Reading List
Spring 2017

(Note: This is a work in progress. As the semester progresses, other articles may be added as suggested reading)

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Required textbook

Chapters are assigned by course topic below.
Readings

All readings complement material presented in class and online. The citations below are organized by course topic. Citation style is a variation of APA with the addition of bracketed notes. Page lengths for online readings are estimates for printouts. Textbook chapters in particular are strongly encouraged.

Some materials are available digitally through the UNT Libraries Course Reserves. Instructions for accessing these are provided below.

1. Concepts of information organization

Taylor describes the big picture of information organization from past to present. She leads us to question the concept of libraries and where librarianship is going. Schamber explores the meaning of an even more fundamental concept, that of a document. Your own understanding of the concept of document has a profound influence on the way you choose to represent the documents and information in your collection. Tennant looks ahead to metadata representation in the future.

Taylor

Ch. 1. Organization of recorded information
Ch. 3. Development of the organization of recorded information in Western civilization

Online


Author’s version available at: [http://roytennant.com/metadata.pdf](http://roytennant.com/metadata.pdf)

2. Users and information behavior

Marchionini and Borgman focus on users’ knowledge and skills, which are important considerations for the Information Organization Project. (If you do not understand the technical terms in Borgman’s article, we come back to it later.) Because of the importance of the study that resulted in the Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records, we have selected sections of that report for your convenience.

Print


Online

Though old, the Borgman articles is considered foundational in this area of study.
3. Information representation and metadata

This topic addresses core concepts of information and information representation. Wilson's work on bibliographic control is a classic; Wilson presents a philosophical twist on the saying, "Information is power." Metadata refers to the representations at the heart of information organization. Metadata, a key concept that has emerged in recent years as a method for representing objects, is nicely introduced in the booklet from the National Information Standards Organization. Taylor's chapters 6 and 7 and the online readings on metadata do an excellent job of explaining this complex and controversial concept. Taylor's chapter 2 and Tillett's article describe bibliographic tools and principles at a practical level.

Taylor

- Ch. 2. Retrieval tools
- Ch. 4. Metadata
- Ch. 7. Metadata: Description

Print

- Wilson, P. (1968). Introduction. The bibliographical universe. Bibliographical instruments and their specifications. In Two kinds of power: An essay on bibliographic control. Berkeley: University of California Press. [Intro., 1-5; Ch. 1, 6-19; Ch. 4, 55-68] (both available through Course Reserves as electronic copies – go to http://library.unt.edu/circulation/reserve/reserve-materials-for-student#electronic-reserves-1; password is 'pancut04')

Online

Metadata and Its Importance in a Data Driven World. Villanova University. 
https://www.villanovau.com/resources/bl/metadata-importance-in-data-driven-world/#.WG0VabkUN6I

4. Information systems and databases

These readings introduce basic concepts of database structures in nontechnical language. Taylor describes the basics of text-retrieval systems commonly found in libraries. Evans summarizes major types of databases in libraries.

Taylor
Ch. 6. Systems and system design

Online

5. Rules, standards, and authority control

Beyond Taylor's chapters, three of these readings illustrate major standards: MARC format for catalog records (Furrie); data input rules for catalog records (American Library Association); and descriptive elements for networked resources (Dublin Core Metadata Initiative). The other four readings expand on trends and issues in authority control from the authors' inside perspectives. Maxwell provides an overview of why we do authority work, Gorman and Tillett take individual approaches to discussing challenges of authority control in the networked and international environment. Moen presents a view on what to expect in bibliographic standards.
6. Verbal subject representation

What is a subject? How does one identify and represent a subject? These are fundamental questions that challenge the most experienced information professionals. Taylor offers ideas and examples that may help you identify subjects and guide your decisions about indexing languages. Maxwell provides a nice discussion on associative, hierarchical, and equivalent relationships. Rowley (2000) explains key concepts in indexing languages for subject representation. Beyond these general introductions, the readings in Thesaurus construction and format and by Rowley (1994) and Willpower Information provide explicit descriptions and examples of vocabulary control and thesauri in practice. The Synapse White Paper goes further in showing why controlled vocabularies and conceptual cross-referencing in thesauri are important for alleviating some of the problems inherent to text-based searching. Liddy and Feldman each offer wonderfully readable explanations of the role of language in information retrieval. Ezzo, a student in a thesaurus construction assignment, shares her experience.
Taylor
Ch. 9. Subject analysis
Ch. 10. Systems for vocabulary control
Appendix. Subject-analysis application

