



Karey Harrison

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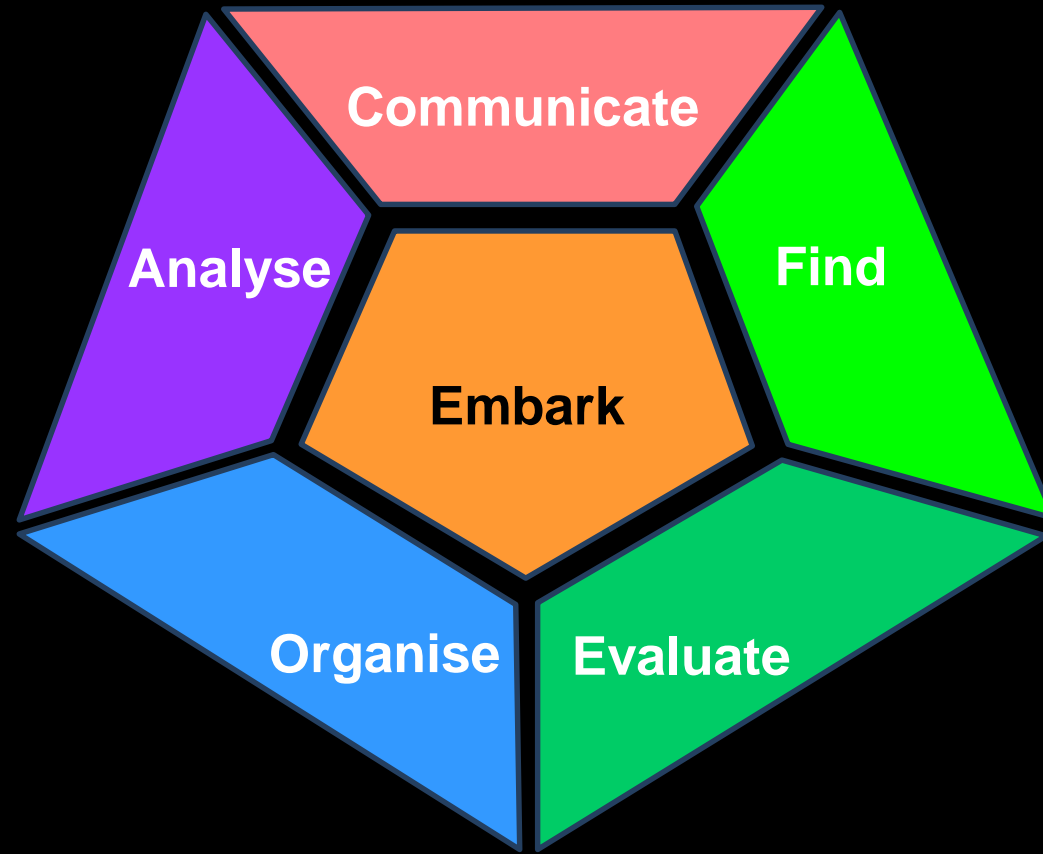
Conceptual Catch-22 in RSD for Novice Learners

