

Taxonomy & UX:

Discussion of Discovery App Categories

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A black and white photograph showing three women in a large room filled with rows of small, dark drawers or filing cabinets. The woman in the foreground is crouching and looking into one of the drawers. Two other women are standing further back, also working with the drawers. The room has a high ceiling with a circular light fixture. The text "Taxonomy is organization that creates capabilities." is overlaid in large white letters on a dark horizontal band across the middle of the image.

**Taxonomy is organization
that creates capabilities.**

From UX Perspective

Structuring Data

Preferred Terms

Synonyms

Categorization

Facets or 'Tags'

**Taxonomy is the
structure behind the
user experience.**

Taxonomy Terms for IA / UX

taxonomy

preferred term

synonym

controlled vocabulary

thesaurus

hierarchy

related term

ontology

folksonomy

facets

tag

evaluation

governance

articulation

Idealized Process

1. Interviews
2. Concepts & Terms
3. Relationships
4. Evaluation
5. User Testing
6. Articulation
7. User Testing
8. Governance

Questions To Ask :: Discovery

What is being organized?

Why is it being organized?

How much of it is being organized?

When is it being organized?

By whom / what computational processes is it being organized?

Taxonomy Questions

What concepts are at play?

Which terms best capture those concepts?

Which relationships are present?

How are things currently organized?

How can things be improved?

What interactions are needed?

IA Questions

Which content is the priority?

In which context will the information be used?

Who are the users?

What interactions do we need to support?

Are there any technology restraints?

“It is a general bibliographic truth that not all documents should be accorded the same degree of organization.”

- Elaine Svenonius