

## Ordering and Using Free Argos

### Preamble:

So far the free Argos catalogue is just a pile of junk that has been zip tied and duct taped together. The benefit of having a physical catalogue rather than simply just having a signal chat is that the catalogue can retain an ordered and formatted memory, where as communications in a chat increment in order with every message, and are lost over time. Ive theoretically redesigned the ordering system of the catalogue three times now, this current version seems promising, but only time will tell. Feedback is always appreciated. This kind of Design Praxis requires a certain ruthlessness with ones self and stamina enough to keep iterating. That being said I've a bit on my plate and it'd be nice to get this functional.

### Sections of the Catalogue (see graph on next page)

#### (1.) Have/Can Get

(1.a.) **Goods** – This is the section for material goods a person has access to, for example stockpiles of disposable razors, clothes, books etc. This section is also suitable for assets that a person would be willing to lend out, i.e. a gazebo, a protest banner, a sound system etc

(1.b.) **Skills** -This section details skills that a person has that others might be able to make use of or be taught. This section may facilitate the flow of both services as well as skill sharing

(2.) **Contingent** -The contingent section is for advertising opportunities for mutual aid, that may arise under a foreseeable contingent circumstance. For example, cheap tobacco if someone is going abroad or free sanitary products monthly from the Lidil+ app. Where as the previous section advertises a specific thing or skill, this is a practice of exchange itself.

#### (3.) Need/Want

(3.a.) **Goods** -This section is for goods that persons in the community need/want. It can be used to meet personal requirements as well as for things persons may need for organizing work.

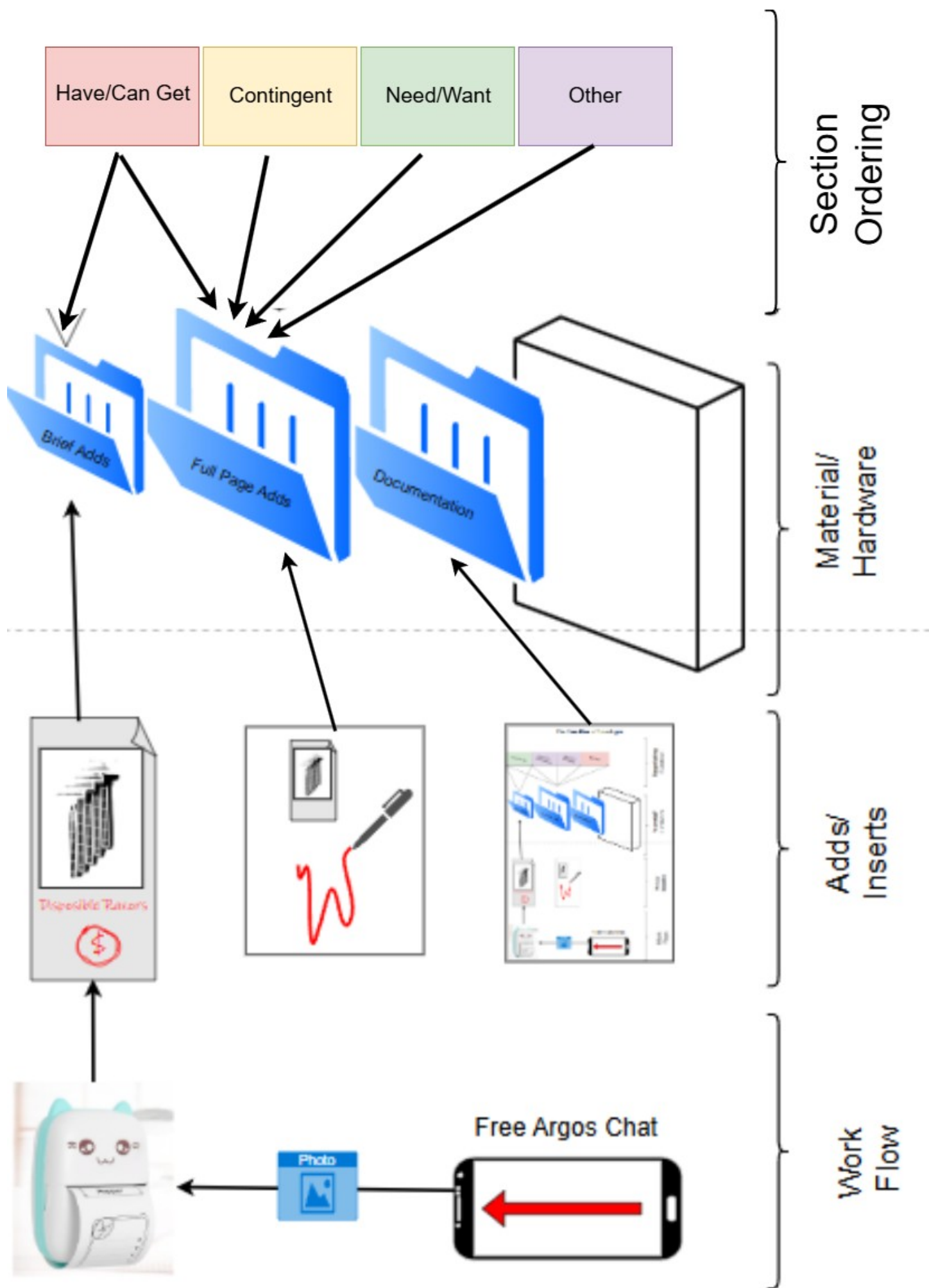
(3.b.) **Skills** -This section is for skills that persons may want/need to learn as well as skill sets that are needed in the community

(4.) **Other** - This is where everything else goes, this section need not be serious. If you'd like something in the catalogue but it does not fit in the above sections then throw it here.

### Requirements for Adds/ Inserts

Adds/Inserts put into the catalogue ought to specify pertinent details of the material exchange being offered as well as -at the very least- give some rough info on who to contact. This could be a signal ID or identifying symbol, the name of an affinity group, organization or chat. People are entitled to set their own particular boundaries as to how they are willing to be contacted.

The date of posting ought also to be scrawled on time sensitive or quantity limited adds, so those reading can gauge the likeliness of it still being active.



## **Free Argos Chat:**

New to this iteration is the need for a Free Argos chat. This is to be used not as a space for discussion, rather as a conveyor belt for photos and adds to be put into the catalogue. This would facilitate improvements in four aspects of the communication pipeline.

### 1. More concrete workflow:

It is a lot to ask of people to be able to consistently take photos of the stuff they want to put into the catalogue, then show up to a cook, find time and energy during the day to download the printing app to print photos/draw adds etc. Having access to a chat means that adds can be put into the catalogue when the opportunity presents itself or the idea strikes.

### 2. Chunking reduction of redundancy of labour:

The flip side of this is the labour of inserting adds into the catalogue can be chunked together, reducing time/labour/executive functioning redundancy. This is more efficient and more accessible

### 3. Easier expansion of a low commitment web of material support:

Having a dedicated signal chat for the catalogue gives a clear way to incorporate persons/orgs into a web of material solidarity that has a low ongoing capacity commitment and required level of required trust between participants. In this way the practice can be easily extended to the class of persons who are sympathetic but not active in their involvement. A person could show up to a distro, be added to the chat, communicate their material needs/ability to get material to meet others needs without risk to the security of the core organizing structure.

### 4. Short selling

Potentially the chat could function to facilitate material exchange without an add actually making it into the physical catalogue. If so and this works for everyone involved, all the better!