

A Grammar of Institutions

The general syntax of the grammar of organizations contains five components: Attributes, Deontic, Aim, Conditions, and Or Else. The five letters (ADICO) provide a shorthand way of referring to the components.

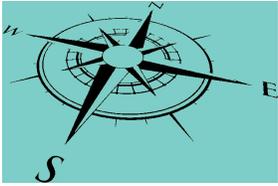
Regardless of how institutional statements are expressed in natural language, they can be rewritten in ADICO format.

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Institutions :

enduring regularities of human action in situations structured by rules, norms, and shared strategies, as well as by the physical world.

Vision

Cooperation to resolve dilemmas

Mission

To enable analyses of cooperation in collective dilemma situations

Values

Rules

Norms

Strategies

Cooperation

Institutions

Identify the components of institutions.

A. Attributes

Distinguish to whom the institutional statement applies.

[Note: In the StratML standard, this element is called "Stakeholder," of which there are two types: Performers & Beneficiaries. (Some stakeholders may be of both types, such as students and mentees.)]

D. Deontic

Enable documentation of the three modal verbs using deontic logic -- may (permitted), must (obligated), and must not (forbidden)

[Note: In the StratML standard, it is assumed that any goal (longer-term result) or objective (near-term result) documented in a plan will be pursued and, hopefully, achieved. It is also assumed that stakeholders of the performer type will be named and take responsibility for achievement of the objectives. However, the results will speak for themselves in terms of performance indicators reported to stakeholders of the beneficiary type. In that sense, deontic logic is immaterial. It is also noteworthy that the words "may," "must" and "may not" are not verbs. In the StratML standard, actions (verbs) are documented as performance indicators of the Input_Processing and Output_Processing types.]

I. Aim

Describe the actions or outcomes to which the deontic is assigned.

[This definition of the term "aim" is internally inconsistent. It contains two different concepts — actions versus outcomes. In the StratML standard, outcomes are defined as results that cannot be achieved by the planning organization itself. Additional inputs and/or actions by others are required. In the StratML standard, actions required to achieve objectives are documented as processes to transform inputs to outputs and outputs to outcomes. The full Value Chain of Performance Indicators leads from Inputs via Input_Processing to Outputs and, via Output_Processing, to Outcomes.]

C. Conditions

Document the variables defining when, where, how, and to what extent aims are permitted, obligatory, or forbidden.

[Again, in the StratML standard, deontic logic is irrelevant because goals and objectives would not be included in plans if there were no intention to achieve them. However, the timing (when) information is captured in the Start Dates and End Dates associated with each Performance Indicator, and the means (how) are documented in Performance Indicators of the Input_Processing and Output_Processing types.]

O. Or Else

Define the sanctions to be imposed for not following the rule.

[While the information implicit in this objective could be made explicit in StratML format, doing so could be a distraction from focusing on achievement of the objectives themselves. If the stakeholders of the performer type fail to produce the desired results, that will be clear in the performance indicators not only to them but also to the stakeholders of the beneficiary type. It will be up to the latter to decide whether to apply sanctions to the performer stakeholders.]

Administrative Information

Start Date: 1995-09-30

End Date:

Publication Date: 2020-05-13

Source: <http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0003-0554%28199509%2989%3A3%3C582%3AAGOI%3E2.0.CO%3B2-A>

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