GLIS 663 Knowledge Taxonomies

Course Outline

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;

Content

Sept. 3	<u>Introduction to Knowledge Organization</u>: role of knowledge-information-data; key attributes of knowledge; introduction to knowledge organization and taxonomies; role of LIS professionals
Sept. 10	<u>Taxonomies 101:</u> classification & context; traditional classification approaches; key concepts of organizational/corporate taxonomies; value taxonomies add to an organization
Sept. 17	<u>Building Knowledge Taxonomies Part 1:</u> <u>How We Organize Knowledge</u>: 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.
Sept. 24	CLASS CANCELLED
Oct. 1	<u>Building Knowledge Taxonomies Part II:</u> 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)

Oct. 8	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.
Oct. 15	STUDY BREAK – NO CLASSES
Oct. 22	Other Knowledge Architecture Methods: ontologies; topic maps; semantic networks, knowledge inventories, lessons learned; knowledge mapping, semantic web; markups and standards for information exchange
Oct. 29	Support for Knowledge Organization: technology for knowledge organization; browsing vs. searching; research results and their implications for taxonomy development; repackaging.
Nov. 5	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.
Nov. 12	Maintaining Taxonomies and Skills for Taxonomies: ownership and governance; taxonomy maintenance strategies; monitoring new input and maintaining knowledge assets; metrics. Facilitation skills Part II. The Future of Taxonomies: Personal Knowledge Management (PKM); digital libraries; folksonomies; emerging technologies and emerging practices. Facilitation skills Part III.
Nov. 19	STUDENT PRESENTATIONS .
Nov. 26	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 at the McGill Bookstore (http://www.paragraphbooks.com/). On reserve at the Education Library. 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.

Evaluation

Assignment 2: (Group) Technology for Knowledge Organization[1]   50%
Assignment 3: (Individual or Group) Taxonomy Building   40%
Participation in class and online discussions   10%

Contact Information

Please contact me for an appointment: Kimiz.Dalkir@mcgill.ca

General Information:

"McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Council and Disciplinary Procedures (see www.mcgill.ca/integrity for information."

"If you have a disability please contact the instructor to arrange a time to discuss your situation. It would be helpful if contact the Office for Students with Disabilities at 398-6 009 before you do this."

"Additional policies governing academic issues which affect students can be found in the McGill Charter of Students' Rights:
http://ww2.mcgill.ca/students-handbook/chapter1.html

The students have the right to write exams in French

No extension, delay or late assignments will be accepted.

The only acceptable circumstances for an extension or a delay: personal illness and illness in the immediate family (physician's certificate required)

---

[1] A technical fiche (15%) and a group presentation (10%)