Issues in taxonomy development and application

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Summary of key issues

- What is a taxonomy for?
- Is it worth the bother?
- Multilingual *versus* monolingual
- Coping with different user needs
- What's involved in building and maintenance

1. What is a taxonomy for?

- A few examples:
- Yahoo www.yahoo.com
- Wordmap www.wordmap.com
- Northern Light www.northernlight.com

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Yahoo! UK & Ireland Shopping

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- Tops
- Shoes
- Sunglasses

Stylish Gadgets

- Latest Handsets
- MP3 Players
- Handheld Gaming
- Digital Cameras
- LCD TVs

In the News

2:10pm, Mon Feb 20

- Sounds from mud boost hope in Philippines
- Bin Laden vows he won't be caught alive - tape
- Workers try to reach trapped Mexico miners
- Lawmakers, W. House at odds over port deal
- New Orleans, Carnival have history of survival
- Bird flu could doom Cairo rooftop farmyards
- Surviving Bee Gees reunite for charity concert
- Winter Olympics · NBA · Daytona 500

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The Tetons and the Snake River

birthday today by getting outside and taking some pictures. Remember, your corner of the world needs to be documented as well.

Suggested Sites:

- Ansel Adams - the online home of the master photographer.
- Ansel Adams: A Documentary Film - PBS documentary on the life and art of the landscape photographer.
- Ansel Adams at 100 - held at SFMOMA in honor of Ansel Adams' centennial.
- Flickr: Photos Tagged With Landscape - new photos uploaded every day for the world to enjoy.

Categories: Ansel Adams, Nature Photography, Personal Exhibits of Nature Photos

Yahoo! Picks

NPR: Live in Concert

We can almost hear the collective sigh from hipsters when their favorite indie band skips from college radio to NPR. We suggest they keep their trucker hats on, though, because NPR's Live in Concert is pretty cool. Showcasing rising stars as well...

continued...

New and Notable Sites

Masterwerk: Porsche 911 Turbo - time to covet. (in Porsche > Models)

Sketch Swap - what will you get back? (in Drawing and Sketching)

Vintage Computing and Gaming - it's *so* 20th century. (in Video Game History)

Ask Yahoo!

How did the "penthouse" of an apartment building get its name?

When someone lives in a penthouse suite, folks assume they've "arrived," both socially and economically. After all, the penthouse is at the top of the building. Its occupants can literally look down their noses at the little people.

continued...

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w Additions
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- **Aviation** (731)
- **Booksellers@**
- **Chats and Forums** (6)
- **Cooking@**
- **Dance@**
- **Events** (10)
- **Fitness@**
- **Gambling** (317)
- **Games** (15770) NEW!
- **Hobbies** (2628)
- **Job and Employment Resources** (5)
- **Magazines** (62)
- **Motorcycles@**
- **Outdoors** (25836)
- **Pets@**
- **Sports** (91570) NEW!
- **Television@**
- **Toys** (817)
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- Coaching (42)
- Collectibles (14)
- College and University (3580)
- Commissioners (4)
- Contests (17)
- Cultures and Groups (378) NEW!
- Drugs in Sports (15)
- Events (1016) NEW!
- Fantasy (76)
- Gambling (18)
- Graphics and Clip Art@
- High School (54)
- History (66)
- Humor@
- Libraries (3)
- Medicine@
- Movies@
- News and Media (608) NEW!
- Officiating (16)
- Olympic Games@
- Organizations (113)
- Philosophy of Sport@
- Physical Education@
- Psychology@
- Ratings and Rankings (11)
- Salaries and Prize Money (4)
- Schedules (2)
- Science (26)
- Scores (12)
- Shopping and Services@
- Software (3)
- Sports Weblogs@
- Stadiums and Venues (205)
- Trivia (16)
- Web Directories (85)

