

OBJECT-ORIENTED DATABASE TERMINOLOGY

by Satnam Purewal

What is an object? It is anything from the real world that needs to be modelled. It can be a person, a manufacturing process or a telephone. For example, an organization chart models people and their relationships to each other within the organization.

An **Object-oriented DBMS (ODBMS)** is a combination of the data and the operation performed on the data.

Inheritance is a feature of ODBMS which facilitates prototyping. The definitions of high level functions apply at the lower levels. This means that it is not necessary for all the behaviour for a given object to be specified in its class; methods can be inherited from super classes.

Function Overloading refers to the different locations of the same function. The function that is used is the one located with the relevant data. For example, in an employee database, there are usually several ways to calculate the salary. The method used is the one stored with the employee record.

Polymorphism is where different objects respond to the same message with their own unique behaviour.

Instantiation is the assigning of values to the functions that are performed on an object. An example is giving the value "Jane Smith" to the name function. 

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