

Assignment 2: Controlled Vocabularies

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It is stated in Chapter 9 of our textbook *The Organization of Information* that subject analysis “can be difficult and time-consuming work.” (Joudrey & Taylor, 2018, p. 437). I learned that while trying to complete this project to assign subject headings using both FAST ((Faceted Application of Subject Terminology) and LCSH (Library of Congress Subject Headings) to a book titled *The Discipline of Organizing. Informatics Edition*. My goal was to come up with an authorized subject heading for both FAST and LCSH. When I finally determined that subject heading, I would look at the bibliographic record to see if I was right or came close.

I first examined the title of the book. I went to LCSH and typed in the words organizing and discipline in Subject Authority Headings but found nothing that seemed related to the field of information science. The word organizing by itself also yielded nothing related to the field of information science. Neither did discipline, but I didn't expect that word to lead anywhere. Then there was the word informatics. I typed informatics in LCSH but produced very little in authorized headings. Most of the results were references for informatics institutions. I discovered online that a synonym for informatics was information science. Typing information science into LCHS produced hundreds of results in references and authorized headings. And combining it with the other two terms produced only one possible subheading named study and teaching.

I needed to learn what *The Discipline of Organizing. Informatics Edition*. was about. I went to the JSTORE site to download portions of the book. The first step in subject analysis is to examine the contents of an information resource ((Joudrey & Taylor, 2018, p. 439). In the table of contents, one term that kept popping up in the

chapter headings was organizing systems, but this term did not show up in LCSH under references or authorized headings.

The second step in subject analysis is to create an aboutness statement (Joudrey & Taylor, 2018, p. 442). I went ahead and read the preface and the forward to the book to get a better idea of what it was about. I determined that this resource was a multidisciplinary textbook meant to bridge the gap between library science, computer science, information science, and information systems. The term information management was mentioned a few times, and I suspected this term could be all encompassing and a good fit for the subject.

The third step in subject analysis is to find the appropriate authorized terms like those found in LCSH (Joudrey & Taylor, 2018, p. 442). I typed the term Information Management under subject in LCHS, but I didn't find an authorized term that seemed all encompassing. I did find information management library under authorized heading, but this textbook is multidisciplinary textbook. It was about this time I decided to leave LCSH and try out FAST to find my authorized heading.

Typing information management into FAST yielded better results. Headings such as information resources management, information storage and retrieval system--management, and information services--management seemed promising, but I just couldn't be sure. I realized I still needed more information on this book. If I had a physical copy of the book, I could read a description on the back cover or inside the flap of a jacket. I believe this would be considered an abstract and is featured in the Other Bibliographic Features section under Resource Examination in the Subject Analysis chapter of *The Organization of Information* (Joudrey & Taylor, 2018, p. 458). I decided

to go back to the JSTORE site where I downloaded portions of *The Discipline of Organizing. Informatics Edition*. I wanted to see if there was a publisher description of the book. It was there under Book Info.

The publisher described the book as “a framework for the theory and practice of organizing that integrates information organization (IO) and information retrieval (IR).” I typed the words information, organization, and retrieval into FAST. I got six results, one of which was information organization. I decided information organization was the broadest of these headings and I needed a broad subject because of the interdisciplinary nature of the book. I then typed information organization into LCSH and found an authority record for it as well. My best guess was that information organization was the subject for *The Discipline of Organizing. Informatics Edition*.

Finding the record on the Library of Congress website resulted in three LC subjects: information organization, information resource management, and metadata. My subject is there along with two others. Information resource management was one of the headings I found on FAST, but I neglected to choose that one. Metadata shows up as a chapter heading in the book and is titled Resource Description and Metadata.

I found FAST easier to use than LCSH. In fact, I had started my search on LCSH because I thought it would be more difficult. I found LCSH to be a bit cumbersome to use and I did not successfully find the authority heading I was looking for. It does have the benefit of having a subject list that is the worldwide standard (Joudrey & Taylor, 2018, p. 502), but finding those subjects wasn't easy. For instance, even when you type in information resource management, it shows up as a reference and not an authorized heading. You then must find it in a heading field under authority record.

FAST was created by catalogers at the turn of the century by a desire to retain the rich semantics of LCHS but be more intuitive for those without a master's degree to use (Joudrey & Taylor, 2018, p. 515). FAST does incorporate Library of Congress subject headings. FAST headings are organized into eight facets including topical, geographic, form, chronological, personal names, corporate names, events, and uniform titles. For instance, if I type in the word metadata on the FAST website, I'll get several headings that are topical in nature, but a few that are corporate like Metadata Generation Research Project.

This was my first attempt at finding subject headings for an information resource and I feel I still need a lot of practice. In the future, I will more rigorously follow the subject analysis method before I even begin searching for subject headings. You need to determine what the information resource is about before you start.

References

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