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Top Searches

1. Winter Olympics
2. NASCAR
3. NBA
4. Maria Sharapova
5. Curling

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- Libraries (3)
- Mascots (50)
- Web Directories (85)

es of Sports

- Adventure Racing (71)
- Airsoft@
- Archery (111)
- Auto Racing (4017)
- Badminton (58)
- Baseball (13064) NEW!
- Basketball (12350) NEW!
- Biathlon (70) NEW!
- Billiards@
- Board Sports (10)
- Boat Racing@
- Bobsledding (84) NEW!
- Boomerang (7)
- Bowling (681)
- Boxball (1)
- Boxing (456)
- Bullfighting@
- Buzkashi@
- Camel Racing (3)
- Canoe Polo@
- Canoe-Kayak Racing@
- Cheerleading (80)
- Cockfighting (3)
- Cricket (1679)
- Croquet (19)
- Lacrosse (236)
- Le Parkour (26)
- Luge (23) NEW!
- Lumbering (8)
- Martial Arts (1090)
- Motorcycle Racing (213)
- Mountainboarding (4)
- Netball (28)
- Orienteering@
- Paddleball (7)
- Paddling@
- Paintball (77)
- Pickleball (2)
- Polo (45)
- Racewalking (11)
- Racquetball (19)
- Ringette@
- Rodeo (156)
- Rowing (164)
- Rugby (2242)
- Running (537)
- Sailing@
- Sandboarding (2)
- Sepak Takraw (4)
- Shinty (4)

www.vitaminworld.com

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SuperPass gives you premium access to news and sports as it happens.
www.real.com/superpass

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- International League Baseball > Louisville **Bats**
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1. Austin Ice **Bats**
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   Category: Central Hockey League > Austin Ice **Bats**
   www.icebats.com/

2. Louisville **Bats**
   Official site.
   Category: International League Baseball > Louisville **Bats**
   www.batsbaseball.com/

3. St. Cloud River **Bats**
   Official site for the Northwoods League team.
   Category: Baseball > Northwest League > St. Cloud River **Bats**
   www.riverbats.com/

4. Laver & Wood Cricket **Bats**
   Cricket **bat** makers using traditional methods.
   Category: Cricket Products and Services @
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ectory > **Health**

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TEGORIES (What's This?)

- **Alternative Medicine** (575) NEW!
- **Chats and Forums** (45) NEW!
- **Children's Health** (224)
- **Conferences** (16)
- **Consumer Products and Services@**
- **Death and Dying@**
- **Dental Health** (78)
- **Disabilities@**
- **Diseases and Conditions** (10809) NEW!
- **Education** (52)
- **Emergency Services** (524) NEW!
- **Environmental Health** (219)
- **First Aid** (17)
- **Fitness** (267)
- **General Health** (93)
- **Health Administration** (55)
- **Health and Medicine Weblogs@**
- **Medical Geography@**
- **Medicine** (4859)
- **Men's Health** (58)
- **Mental Health** (801)
- **Midwifery** (46)
- **News and Media** (220)
- **Nursing** (425)
- **Nutrition** (402) NEW!
- **Organizations** (22)
- **Pet Health@**
- **Pharmacy** (1855) NEW!
- **Procedures and Therapies** (631)
- **Professional Supplies and Services@**
- **Public Health and Safety** (2554)
- **Reference** (85)
- **Reproductive Health** (774) NEW!
- **Senior Health** (96)

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ectory > Health > **Diseases and Conditions**

TEGORIES (What's This?)

B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L | M | N | O | P | R | S | T | U | V | W | Y]

- Allergies (56)
- Anemia (18)
- Anxiety Disorders (42)
- Autoimmune Diseases (35)
- Back and Neck Injuries (23)
- Birth Defects (37)
- Blood Disorders (17)
- Bone Diseases (13)
- Cancers (662)
- Circulation Diseases (24)
- Dental Conditions (29)
- Depressive Disorders (91)
- Digestion and Nutrition Disorders (32)
- Dissociative Disorders (12)
- Ear Conditions (13)
- Eating Disorders (57)
- Eye Conditions (50) NEW!
- Foodborne Illnesses (28)
- Gastrointestinal Diseases (30)
- Kidney Diseases (50)
- Leukodystrophies (7)
- Liver Diseases (20)
- Mental Health Disorders (50)
- Metabolic Diseases (14)
- Mood Disorders (16)
- Neurological Disorders (78)
- Organizations (119)
- Personality Disorders (7)
- Phobias (12)
- Pregnancy Complications (14)
- Prion Diseases (6)
- Prostate Diseases (8)
- Registries (8)
- Respiratory Diseases (66)
- Sexual Disorders (9)
- Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) (38)
- Skin Conditions (64)
- Sleep Disorders (31)

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Rotator cuff tears can be healed in one to three weeks with Fastt...

