Homespun

Yarn Packaging skein

Yarn Thickness 5/bulky
Package Weight OZ 6
Yardage 185
Fiber Content acrylic
2nd Fiber Content polyester
Yarn Structure regular
4x4 Gauge_Stitches 14
4x4 Gauge_NeedleSize 10
4x4 Gauge_Rows 20
Color Style solid
Color Name Rococo
Color Number Code 311
Dye Lot 99311044
Quantity on hand 1

Record Number 3

Brand Name Bernat
Yarn Name Boa Nouveau

Yarn Packaging ball

Yarn Thickness 1/superfine
Package Weight OZ 1.75
Yardage 71
Fiber Content polyester
Yarn Structure eyelash
4x4 Gauge_Stitches 14
4x4 Gauge_NeedleSize 9
4x4 Gauge_Rows 17
Color Style multi
Color Name Phoenix
Color Number Code 81505
Dye Lot 107651
Quantity on hand 1

Record Number 4

Brand Name Bernat
Yarn Name Soft Boucle

Yarn Packaging skein

Yarn Thickness 5/bulky
Package Weight OZ 5
Yardage 225
Fiber Content acrylic
2nd Fiber Content polyester
Yarn Structure boucle
4x4 Gauge_Stitches 15
4x4 Gauge_NeedleSize 10
4x4 Gauge_Rows 22
Color Style multi
Color Name Slate Shades
Color Number Code 26948
Dye Lot 94805
Quantity on hand 1

Maggie Chan

Record 1
Number
Brand Name TLC
Yarn Name Cotton Plus
Yarn skein
Packaging
Yarn 4/medium
Thickness
Package Weight 3
OZ
Yardage 155
Fiber cotton
Content
2nd Fiber acrylic
Content
Yarn regular
Structure
4x4 20
Gauge_Stitches
4x4 8
Gauge_NeedleSize
4x4 Gauge_Rows 25
Color multi
Style
Color Name 3615 Jazz
Dye K186
Lot
Quantity on 2
hand

Record 2
Number
Brand Name Lion Brand
Yarn Name Cotton Ease
Yarn skein
Packaging
Yarn 4/medium
Thickness
Package Weight 3.5
OZ
Yardage 207
Fiber cotton
Content
2nd Fiber acrylic
Content
Yarn regular
Structure
4x4 17
Gauge_Stitches
4x4 8
Gauge_NeedleSize

4x4 Gauge_Rows24
Color solid
Style
Color NameLime
Color Number 194
Code
Dye 36481A
Lot
Quantity on 3
hand

Record 3
Number
Brand Name Caron
Yarn Name Simply Soft
Yarn skein
Packaging
Yarn 4/medium
Thickness
Package Weight 6
OZ
Yardage 315
Fiber acrylic
Content
Yarn regular
Structure
4x4 18
Gauge_Stitches
4x4 8
Gauge_NeedleSize
4x4 Gauge_Rows24
Color solid
Style
Color NameOff White 9702
Dye No Dye Lot
Lot
Quantity on 1
hand

Record 4
Number
Brand Name Patons
Yarn Name Divine
Yarn skein
Packaging
Yarn 5/bulky
Thickness
Package Weight 3.5
OZ
Yardage 142
Fiber acrylic
Content
2nd Fiber mohair

Content
Yarn eyelash
Structure
4x4 12
Gauge_Stitches
4x4 8
Gauge_NeedleSize
4x4 Gauge_Rows16
Color solid
Style
Color NameRichest Rose
Color Number 06430
Code
Dye 6009 04
Lot
Quantity on 1
hand

Kelsey Lee

Record Number 1
Brand Name Caron
Yarn Name Simply Soft Brites
Yarn Packaging skein
Yarn Thickness 4/medium
Package Weight OZ 6
Yardage 315
Fiber Content acrylic
Yarn Structure regular
4x4 Gauge_Stitches 18
4x4 Gauge_NeedleSize 8
4x4 Gauge_Rows 24
Color Style solid
Color Name Berry Blue 9609
Dye Lot no dye lot
Quantity on hand 1

