ACTIONS speak louder than WORDS

role of taxonomy in digital preservation

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“A collection of controlled vocabulary terms organized into a hierarchical structure”

NATIONAL INFORMATION STANDARDS ORGANIZATION
"If properly constructed, applied, and maintained, a taxonomy can radically increase the value of information by making it more available, understandable, and actionable."

- Darin L. Stewart, Building Enterprise Taxonomies
TERM LISTS
examples:
- Controlled vocabularies
- Synonyms
- Authority files (named entities)

CLASSIFICATIONS/CATEGORIES
examples:
- Hierarchical taxonomy
- Poly-hierarchical taxonomy
- Faceted taxonomy

RELATIONSHIP LISTS
examples:
- Thesuari
- Ontologies
PHASES OF DEVELOPMENT
1. Research
• TAXONOMISTS

• INDEXERS OR TAGGERS

• SUBJECT AREA RESEARCHERS

• END USERS
3 DESIGN
4 DEVELOPMENT & IMPLEMENTATION
5
ADMINISTRATION
People make choices. Choices make history.

Facing History and Ourselves provides ideas, methods, and tools that support the practical needs, and the spirits, of educators worldwide who share the goal of creating a better, more informed, and more thoughtful society.

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2012
1. Research
2. Design
3. Development

2013
3b. Development
4. Implementation

2014
5. Administration
FACTORS TO CONSIDER

• Taxonomy is independent of tools and systems
• Taxonomy may be implemented differently in different systems
• Sometimes taxonomy works behind the scenes
• Keep users needs in mind
What’s the point?

• **Indexing support**
  Consistency of labeling, tagging, efficiency, disambiguate terms

• **Retrieval support**
  Improve search results

• **Organization & navigation support**
  Guide user navigation

• **Provide context**
- **consistency** (labels, tags)
- efficiency
- accuracy
- unify/centralize
- **disambiguate** terms/concepts
- generate **documentation**
- establish/enact **governance**
- **collaborative** development
THANKS!

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