

ACTIONS
speak louder than
WORDS

role of **taxonomy** in digital preservation

Kathryn Gronsbell, AVPreserve

NDSA New England Regional Meeting | October 30, 2014

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

NATIONAL INFORMATION STANDARDS ORGANIZATION





PEANUT BUTTER
JAM/JELLY
MAYONNAISE
SALAD DRESSING

2

PUDDINGS / GELATINS
BAKING NEEDS
CAKE MIXES / FLOUR
SUGAR SUBSTITUTE

Refine Your Search

Author

[J K Rowling](#) (949)
[Joanne K Rowling](#) (356)
[J K Rowling](#) (222)
[John Williams](#) (198)
[Abbott B](#) (135)
[Show more ...](#)

Year

[2007](#) (1148)
[2005](#) (909)
[2003](#) (991)
[2002](#) (1013)
[2001](#) (976)
[Show more ...](#)

Language

[English](#) (6970)
[Undetermined](#) (933)
[German](#) (772)
[French](#) (432)
[Spanish](#) (226)
[Show more ...](#)

Content

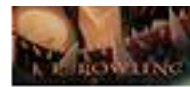
[Fiction](#) (924)
[Non-Fiction](#) (11184)
[Biography](#) (212)

Audience

[Juvenile](#) (1373)
[Non-Juvenile](#) (10735)

Topic

[English Literature](#) (831)
[Motion Pictures](#) (290)
[Juvenile Literatu...](#) (206)
[Vocal Music](#) (162)



[Editions and formats »](#)

☐ 3.



[Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix](#)

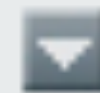
by J K Rowling; Mary GrandPré

Book : Fiction : Juvenile audience

Language: English

Publisher: New York, NY : Arthur A. Levine Books, 2003.

[Editions and formats »](#)



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☐ 4.



☐ 5.



☐ 6.



“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



simple

complex

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**



2

STRATEGY



3

DESIGN



4 DEVELOPMENT & IMPLEMENTATION



50

ADMINISTRATION

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make history.

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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**

taxonomy

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

**digital
preservation**

THANKS!

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