Conceptual Catch-22 in RSD for novice learners

Dr Karey Harrison
Social Justice & Philosophy

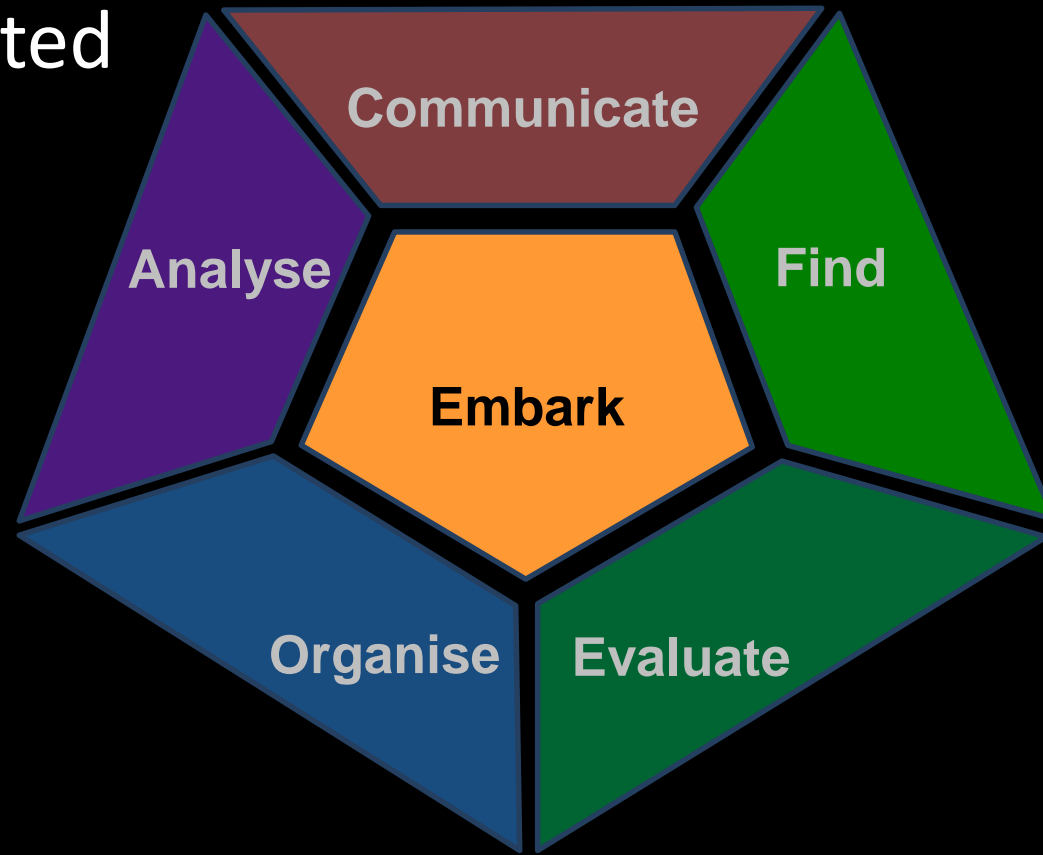


Research Skill Development



Research Skill Development

Getting started



Standard One