Record Number 2
Brand Name Bernat
Yarn Name Boa
Yarn Packaging hank
Yarn Thickness 5/bulky
Package Weight OZ 1.75
Yardage 71
Fiber Content polyester
Yarn Structure eyelash
4x4 Gauge_Stitches 14
4x4 Gauge_NeedleSize 9
4x4 Gauge_Rows 17
Color Style multi
Color Name DOO DOO BIRD

Color Number Code 81303
Dye Lot no dye lot
Quantity on hand 1

Record Number 3
Brand Name Red Heart
Yarn Name Super Saver
Yarn Packaging skein
Yarn Thickness 4/medium
Package Weight OZ 5
Yardage 260
Fiber Content acrylic
Yarn Structure regular
4x4 Gauge_Stitches 17
4x4 Gauge_NeedleSize 8
4x4 Gauge_Rows 23
Color Style tweed
Color Name ARAN FLECK
Color Number Code 4313
Dye Lot 1008119091
Quantity on hand 1

Record Number 4
Brand Name TLC
Yarn Name Essentials
Yarn Packaging skein
Yarn Thickness 4/medium
Package Weight OZ 4.5
Yardage 245
Fiber Content acrylic
Yarn Structure regular
4x4 Gauge_Stitches 17
4x4 Gauge_NeedleSize 8
4x4 Gauge_Rows 23
Color Style striping
Color Name 2958 Falling Leaves
Dye Lot 705411083
Quantity on hand 1

Record Number 5
Brand Name Sensations
Yarn Name Rainbow Boucle
Yarn Packaging skein
Yarn Thickness 4/medium
Package Weight OZ 11
Yardage 853
Fiber Content acrylic
2nd Fiber Content nylon
Yarn Structure boucle
4x4 Gauge_Stitches 16
4x4 Gauge_NeedleSize 11
4x4 Gauge_Rows 24
Color Style multi

Color Name TURQUOSE MELANGE RAINBOW BOUCLE
Color Number Code 2360
Dye Lot 839
Quantity on hand 1

Record Number 6
Brand Name Lion Brand
Yarn Name Homespun
Yarn Packaging skein
Yarn Thickness 5/bulky
Package Weight OZ 6
Yardage 185
Fiber Content acrylic
2nd Fiber Content polyester
Yarn Structure spiral
4x4 Gauge_Stitches 14
4x4 Gauge_NeedleSize 10
4x4 Gauge_Rows 20
Color Style solid
Color Name 375 Candy Apple
Dye Lot 99375458
Quantity on hand 1

Record Number 7
Brand Name Sensations
Yarn Name flounce
Yarn Packaging hank
Yarn Thickness 3/light
Package Weight OZ 2.12
Yardage 26.25
Fiber Content acrylic
Yarn Structure regular
4x4 Gauge_Stitches ?
4x4 Gauge_NeedleSize 4
4x4 Gauge_Rows ?
Color Style striping
Color Name red flounce
Color Number Code 14319
Dye Lot 2021
Quantity on hand 1

Record Number 8
Brand Name Patons
Yarn Name Divine
Yarn Packaging skein
Yarn Thickness 5/bulky
Package Weight OZ 3.5
Yardage 142
Fiber Content acrylic
2nd Fiber Content wool
3rd Fiber Content mohair
4th Fiber Content polyester
Yarn Structure boucle

brushed
4x4 Gauge_Stitches 12
4x4 Gauge_NeedleSize 10
4x4 Gauge_Rows 16
Color Style solid
Color Name CHANTILLY ROSE
Color Number Code 06406
Dye Lot 09122007
Quantity on hand 1

Rhea Dev

Record Number 1
Brand Name Kraemer
Yarn Packaging skein
Yarn Thickness 3/light
Package Weight OZ 3.5
Yardage 180
Fiber Content acrylic
2nd Fiber Content cotton
Yarn Structure regular
4x4 Gauge_Stitches 16
4x4 Gauge_NeedleSize 7
Color Style tweed
Color Name It's A Boy
Color Number Code Y1227
Dye Lot 13028
Quantity on hand 1

