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ABSTRACT: The term “tagging” is widely used for the assigning of terms to information objects in user-driven websites, although a cursory examination of such websites suggests that the communicative functions undertaken by tags are not always driven by concerns about inter-subjective informative communication. At the heart of the debate about social indexing are issues relating to meaning and interpretation. Even where the intention is to assign informative tags, there is an issue about the relationship between the modality of an information object and its subsequent interpretation in historical time. This paper tests a model of image modality using four test images, which are interpreted and tagged by a group of distance learner students at the Department of Information Studies, Aberystwyth University. The results are described, and the implications are discussed. Overall, this limited exercise suggests that the modality model might be of some use in categorizing images within an image IR system. The exercise also suggests that leaving annotation and tagging entirely to users could lead to information loss over time. Finally, the exercise suggests that developing a retrieval tool using genre and the intertextual nature of multimedia objects might lead to the construction of rich, knowledge based systems.


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ABSTRACT: Classical theories of classification and concepts, originating in ancient Greek logic, have been criticized by classificationists, feminists, and scholars of marginalized groups because of the rigidity of conceptual boundaries and hierarchical structure. Despite this criticism, the principles of classical theory still underlie major library classification schemes. Rosch’s prototype theory, originating from cognitive psychology, uses Wittgenstein’s “family resemblance” as a basis for conceptual definition. Rather than requiring all necessary and sufficient conditions, prototype theory requires possession of some but not all common qualities for membership in a category. This paper explores prototype theory to determine whether it captures the fluidity of gender to avoid essentialism and accommodate transgender and queer identities. Ultimately, prototype theory constitutes a desirable conceptual framework for gender because it permits commonality without essentialism, difference without eliminating similarity. However, the instability of prototypical definitions would be difficult to implement in a practical environment and could still be manipulated to subordinate. Therefore, at best, prototype theory could complement more stable concept theories by incorporating contextual difference.

Green, Rebecca. See-also Relationships in the Dewey Decimal Classification. Knowledge Organization, 38(4), 335-341. 9 references.

ABSTRACT: This paper investigates the semantics of topical, associative see-also relationships in schedule and table
entries of the Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC) system. Based on the see-also relationships in a random sample of 100 classes containing one or more of these relationships, a semi-structured inventory of sources of see-also relationships is generated, of which the most important are lexical similarity, complementarity, facet difference, and relational configuration difference. The premise that see-also relationships based on lexical similarity may be language-specific is briefly examined. The paper concludes with recommendations on the continued use of see-also relationships in the DDC.


ABSTRACT: Cataloguing and classification were at the core of the first librarian training programs. In 2011, LIS educators continue to believe in the importance of teaching the basics of the classification process to all future information professionals. Information on classification instruction was collected through a survey of instructors in ALA-accredited LIS masters' programs. The survey was structured around issues touching several dimensions of any teaching endeavour, with an emphasis on the tools used to help students develop several types of skills involved in the classification process.

This article presents quantitative data provided by respondents representing 31 distinct LIS masters' programs. We hope it can be used as foundation to pursue the examination of classification instruction in an ever changing information world.


ABSTRACT: This paper describes a mapping of linked data vocabularies in the area of person-related information. Aligning vocabulary terms may help curb the problem of property proliferation that occurs in linked data environments. It also facilitates the process of choosing semantics for vocabulary extensions and integration in the context of linked data applications. Although a work in progress, this investigation would provide support for semantic integration and for knowledge sharing and reuse in the area of personal information representation. It also offers an opportunity to reflect on a new generation of knowledge organization systems such as linked data vocabularies that have started to populate the web and are converging with new representation models and discovery tools in libraries and other cultural heritage institutions.