1. Recognise need for information, nature & extent

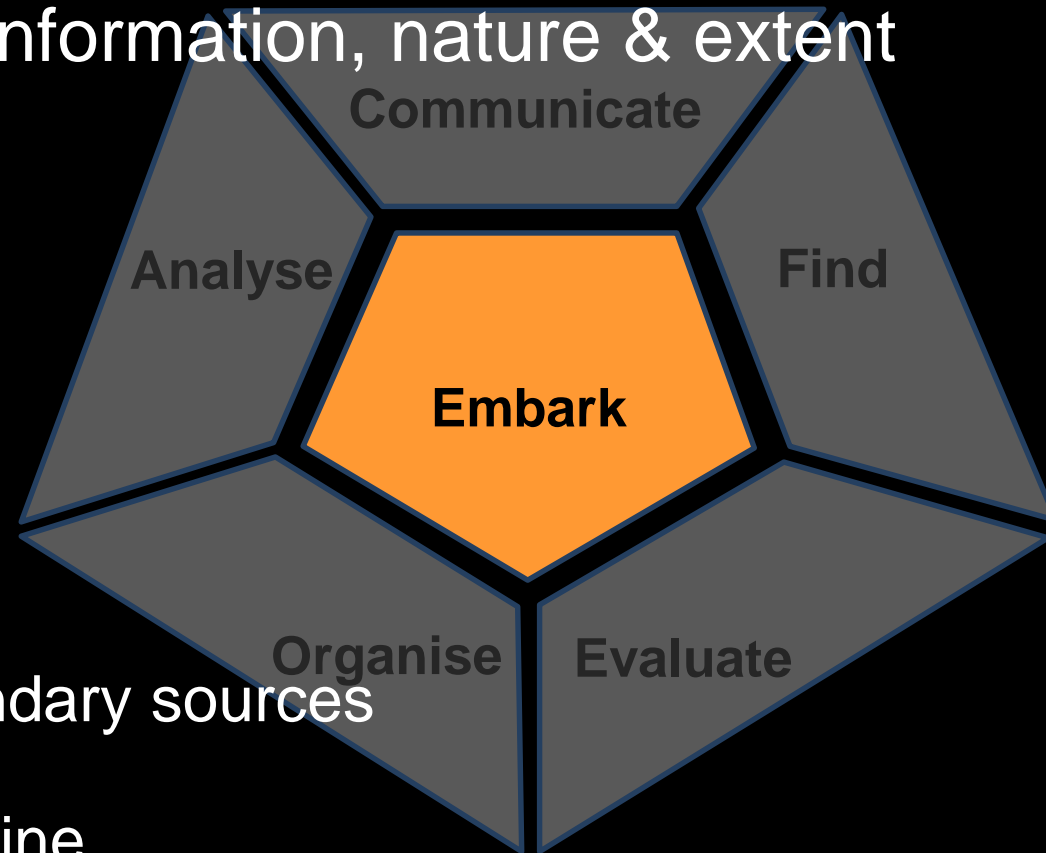
i. Define need

- Key concepts
- Define

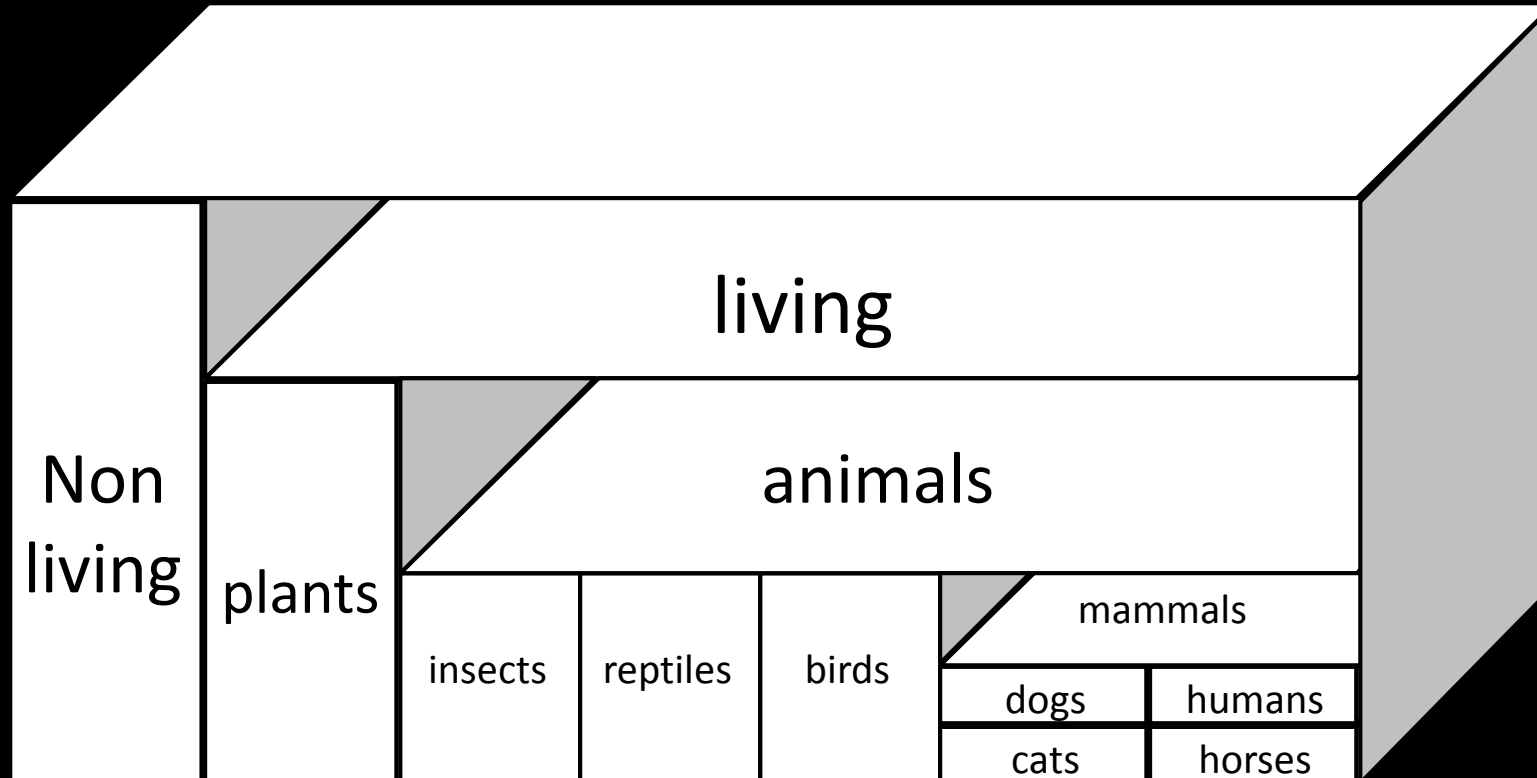
ii. Purpose, scope, primary vs. secondary sources