Record Number 2
Brand Name Kraemer
Yarn Name Tatamy Tweed
Yarn Packaging skein
Yarn Thickness 3/light
Package Weight OZ 3.5
Yardage 180
Fiber Content acrylic
2nd Fiber Content cotton
Yarn Structure regular
4x4 Gauge_Stitches 16
4x4 Gauge_NeedleSize 7
Color Style tweed
Color Name Peek-A-Boo
Color Number Code Y1229
Dye Lot 13030
Quantity on hand 1

Record Number 3
Brand Name Kraemer
Yarn Name Tatamy Tweed
Yarn Packaging skein
Yarn Thickness 3/light

Package Weight OZ 3.5
Yardage 180
Fiber Content acrylic
2nd Fiber Content cotton
Yarn Structure regular
4x4 Gauge_Stitches 16
4x4 Gauge_NeedleSize 7
Color Style tweed
Color Name Sleepyhead
Color Number Code Y1232
Dye Lot 13032
Quantity on hand 1

Record Number 4
Brand Name Plymouth
Yarn Name Encore
Yarn Packaging skein
Yarn Thickness 4/medium
Package Weight OZ 3.5
Yardage 200
Fiber Content acrylic
2nd Fiber Content wool
Yarn Structure regular
4x4 Gauge_Stitches 20
4x4 Gauge_NeedleSize 8
Color Style solid
Color Name light green
Color Number Code 3335
Dye Lot 05-303
Quantity on hand 1

Record Number 5
Brand Name Manos
Yarn Name silk blend
Yarn Packaging skein
Yarn Thickness 3/light
Yardage 150
Fiber Content silk
2nd Fiber Content wool
Yarn Structure regular
4x4 Gauge_Stitches 22
4x4 Gauge_NeedleSize 4
Color Style solid
Color Name Wisteria
Color Number Code 3071
Dye Lot No Dye Lot
Quantity on hand 1

Comments on Record Differences

A problem in the records that Team 7 feared would arise can be seen in the attribute of Yarn Packaging. It had come to the team's attention that regardless of both a substitution and validation list being implemented, it is possible to still enter an incorrect value if it is no more than 1 character long. We can see this occur in several records where the choice 'skein' from the validation list is replaced with only the letter 'S'. Now 'S' and 'Sk' were part of a substitution list that were supposed to make them into skein regardless, and the option to use F3 to access the Validation List was available. Luckily for Team 7, the beta testers were unaware of this issue and followed the indexing instructions quite carefully leaving no such entries in their portion of the records. While there are only 4 possible values for this attribute, it is easy to understand 'S' as skein as no other options begin with S. The major flaw here however, is that if someone entered a letter such as 'G' (right next to 'B' for ball and 'H' for hank), the validation list would be overridden and the database would be left with an unstable value. In a small scale this would probably not be a problem, but with many people entering data over a long period of time, the team can foresee such mistakes, and that is worrisome.

Conclusions

Over the course of Assignment 1, Team 7 has come to learn a lot – not just about database structure and design but about how to work together as a cohesive unit. From coming up with the topic for the database to evaluating the results of the beta testers, Team 7 has developed skills that will serve as valuable building blocks for future successes.

Teamwork Process

Team 7 has been a high functioning team from the start. Each person on the team was a ready and willing participant. Early on one of the team members suggested yarn as a database topic. Since yarn and yarn structure was familiar to some team members and excellent reference books were readily available to aid in creating the data structure, it was decided that Team 7 would format a database which could be used to track one's inventory of yarn.

Early in the project, the team individually experimented with DB/Textworks and used Elluminate to set up weekly meetings. During these weekly meetings, Team 7 would discuss the team goals and share current progress and feedback on the individual goals being pursued. Since the team had made quick progress with establishing a database topic, Team 7 was able to get an early start on a prototype of the current database. By using ANGEL, Google documents, Elluminate, and e-mail as the primary methods of communication, the team was able to collaborate successfully on a database with which all parties were satisfied to use as a jumping off point for continued learning about database building.

