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What is Ontology?

- **Ontology (philosophy)**
 - the Organization of Reality ☺ !!!
- **Ontology (computer science)**
 - the explicit – operational description of the conceptualization of a domain:
 - Concepts: **entity and quality** (*properties and attributes*)
- An ontology defines:
 - a **common vocabulary** → a shared understanding/exchange:
 - among people
 - among software agents
 - between people and software
 - to reuse data - information
 - to introduce standards to allow interoperability

CLASSIFICATIONS

... BUILDING BLOCKS OF HEALTH INFORMATION ...

Each entity in ICD is to be defined with the following attributes

1. **is_a** disease, disorder, syndrome, injury, sign, symptom...
2. **Function/Dysfunction_of** Body functions
3. **Site:** body structure (*either use ICF or FMA...*)
4. **Has signs_of:** Manifestations, Signs, Symptoms
5. **Caused by:**
 - External (*Injury, Trauma, Pathogenic...*)
 - Internal (*Genes, Autoimmune process, embryogenic development ...*)
6. **Temporal Relations**
 - Onset (*Acute, subacute, chronic...*); offset; course: (*Episodic, relapsing, recurring...*)
7. **Extent (severity):** Progress, Spread level
8. **Impact:** Limitations (activity limitations, participation restrictions)
9. **Related Interventions_for:**
 - Investigation (*Lab, diagnostic examination, ...*)
 - Treatment (*drugs/ medications, interventions - Surgical, mental, other*)
10. **Used_in:**
 - Primary Care, Clinical Care, Research,
 - Special indices (e.g. public health Indices or resource groupings)

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