iii. Clarify, revise, refine

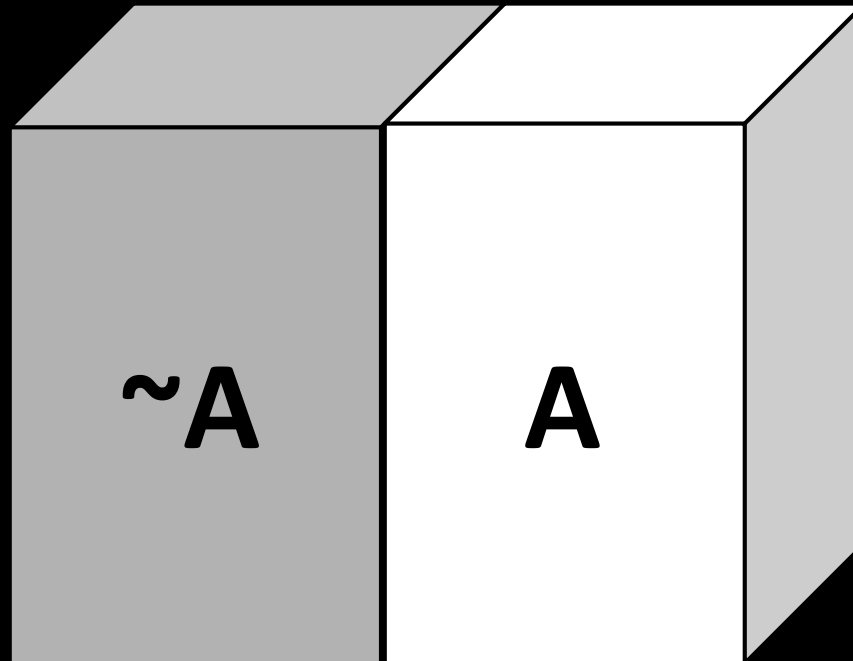
iv. Multiple perspectives



Definitions: categories as boxes



Law of non contradiction

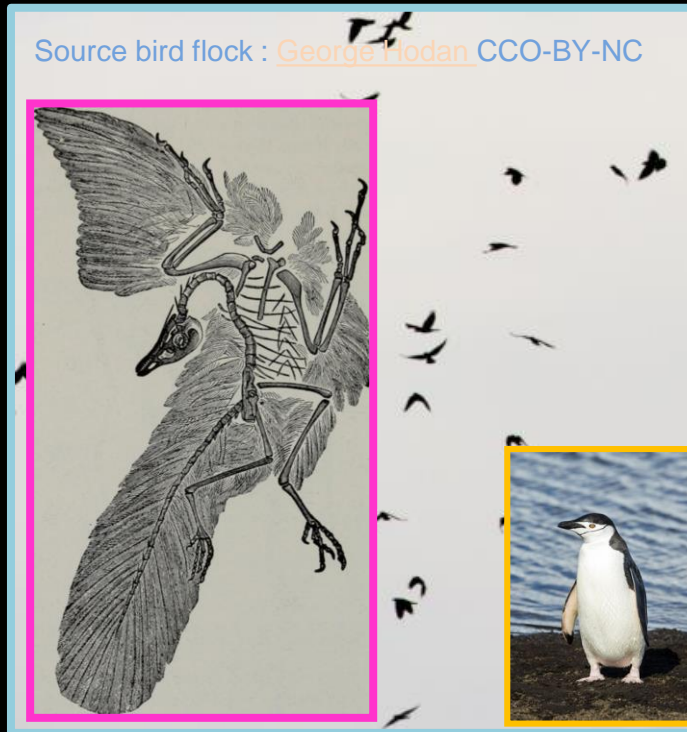


mutually exclusive categories

Definition: X is Y

Penguins are Birds

Birds have feathers & can fly

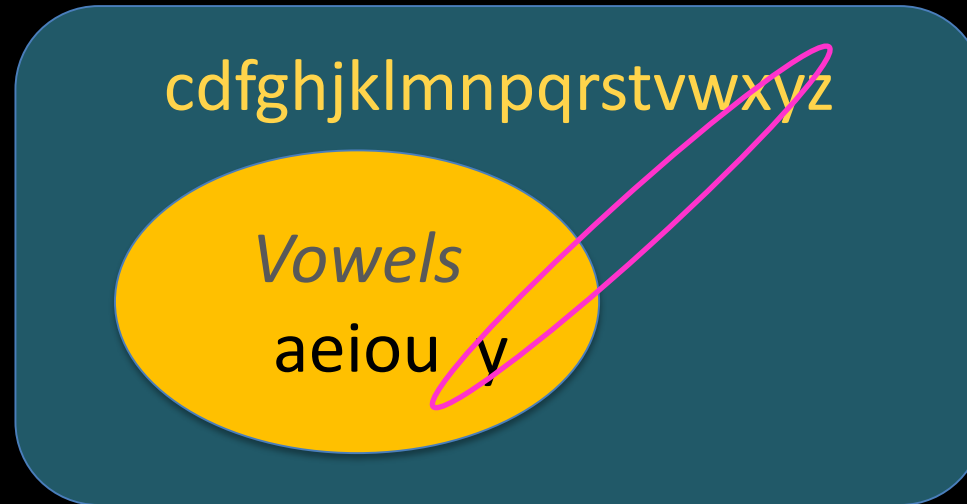


Source bird flock : [George Hodan](#) CCO-BY-NC

Source penguin: Andrew Shiva
Wikipedia CC BY-SA 4.0

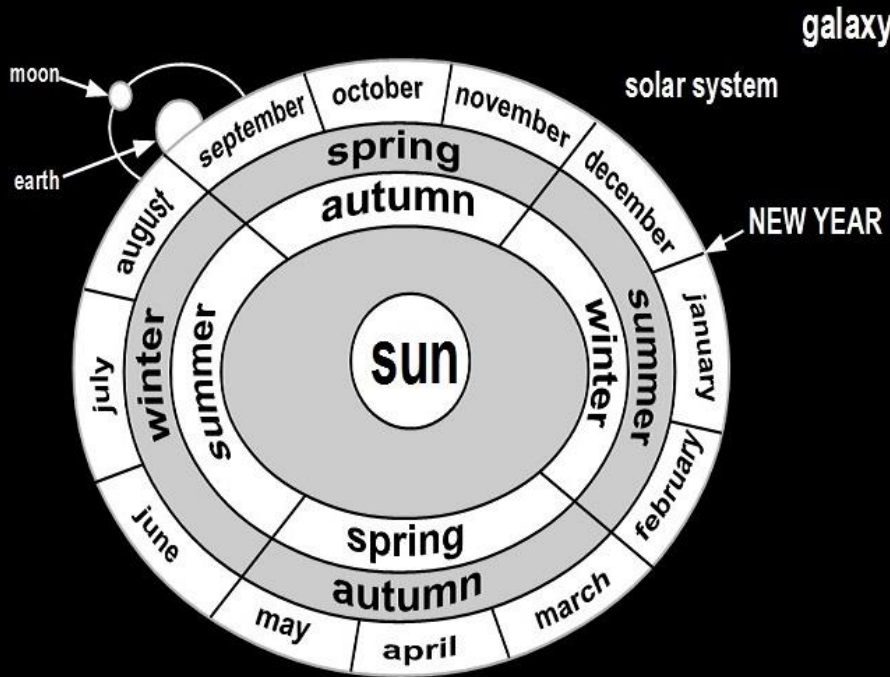
Source Pterodactylus:
Thomas Chamberlain Wikipedia expired

