

# Social System (glossary)

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social system

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*An open system which includes human elements. (Created for SEBoK)*

## Sources

This definition was developed for the SEBoK.

## Discussion

Several definitions of "social systems" exist. For example, "the people in a society considered as a system organized by a characteristic pattern of relationships," (WordNet 2012) or "organized boundary systems of social roles, behaviors, and practices developed to maintain values and the mechanisms to regulate the practices and roles (*Taber's Cyclopedic Medical Dictionary* 2009). *These definitions, however, generally arise from sociology and do not take into account a "systems thinking" perspective. The definition provided above has been created for the SEBoK based on the systems science definition. See the Types of Systems topic for additional discussion.*

## Works Cited

Taber's Cyclopedic Medical Dictionary, 21st Edition, s.v. "social systems", 2009.

WordNet: A lexical database for English, version 3.1, s.v. "social system", 2012.

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