Print

Available through Course Reserves as an electronic copy – go to http://www.library.unt.edu/circulation/reserve/reserve-materials-for-student#electronic-reserves-1; password is ‘pamcut04’

Rowley, J. (2000). Subjects as access points. In Organizing knowledge: An introduction to managing access to information (3rd ed.). Burlington, VT: Ashgate. [Ch. 5, 125-170]
Available through Course Reserves as an electronic copy – go to http://www.library.unt.edu/circulation/reserve/reserve-materials-for-student#electronic-reserves-1; password is ‘pamcut04’


Thesaurus construction and format. (2001). In Thesaurus of ERIC Descriptors (14th ed.). Phoenix, AZ: Oryx Press. [xxvii-xxx] (Generally available for use at most library reference desks)

Online

Many of these sources are old, but reflect much of what is still current practice.


http://www.infotoday.com/searcher/may01/liddy.htm [8 pp.]


http://willpowerinfo.co.uk/thesprin.htm [14 pp.]
7. Classification

Taylor, Hunter, and Rowley introduce the nuts and bolts of this oldest information organization process. The optional readings by Beghtol, Cheti and Paradisi, and Gnoli provide further exploration of classification, the latter two discussing faceted classification in particular.

Taylor
Ch. 11. Systems for categorization
Appendix C. Arrangement of metadata displays

Print
Hunter, E. J. (2009). [Chapters 1-5]. In Classification made simple: an introduction to knowledge organization and information retrieval. (3rd. ed.). Burlington, VT: Ashgate. (Chapters are available as one PDF through Course Reserves – go to http://www.library.unt.edu/circulation/reserve/reserve-materials-for-student#electronic-reserves-1; password is ‘pancut04’


Optional

Link to the journal via UNT library.

Link to the journal via UNT library.

Link to the journal via UNT library.

8. Name authority control

Taylor covers principles for name access points in traditional cataloging. Maxwell focuses on authority control of personal, corporate, and geographic names. Riemer takes us into a deeper level of authority records, their structure and content.

Taylor
Ch. 8. Metadata: Access and access control

Print
Available through Course Reserves as an electronic copy – go to http://www.library.unt.edu/circulation/reserve/reserve-materials-for-student#electronic-reserves-1 ; password is ‘pancut04’

Online


9. Information retrieval evaluation

This topic focuses on how information retrieval works and how to evaluate its effectiveness. *Gloor* provides an easy-to-read introduction to basic IR system models. *Taylor* discusses a number of issues about quality of indexing and searching, whereas *Lancaster and Warner* explain distinct effects of human and system factors on IR system performance. These readings, along with a review of *Borgman* (Topic 2), may help you think of criteria for evaluating your own information organization system.

**Taylor**

Ch. 6. Systems and system design

**Print**


**Online**


10. User behavior research

*Kuhlthau* discusses the implications of her classic behavior model for library services and IR system design. Other good articles on information behavior are available in the same issue as Kuhlthau’s article.

**Online**


Connaway, L. S. et.al (2011) “If It Is Too Inconvenient, I'm Not Going After It:” Convenience as a Critical Factor in Information -seeking Behaviors
11. Information organization horizons

The future is now and it is networked! These readings address thorny problems related to information representation and access we are currently confronting.

Online


Connecting to library articles

Via the library catalog

1. Go to http://library.unt.edu/
2. Type in the journal or article title.
3. Select the relevant entry.
Via Course Reserves

To access Electronic Reserves -

1. Go to the http://library.unt.edu/
2. Click on Course Reserves
3. Search by Course or by instructor’s name
4. Click on the title needed
5. Sign in with your name, your EUID, your password, and the course password. The password is “pancut04”
6. When the above information is entered correctly, you will see the PDF for the article.
7. If you have additional articles to read, use the back button to return to the Library Catalog.
8. When you are finished, please exit from the browser if you are using a public PC. This is to protect your personal information.

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