Vowels are Letters of the alphabet



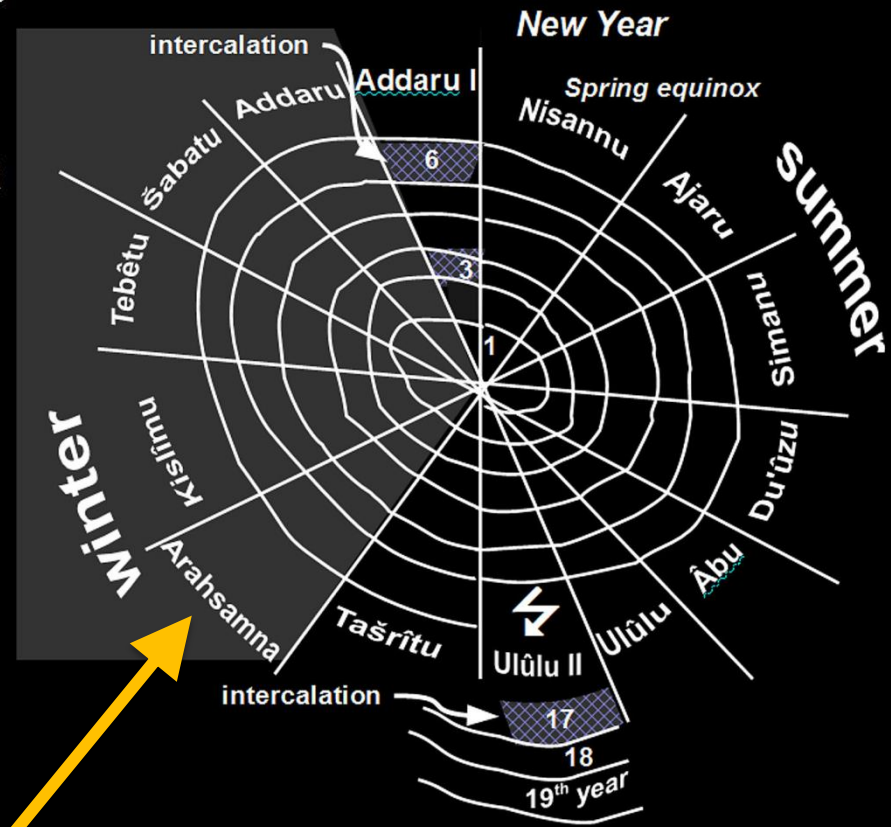
Penguins have feathers but cannot fly

(Some) dinosaurs have feathers & can fly



Gregorian calendar

- Month
- Year

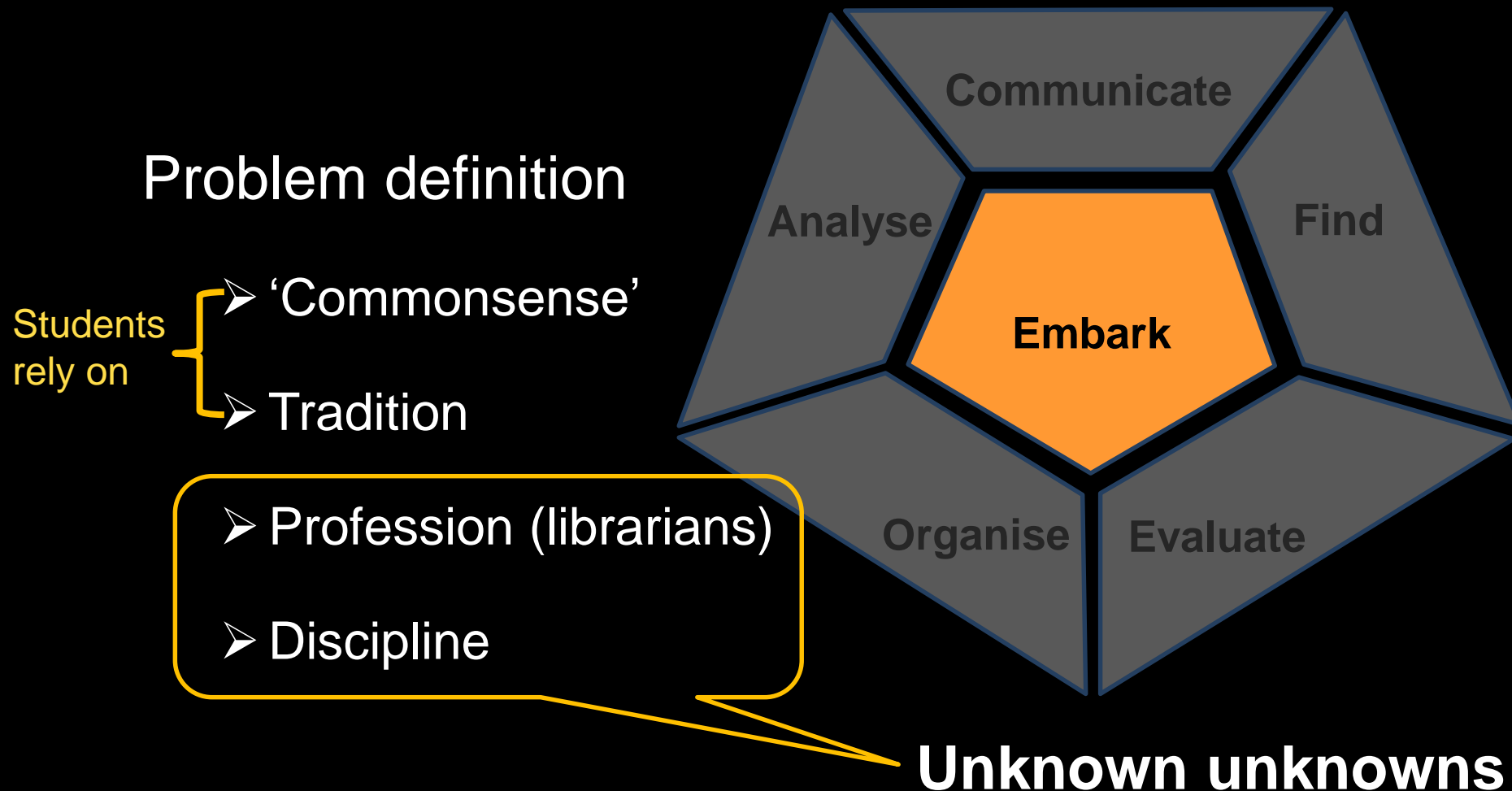


Babylonian calendar

Arahsamna is a month of the year

Categories defined relative to domain

Getting started – Catch 22



Alternate Category systems

Sociology assignment

First assignment in first year introductory Social Science course at USQ

Instructions:

Social science can be loosely defined as the **critique** of *commonsense*

Task:

Prove 'commonsense' statement is not true

Read:

Charles Wright Mills 1959, *Sociological imagination* pp. 6-8

Scaffolding:

Practice sample statement

Guerrilla research

Practice sample statement:

Prove **X** is **NOT Y**

Welfare recipients are **free loaders**

(or **bludgers**, or **leaners** - as opposed to lifters)

Definitions (tend to) rely on 'common sense'

1. Use internet to collect *data*
 - Find '**commonsense**' use
2. Use academic *information*
 - Find (**counter**) evidence

Data analysis

Student	Q1	Q2	opinion	definition	dictionary	authority	concept context/ history
1							
2	2	1	2,1				
3	3			3	3		
4	1	4	1				4
5	2	3		2,3	3	2	
6	2	4	2				4
7	4	1	4	1		1	
8	1	4	1, 4				
9	3	2	3	2	2		
10	3	4	3,4				
11	1	3		3		3	1
12	2	4	4			2	
13	5	3	5,3				
