



Web site address www.DAMAIndiana.org

LinkedIn Group DAMA Indiana

Welcome to DAMA Indiana News!

Welcome to the spring issue of the DAMA Indiana newsletter. We are looking forward to warmer weather and our next chapter meeting!

The next meeting will be **Thursday, April 15, 2021**. Be sure to save the date!

Do you have a question for the board or fellow members? Are you wondering about future events? Have an idea for a newsletter article? The top of the newsletter contains the web site and social media contact information for the chapter. We would love to hear from you!

- Cheryl

From the President's Pen...

By Gene Boomer

Hello Folks,

I hope all is well on your end. Looks like we may have somewhat of a handle on the pandemic as cases and deaths appear to have flattened while those being vaccinated increases. I am hopeful that we have turned the corner on the pandemic and look towards getting back to 'normal,' whatever that ends up looking like...

For this article, I would like to focus on a data management artifact called 'Reference Data.' Reference Data are used for a varied number of reasons within an organization. In general, "Reference Data is any data used to characterize or classify other data, or to relate to information external to an organization" (DAMA DMBOK2, pg. 352). This Reference Data usually resides within a 'reference' table within a DBMS, although Reference Data can exist within various mediums (e.g., Excel spreadsheet.)

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President's Pen, cont.

We will start with this definition and expand a little deeper. I am currently working on a project (a combination of system migration and data warehouse), and the topic of Reference Data—and the underlying ‘reference’ tables—has come up for discussion. The data architecture team is attempting to standardize the use and structure of reference tables throughout the organization. As part of this effort, we have drafted some basic tenets surrounding reference tables called the 3 P's: Pattern, Purpose, and Population.

Pattern refers to the general architecture, or structure, of the reference table. For example, a Common Reference *pattern* would consist of a ‘code’ and a ‘description.’ Whereas an Industry Reference *pattern* would follow the structural layout of an externally-supplied dataset (e.g., ICD codes.) An Integration Reference *pattern* would consist of cross-reference values to translate ‘code’ values from different systems/applications.

Purpose refers to the general use of the reference table. For example, a Common Reference table's *purpose* would be to provide descriptive information on a report or supply values to a dropdown list within an application. Whereas an Industry Reference table's *purpose* would be to provide a consistent set of data values to be shared across an organization. An Integration Reference table's *purpose* is to differentiate data values across applications and/or business areas and to integrate those values in context with one another.

Population refers to the general source of the data within the reference table. For example, a Common Reference table's source would be supplied by the users of the reference data, generally business areas. Whereas an Industry Reference table's source would be supplied by an external group and could not be changed within the organization using the reference data. An Integration Reference table's source would be supplied by business and data analysts working together to assure the data values are ‘mapped’ in proper context.

In conjunction with the 3 P's approach, all Reference Data ought to be governed in accordance with the Data Governance group to assure fit-for-purpose within the organization.

So, what do you think about the 3 P's? Does this make sense to do within your own organizations? Maybe you are already doing something similar, if so, I would like to hear about it!

Take care and I look forward to chatting with you at our next chapter meeting!!!

– *Gene*



Reminder:



DAMA Indiana Individual and Corporate 2021 Fees:

THANK YOU to those who have paid their 2021 membership fees!

If you have not received your 2021 invoice, please check your junk or spam folder.

Please contact our VP Finance with any questions.

Your prompt payment is appreciated!

Save the Date—April Chapter Meeting

Join us virtually on **Thursday, April 25, 2021** for an informative day you won't want to miss. Denodo will be our sponsor for this online meeting.

Please register via the DAMA Indiana Events page: <https://damaindiana.org/upcoming-events>.

Professional Development Opportunities

Dataversity is hosting the Enterprise Data World conference virtually on April 18–23. Check out their website at: [Enterprise Data World Conference \(dataversity.net\)](https://dataversity.net).

Check out the DAMA Indiana Events page for upcoming events. <https://damaindiana.org/upcoming-events>



Check out <http://tdwi.org> for conferences

DAMA Chicago

DAMA Chicago holds six bi-monthly meetings and other events. Their web site is: <http://www.damachicago.org/>

Southwest Ohio Chapter of DAMA

Check out their web page at:
<https://swoc-dama.wildapricot.org/>

Central Ohio DAMA

The central Ohio chapter page:
<https://buckeyedama.org/>

Here are other area events that may be of interest to data professionals:

IndyPASS (Professional Association for SqlServer)

Events are updated on their web site.
Their main web site: <http://indypass.org/>

INOUG (Indiana Oracle Users Group)

Check inoug.org for more information.

Reminder: Attending conferences and professional meeting counts towards CBIP and CDMP recertification credits. Be sure to record these in your log!

Contacts

Have a question or need to contact a board member? Below are the names and e-mail addresses of board members

DAMA Indiana Board

President: Gene Boomer
President@damaindiana.org

VP Administration: Diane Michael
VPAdministration@damaindiana.org

VP Communications: Cheryl Jackson
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