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### Shifting Taxonomies in Home Care Nursing Information Behavior: Patients, Pandemic, Community

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# IKOS BULLETIN

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## SHIFTING TAXONOMIES IN HOME CARE NURSING INFORMATION BEHAVIOR: PATIENTS, PANDEMIC, COMMUNITY

by Richard P. Smiraglia, Edmund Pajarillo, Elizabeth Milonas and Sergey Zhrebchevsky

**Abstract:** IKOS has continued to monitor the nursing information behavior (NIB) of home care nurses. In earlier reports we described how we developed an online taxonomy of NIB. We then took on a qualitative analysis of video representations of home care nursing in the pandemic. Merging the codes from two rounds of open coding yielded a set of categories (or axes) that could be used to construct a narrative analysis.

Contextual quotations from the video transcripts further reveal the intensity of the potential taxonomic extension. The importance of this research for knowledge organization is the understanding we develop concerning shifting taxonomies in the NIB environment.

**Keywords:** home health-care, nurses, nursing, NIB, COVID, narrative analysis

### 1.0 Studying Home Health Care Nursing in the Pandemic

As the global COVID-19 Pandemic nears the end of its second year, IKOS has continued to monitor the nursing information behavior (NIB) of home care nurses, who are widely acknowledged to be front-line essential workers. In earlier reports (Milonas et al. 2020; Smiraglia et al. 2020) we described our research project that developed an online taxonomy of NIB, which was then mapped to the professional *NANDA International Nursing Diagnoses and Classification*. This taxonomy is now maintained on IKOS' website (<https://knoworg.org/a-core-taxonomy-of-nursing-information-behavior-ct-nib-version-1-1/>).

Following development of the taxonomy we took on a qualitative analysis of video representations of home care nursing in the pandemic (Smiraglia et al. 2021). Iterative triangulated searching was used to compile a set of 45 video representations of interviews with home care nurses working in the pandemic. Two rounds of open coding revealed a "rich panoply of emergent vocabulary" (10) surrounding emotional cues representing concepts such as "ambiguity, anxiety, fear ... hope, commitment, determination" and even "moral fiber."

The shape of home care nursing has not changed during the pandemic despite the increased intensity of the work. But the extension of the NIB vocabulary to describe pandemic-specific nursing concepts and practices combines with the emergence of this emotive layer to suggest approaches to a shifting taxonomy in NIB. As we pointed out in Smiraglia et al. (2020) the significance of this research lies in the "intertwining" of knowledge organization (KO) and NIB—two disciplines creating a synergistic effect to not only describe the pandemic but also to advance the knowledge base of nursing.



## 2.0 Patients, Pandemic, Community: Axes for Taxonomic Extension

Merging the codes from the two rounds of open coding yielded a set of categories (or axes) that could be used to construct a narrative analysis. These were:

- Pandemic
- Home
- Patients
- Communities
- Safe
- Nurses and Nursing
- Emotion
- COVID
- PPE
- Healthcare

Contextual quotations from the video transcripts further reveal the intensity of the potential taxonomic extension; for example:

*Health care workers are right on the front line to the covid-19 pandemic many still venture into people's homes to get patients the treatment they need ... home health care workers can provide many things to patients ... all from the patient's home*

*never felt like I've been without support or help and it makes me feel like I'm in a part of a community*

*making sure that they feel safe, making sure that also we educate our clients so that our clients feel safe with the nurses coming in and out of their homes*

*the emotional support being there for our patients is critical to really alleviating some of that stress that they may have*

## 3.0 Notes on Taxonomic Impact

Without a doubt our narrative analysis shows the dramatic impact of the COVID pandemic on nursing and home care.

The importance of this research for knowledge organization is the understanding we develop concerning shifting taxonomies in the NIB environment. We see, of course, new terms describing the pandemic and nursing practices enter the vocabulary. But we also see new usages including terms describing community and emotional responses. The challenge for taxonomy evolution is to track how these terms evolve once they enter usage in the community. This, of course, will come only with time.

The research suggests new terminology should be added provisionally to the NIB taxonomy for the duration of the pandemic, with repeated research and analysis over time to meet the challenge of evolving terminology.

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## HIGHBROW VS. LOWBROW: HOW A SUBJECTIVE ATTRIBUTE AFFECTS SCHOLARSHIP

by Joshua A. Henry

**Abstract:** In knowledge organization, utilizing attributes is helpful for demarcating things such as entities, types, categories, etc. Attributes should be objective and observable. In the fine and performing arts, the quality of an art work or performance is often discussed as an important attribute even if it is not formally recognized as such. Around the turn of the twentieth century, the terms "highbrow" and "lowbrow" came into common usage as a way to distinguish what pieces of art and performance were deemed "good" and, therefore, worth consuming and studying. Film music scholarship has created an interdisciplinary path between musicology and film theory. The career of Aaron Copland (1900-1990) aptly conveys the tensions between concert and popular music. The career of Bernard Herrmann (1911-1975) represents the opposite side of the coin. Herrmann spent most of his time in the popular realm, composing for radio, film, and television. Narrowing in on Aaron Copland and Bernard Herrmann's careers will expose the tenuousness of the barrier between film and concert music even as they navigated under the oppression of the highbrow/lowbrow designation, i.e., the quality attribute. By acknowledging that there is a tension between film music and concert music and recognizing that this tension is grounded in a constructed rather than innate hierarchy, it is possible to move past the barrier placed between the study of film music and concert music and, on a broader scale, that of art music and popular and pragmatic music.

**Keywords:** music, film, concert, composers, art, Copland, Herrmann

### 1.0 Introduction

In knowledge organization (KO), utilizing attributes is helpful for demarcating things such as entities, types, categories, etc. Attributes should be, to the extent possible, objective and observable. For example, in