14	2	4	2, 4				
15	4	3	4			3	
16	1	2	1	2		2	

Statements tested:

1. Australia is a democracy.
2. Political correctness is stupid.
3. Today's society is more enlightened than societies of the past.
4. Indigenous people are closer to nature.
5. We should pay more attention to scientists.

103 essays

Problem definition

question	total	opinion	definition	dictionary	authority	context history
1	23	2	7	5	6	1
2	24	4	6	3	4	1
3	21	3	5	2	4	0
4	19	6	0	0	0	4
5	15	2	0	0	1	2

Not independent

33% essays relied on definitions

➤ 'Commonsense'

➤ Tradition

➤ Discipline (mostly wrong one)

Definition default

question	total	opinion	definition	dictionary	authority	context history
1	23	2	7	5	6	1
2	24	4	6	3	4	1
3	21	3	5	2	4	0
4	19	6	0	0	0	4
5	15	2	0	0	1	2

33% essays relied on definitions

1. Australia is a democracy.
2. Political correctness is stupid.
3. Today's society is more enlightened than societies of the past.

12%

41%

47%

Appeal to authority

question	total	opinion	definition	dictionary	authority	context history
1	23	2	7	5	6	1
2	24	4	6	3	4	1
3	21	3	5	2	4	0
4	19	6	0	0	0	4
5	15	2	0	0	1	2
					69%	

18% essays relied on authority

Mostly not from sociology

1. Australia is a democracy.
2. Political correctness is stupid.
3. Today's society is more enlightened than societies of the past.
4. ...
5. We should pay more attention to scientists.