When time arrived for beta testing the database, Team 7 anticipated the need of beta testers to have easy access to basic information about yarn. Based on the team members' varied levels of familiarity with yarn, the team realized that it would likely prove beneficial to provide the beta testers with an introduction to the world of yarn. In light of this insight, the team decided to create a supplemental yarn resource to further explain yarn structure and to provide color photo examples.

Team 7 Goal Achievement

Feedback from beta testers made it clear that the database structure did meet the declared purpose of the database, but the beta testers did indicate that they would have appreciated an expansion of the rationale behind the inclusion of certain attributes. Given that the primary users of the database would have some level of familiarity with yarn, this is an issue unlikely to arise in situations other than beta testing; however, the inclusion of this information may prove an aid to those who are just beginning to familiarize themselves with yarn.

Since most of the beta testers were yarn novices, feedback on the supplemental resource was consistently positive, and the supplemental resource was found to be an aid in entering information into the database. In spite of this supplemental resource, however, there were still some problems beta testers found with the overall database structure. Team 7 has taken these into consideration and has reevaluated the areas in which testers had issues. Below are the issues confronted by testers and the team's responses to the issues raised.

- **Testers were confused about indexing yarn that is less than 1 skein.** The purpose of the database is to index intact skeins of yarn, and Team 7 understands that this needs to be made more obvious in the database guidelines. Yardage of a skein of yarn is not standardized; skeins of yarn can contain as few as 40 yards or as many as 850+ so indexing the yardage of the skein is of vital importance. Leftover yarn need not be weighed, and anything less than 1 skein would not get added to the database.
- **Testers thought that fiber type (cotton, wool, lycra, etc.) should have been only 1 field.** Team 7 is in agreement with this suggestion, and upon further review, Team 7 realizes that this would have been a better approach for entering information regarding fiber type.
- **Some testers had difficulty with color names and color numbers.** Some yarn manufacturers do not always follow American yarn label conventions. While it would be possible to add a field of controlled choices that describe the basic color of the yarn, there are often yarns that are multi-colored or have metallic threads that run throughout making it difficult to formulate a list of controlled choices. The guidelines were clear to most of the testers, so Team 7 feels that this is best left unchanged and that ultimately the color indexed should be at the discretion of the database user.

The overall response from beta testers was positive, and Team 7 found the feedback exceedingly helpful. The well thought-out feedback provided insight into other potential areas for improvement of the database and has provided the team with a valuable hands-on learning experience to carry into the future.

References

- Barnden, B. (2002). *Knitting basics: All you need to know to take up your needles and get knitting*. Hauppauge, NY: Barrons.
- Craft yarn Council of America (2009). *Standards & Guidelines for Crochet & Knitting*. Retrieved March 30, 2009 from <http://www.yarnstandards.com/weight.html>
- Hemingway, K. (2007). *Super stitches knitting*. New York: Watson-Guption Publications.
- Inmagic (2004). *DB/Textworks users manual*. Woburn, MA: Inmagic, Inc.
- Irwin, E. (2006). *Best Practices for Effective Teamwork*. Retrieved from the San Jose State University Angel Website for Libr202-03-04, Spring 2009 site: <https://liffey.sjsu.edu/>
- Irwin, E. (2008, January 19). *Evaluation of Team Participation*. Retrieved from the San Jose State University Angel Website for Libr202-03-04, Spring 2009 site: <https://liffey.sjsu.edu/>
- Kartus, L. (2006). *Knit fix: Problem solving for knitters*. Loveland, CO: Interweave Press.
- Maran Graphics Development Corp. (2005). *Maran illustrated knitting & crocheting*. Boston: Thompson Course Technology
- Meadow, C. T., Boyce, B. R., Kraft, D. H., Barry, C. (2008). *Text Information Retrieval Systems* (3rd ed.). United Kingdom: Emerald Group Publishing Limited.
- Parkes, C. (2007). *The knitter's book of yarn*. New York: Random House.
- Phelps, I. (2007). *Loom knitting primer*. London: Quintet Publishing Ltd.