McGill School of Information Studies   Instructor: Prof. Kimiz Dalkir
Mondays 11:35 to 14:25   Education room 437

GLIS 663 Knowledge Taxonomies (3 cr) Course Outline

Calendar course description

Basic classification and categorization methods, major taxonomy tools and technologies and practice in knowledge mapping and modelling. Theory and techniques of organization of both tacit and explicit knowledge at three levels: individual, community and the organization. Emphasis will be placed on the social nature of knowledge codification.

Objectives

- Explain the user and task-adapted approach used to develop knowledge taxonomies within an LIS context;
- Describe how unstructured knowledge can be organized for easy storage, retrieval and sharing at the individual, community and organizational levels;
- Define the different approaches to knowledge taxonomies for explicit and tacit forms of knowledge;
- Describe the technological landscape of taxonomy software;

Detailed Schedule

Jan. 5	Introduction to Course and Subject Matter: knowledge organization: distinguishing knowledge-information-data; key attributes of knowledge; introduction to knowledge organization and taxonomies; role of LIS professionals
Jan. 12	Taxonomies 101: classification & context; traditional classification approaches; key concepts of organizational/corporate taxonomies; value taxonomies add to an organization
Jan. 19	Building Knowledge Taxonomies Part 1: How We Organize Knowledge: tools and techniques for knowledge organization (conceptual chunking, schemas, clustering & pattern analysis, etc.); process of building taxonomy structures; standards and open content taxonomies; multifaceted taxonomies.
Jan. 26.	Building Knowledge Taxonomies Part II: process of building taxonomy structures (cont'd); user and task-adapted approach; facilitation techniques; examples of taxonomies, yellow pages, expertise location directories; managing user-generated

taxonomies (tags); when they work and when they don't; tag clouds; affinity recommendations (case studies)

Feb. 2   Knowledge Taxonomies and Tacit Knowledge: characteristics of tacit knowledge, approaches to tacit knowledge capture and codification; contextualized classification of tacit knowledge; understanding the organization; content inventories, needs assessment, balancing corporate culture with user and community needs.

Feb. 9   Other Knowledge Architecture Methods: ontologies; topic maps; semantic networks, knowledge inventories, lessons learned; knowledge mapping, semantic web; markups and standards for information exchange

Feb. 16   Support for Knowledge Organization: technology for knowledge organization; browsing vs. searching; research results and their implications for taxonomy development; repackaging.

Feb. 23   Content Management: managing digital content with web Publishing/content management systems, intranets, extranets, wikis, blogs, IM, Twitter; social taxonomies ("folksonomies"), social bookmarking; Facilitation skills Part I.

Mar. 2   STUDY BREAK – NO CLASSES

Mar. 9   Maintaining Taxonomies and Skills for Taxonomies: ownership and governance; taxonomy maintenance strategies; monitoring new input and maintaining knowledge assets; metrics. Facilitation skills Part II.

Mar. 16   The Future of Taxonomies: Personal Knowledge Management (PKM); digital libraries; folksonomies; emerging technologies and emerging practices. Facilitation skills Part III.
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Mar. 23   STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

Mar. 30   STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

Recommended Readings

The textbook for this course is:
Organising Knowleldge. Taxonomies, knowledge and organizational effectiveness.
Patrick Lambe, 2009.   (See also: http://www.organisingknowledge.com/).

Available as an e-book from McGill.   Additional readings, and a reading list, will be made available on the course site.

Method
A combination of lectures, guest lecturers, group discussions, in-class exercises, and demonstrations will be used in this course. All lecture slides and results of in-class activities will be made available on myCourses.

Evaluation

<u>Assignment 1</u>: (Individual or Group) Taxonomy Building	40%
<u>Assignment 2</u>: (Group) Technology for Knowledge Organization	50%
Participation in class and online discussions	10%

No extension, delay or late assignments will be accepted. Marks will be deducted for any late work. The only acceptable circumstances for an extension or a delay without loss of marks are personal illness and illness in the immediate family (physician's certificate required). You must contact me (phone, email or in-person) with a valid reason for not being able to hand it in on the due date *at least 48 hours* before the assignment is due.

Assignments may be handed in electronically to Kimiz.Dalkir@mcgill.ca.

Contact Information

Please contact me for an appointment: SIS room 208   514-398-3368
Best way is email: Kimiz.Dalkir@mcgill.ca

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2. "In accord with McGill University's Charter of Students' Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded." (approved by Senate on 21 January 2009.) *"Conformément à la Charte des droits de l'étudiant de l'Université McGill, chaque étudiant a le droit de soumettre en français ou en anglais tout travail écrit devant être noté (sauf dans le cas des cours dont l'un des objets est la maîtrise d'une langue)."*

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4. "As the instructor of this course I endeavor to provide an inclusive learning environment. However, if you experience barriers to learning in this course, do not hesitate to discuss them with me and the Office for Students with Disabilities, 514-398-6009."

5. No audio or video recording of any kind is allowed in class without the explicit permission of the instructor.

6. Mobile computing and communications devices are permitted in class insofar as their use does not disrupt the teaching and learning process.