Prior understanding

question	total	opinion	definition	dictionary	authority	context history
1	23	2	7	5	6	1
2	24	4	6	3	4	1
3	21	3	5	2	4	0
4	19	6	0	0	0	4
5	15	2	0	0	1	2
		↳ 10%				

**58% relied on
'commonsense'
meaning**

1. Australia is a democracy.
2. Political correctness is stupid.
3. Today's society is more enlightened than societies of the past.
4. Indigenous people are closer to nature.
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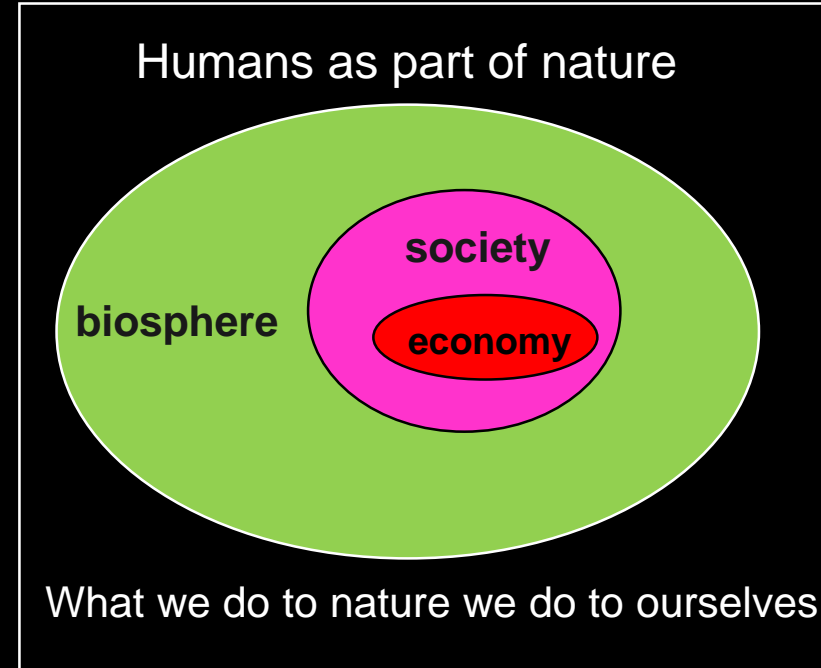
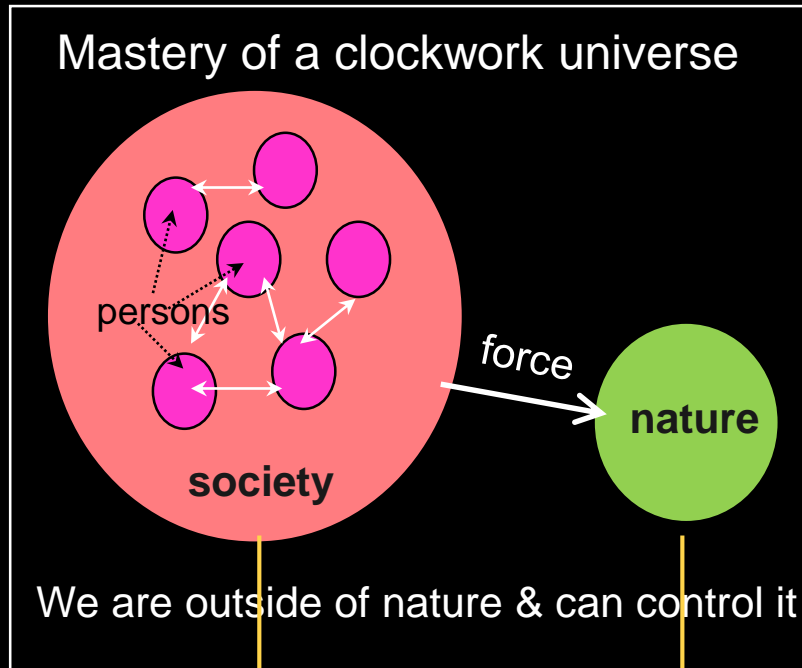
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		35%				

**58% relied on
'commonsense'
meaning**

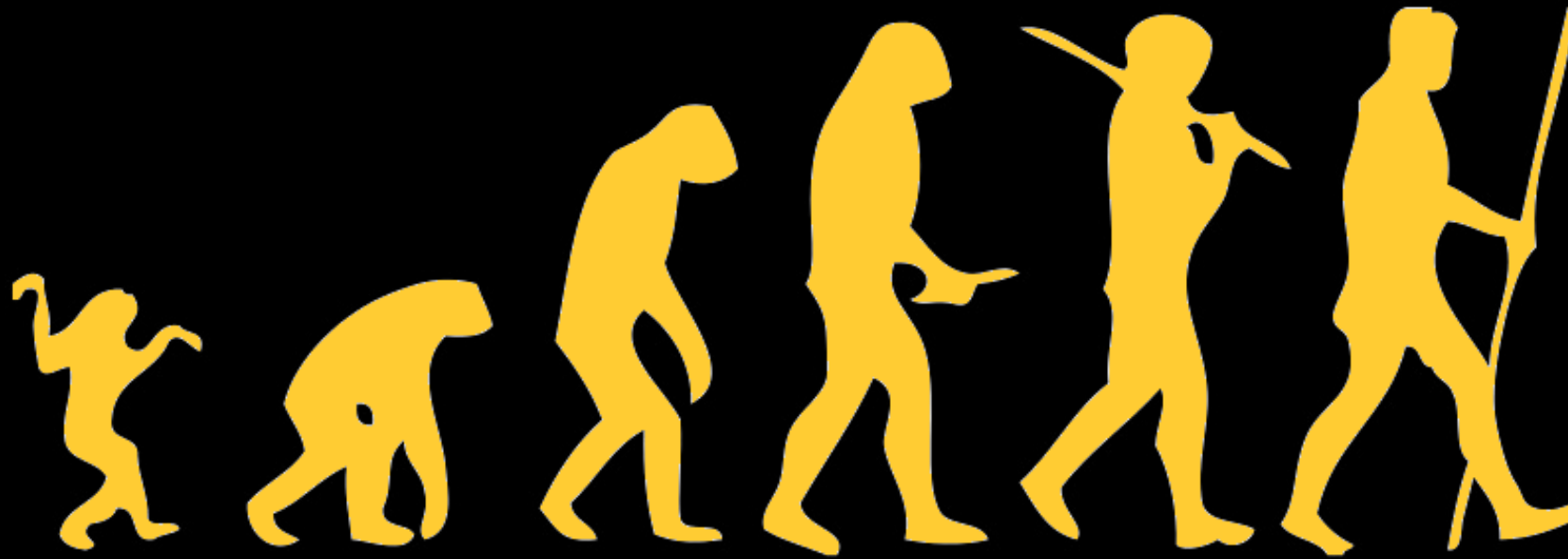
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Environment vs. society dualism



