Chapter 10
Classifying artifacts

Conspectus, additional references and notes

**Type**
Merriam-Webster online: Etymology: Middle English, from Late Latin *typus*, from Latin & Greek; Latin *typus* image, from Greek *typos* blow, impression, model,
1 a: a person or thing (as in the Old Testament) believed to foreshadow another (as in the New Testament) b: one having qualities of a higher category: **MODEL** c: a lower taxonomic category selected as a standard of reference for a higher category; also: a specimen or series of specimens on which a taxonomic species or subspecies is actually based
4 a: qualities common to a number of individuals that distinguish them as an identifiable class: c: a member of an indicated class or variety of people <the guests were mostly urban types> d: a particular kind, class, or group: e: something distinguishable as a variety: **SORT**<what type of food do you like?>
synonyms **TYPE**, **KIND**, **SORT**, **NATURE**, **DESCRIPTION**, **CHARACTER** mean a number of individuals thought of as a group because of a common quality or qualities. **TYPE** may suggest strong and clearly marked similarity throughout the items included so that each is typical of the group <one of three basic body types>.

**Class**
Merriam-Webster online: 3. a group, set, or kind sharing common attributes: as a: a major category in biological taxonomy ranking above the order and below the phylum or division b: a collection of adjacent and discrete or continuous values of a random variable

**Classification** – Distinguishing of archaeological data into clusters, using various ordering systems (criteria); **Typology** – Clustering of the artifacts by types

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Pottery</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class (subclass)</td>
<td>Cups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type</td>
<td>Round-bottom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subtype</td>
<td>Round-bottom with one handle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Variant</td>
<td>Round bottom with one handle, one end of which is attached to the rim</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Aspects of the types:

**Descriptive** (see the so-called Descriptive types, p. 246)
- Attributive analysis (pp. 251-253)
  - Formal attributes
  - Stylistic attributes
  - Technological attributes

**Chronological** (see the so-called Chronological types, pp. 246-247)

**Stylistic** (see the so-called Stylistic types, p. 247)

Comment: the so-called functional types (pp. 247) are in fact class or even categories. In this case Fagan does not make difference between class and type.

Functions of the classification and typologies: (p. 241)
- Organization
- Type definition
- Identifying relationships between types
- Assemblage variability

Terminology
- Taxonomy (p. 240)
- Systematics (pp. 240-241)
  - Classification
  - Typology
- Statistic methods

Quantitative (statistic) methods (p. 245, 248-251, 253)
- Exploratory data analysis (EDA)
- Descriptive statistics
- Statistical typologies
- Object clustering
  - Operational taxonomic units (OTUs)

Association of artifacts (pp. 253-254)
- Assemblages and patterns

Websites
- Type and typology:

Typology: the classification of artifacts into groups (types) on the basis of method of manufacture, form, decoration, etc.
- [http://www.china.org.cn/english/features/Archaeology/98851.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/english/features/Archaeology/98851.htm)

Typology: the systematic organization of artifacts into types on the basis of shared attributes.
- [http://www.anth.ucsb.edu/glossary/glossary.html](http://www.anth.ucsb.edu/glossary/glossary.html)
**Type:** a distinctive formal artifact class defined by the consistent clustering of attributes and restricted in space and time, e.g. the "Folsom Point" is a projectile point "type".

**Typology:** the systematic organization of artifacts into types on the basis of shared attributes.

http://www.ancientneareast.net/glossary_ceramics/glossary_ceramic_attributes.htm
Glossary of ceramic attributes