Reading List
Spring 2011

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

Contents

Required textbook......................................................................................................................................... 1
Recommended book..................................................................................................................................... 1
Required readings ......................................................................................................................................... 2
  1. Concepts of information organization ............................................................................................ 2
  2. Users and information behavior .................................................................................................... 2
  3. Information representation and metadata ..................................................................................... 3
  4. Information systems and databases ............................................................................................... 4
  5. Rules, standards, and authority control .......................................................................................... 4
  6. Verbal subject representation ........................................................................................................ 5
  7. Classification ......................................................................................................................................... 6
  8. Name authority control ................................................................................................................... 7
  9. Information retrieval evaluation ...................................................................................................... 7
  10. User behavior research .................................................................................................................. 8
  11. Information organization horizons ................................................................................................. 8
Connecting to library articles......................................................................................................................... 8

Required textbook

[978-1-59158-700-2  softbound]

Chapters are assigned by course topic below.

Recommended book


In this book, Mann presents the major conceptual frameworks for library materials organization and access. This is not an optional textbook, but rather a particularly useful resource for librarians and users.
Required 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.

Some materials are available digitally through the UNT Libraries Course Reserves. Passwords will be provided in order to access those materials. See http://www.library.unt.edu/circulation/reserve/reserve-materials-for-student#electronic-reserves-1 for access details.

---

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**

---

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**
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

Online
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.

Taylor
Ch. 4. Encoding standards
Ch. 7. Metadata: Description
Ch. 8. Metadata: Access and access control

Print

Online
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


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


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**

http://www.library.unt.edu/circulation/reserve/reserve-materials-for-student#electronic-reserves-1 ; password is ‘pancut04’
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

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://www.library.unt.edu/
2. Select Library Catalog.
4. Type in the journal title.
5. Select the relevant entry.
6. Select Connect to online version. This will lead you to the publisher’s web page from which you may access several issues of the journal in various formats (PDF, HTML, full text or abstract).
Via electronic resources

1. Go to Link to the journal via UNT library.
2. Log in with your EUID and password
3. Select Abstract and Index Database titles alphabetically OR Select Journal and Newspaper titles alphabetically.

Via Course Reserves

To access Electronic Reserves -

1. Go to the http://www.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 must be given to you by the faculty member teaching the course.
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.