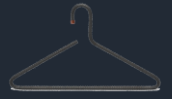# Suited and Sorted:
Costume Houses as a Reflection of Information Organisations

By Amelia Brookins

Research Questions

In what ways do costume houses meet the needs of the users through their collections?

Are the collections classified and accessible similarly to information organisation collections?

Are databases used to catalogue costume house collections, like cataloguing in information organisations? If so, how effective are they in enabling access to collections?

Costume houses reflect the information organisation processes of:

Supporting Users

Classification

Cataloguing in Databases

Supporting Users

Photos by Amelia Brookins

Classification

Example of costume house by Amelia Brookins

Classification in Rental Collections

Costume House A	Costume House B	Costume House C
Gender	Gender	Gender
Period	Period	Period (sometimes Type)
Social Class	Type	Type (sometimes Period)
Type	Size	Colour
Material or Colour	Colour	

Table by Amelia Brookins

Classification of Library Materials

Lipperheide Costume Library	CHA and CHB	CHC
Group A: General costume (chronological)	General costume	Regions (alphabetical, then chronological)
Group C: General chronological	Chronological Periods	People Groups (alphabetical)
Group D-M: Regions (chronological subgroups)	Regions	
Group N: Accessories	Occupations	
Group O-U: Types of clothing		
Group V-Z: Related topics		

Table by Amelia Brookins

Example of costume house by Amelia Brookins

Cataloguing/Databases

Comparison of Database Fields for Rental Collections

Database Field Similarities						
CHA	Code	Description	Type	Colour	Date	Production	Image
CHB	Class	Name	Type	Colour	Year	Rental History	Picture
Database Field Differences						
CHA	Actor	Maker					
CHB	Material	Brand	Item Condition	Storage Location			

Recommendations
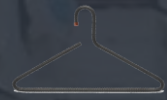
Well-defined classification order

Detailed labels

Storage location field in the catalogue records

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- Participant 1. Costume House A. Interview by Amelia Brookins. Audio, June 15, 2021.

- Participant 5. Costume House C. Interview by Amelia Brookins. Audio, June 24, 2021.