Distance from nature

Ladder of progress



animal



human



Closer to nature

Contextual sensitivity

Demonstrated in 8%

question	total	opinion	definition	dictionary	authority	context history
1	23	2	7	5	6	1
2	24	4	6	3	4	1
3	21	3	5	2	4	0
4	19	6	0	0	0	4
5	15	2	0	0	1	2
						50%

1. Australia is a democracy.
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3. Today's society is more enlightened than societies of the past.
4. Indigenous people are closer to nature.
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Getting started

Unknown unknowns

Problem definition

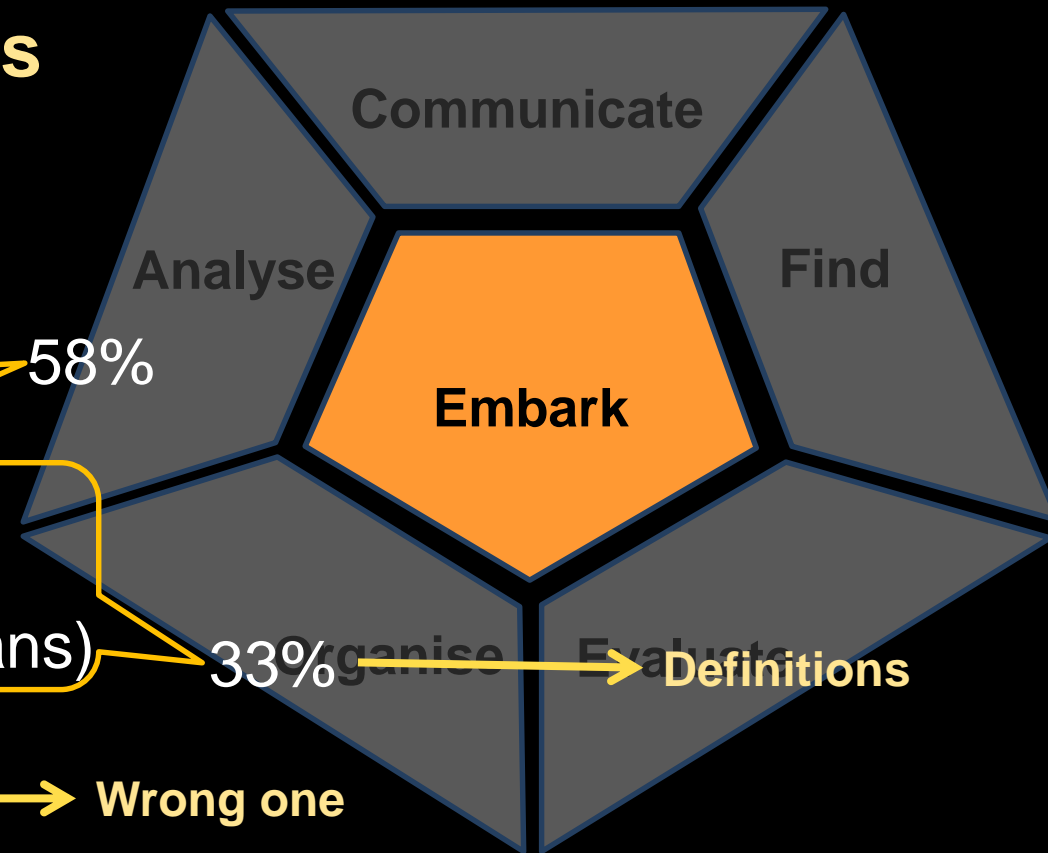
➤ 'Commonsense' 58%

➤ Tradition

➤ Profession (librarians)

➤ Discipline 18% → Wrong one

Alternate Category systems 8%



Getting started – Catch 22

