

Organization of Information

Why must
information be
organized?

What is metadata?

- information about information
- a surrogate for the real thing
- can be embedded in an object
- can be stored separately and linked via database
- or both, for example: books

What does metadata do?

- describes resources for the purpose of organizing them
- makes resources findable
- supports archiving and preservation

Two ways metadata is used:

- Taxonomies
- Folksonomies

Taxonomy

- A hierarchical classification system
- Library catalog:
 - Helps you find information on shelves
 - Helps librarians with cooperative cataloging
 - Helps control for variation in words used to describe similar topics
- Controlled vocabularies
 - Subject headings, subject terms, thesaurus

Folksonomy

- For example, tagging
- User-generated metadata
- “Flat” non-hierarchical system
- Flexible, individual, social
- Used in blogs, wikis, other social media
- Can help create community of users around shared knowledge and interests

Why are we talking
about metadata
in this class?

Exercise

- Pick two blog posts of yours from anytime during the semester
 - If these posts are missing tags, add them now
 - If you'd like to change the tags on them, do it now
- Use the Library of Congress website at <http://www.loc.gov/catdir/cpsol/lcco/> and assign at least 2 subject headings to your 2 blog posts
- Share your results with the class

For example:

Blog post text

Subject Headings:

GN – Anthropology

DF – Greece