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B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L | M | N | O | P | R | S | T | U | V | W | Y]
vious (L) | Next (N)]

- Macular Degeneration (14)
- Malaria (23)
- Male Breast Cancer@
- Malignant Hyperthermia (MH) (3)
- Maple Syrup Urine Disease (MSUD) (4)
- Marburg Hemorrhagic Fever (6)
- Marfan Syndrome (9)
- Mastocytosis (2)
- Mastoiditis (2)
- Measles (9)
- Melanoma (23)
- Melioidosis (4)
- Meniere's Disease (10)
- Meningitis (17)
- Meningococcemia (5)
- Menopause@
- Menorrhagia (6)
- Mesothelioma (6)
- Mitral Valve Prolapse (11)
- Moebius Syndrome (3)
- Molluscum Contagiosum (2)
- Monkeypox (5)
- Mononucleosis (11)
- Morning Sickness (5)
- Motion Sickness (3)
- Mucopolysaccharidosis (MPS) (3)
- Mucormycosis (5)
- Multiple Chemical Sensitivity (MCS) (10)
- Multiple Sclerosis (MS) (92)
- Mumps (6)
- Muscle Dysmorphia@
- Muscular Dystrophy (MD) (26)
- Myasthenia Gravis (9)
- Myeloma (9)
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TEGORIES (What's This?)

- **College and University Departments** (19)
- **K-12** (20)
- **Organizations** (3)

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- Competition policy → Antitrust, Intellectual property rights, Liberalization, Mergers & acquisitions, State aid ...
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- E-business → Data protection, Distant selling, E-commerce framework directive, Intellectual property rights, Taxing e-business, Trust and security ...
- EMU → Broad economic policy guidelines, Economic and financial indicators, Euro, European Central Bank, Stability and growth pact ...
- EU funding → Education & culture, Energy & transport, Environmental programmes, Health protection, Research and development, Structural funds ...
- EU institutions → Council of the European Union, Decision-making process, European Commission, European Parliament, Other EU bodies ...
- EU relations with the world → Africa, Asia-Pacific, Middle East, NIS, South Eastern Europe, US ...
- Employment & social affairs → Employment, Health & safety, Industrial change, Industrial relations, Social rights, Social security ...
- Energy → Conventional energy, Energy efficiency, Renewable energy ...
- Enlargement → Accession criteria, Enlargement candidates, Implementation of EU directives, Negotiations ...
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E-business	Data protection, Distant selling, E-commerce framework directive, Intellectual property rights, Taxing e-business, Trust and security ...
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Employment & social affairs	Employment, Health & safety, Industrial change, Industrial relations, Social rights, Social security ...
Energy	Conventional energy, Energy efficiency, Renewable energy ...
Enlargement	Accession criteria, Enlargement candidates, Implementation of EU directives, Negotiations ...
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Financial services	Banks, Financial conglomerates, Insurance, Pensions, Securities ...
Information society	Audiovisual, Internet, Telecommunications, E-Europe ...
Pharmaceuticals	Health, Intellectual property rights, Market access, Market authorization, Pricing ...
Taxation	Company taxation, Direct taxation, Excise, Internet taxation, Mutual assistance, VAT ...
Trade	Antidumping, Bilateral relations, Market access strategy, Multilateral issues, World Trade Organization, Directorate-General Trade ...
Transport	Air transport, Combined transport, Maritime transport, Rail transport, Road transport ...

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Chemicals
Climate change
Information & control
Sustainable development
Waste management
Water quality

other words mapped under:
Euroscope

Agriculture
Competition policy
Consumer & health protection
E-business
EMU
EU funding
EU institutions
EU relations with the world
Employment & social affairs
Energy

1 2 >>

other locations of the word(s):
Environment

- Euroscope>>Environment>>Chemicals>>Protection of the environment
- Euroscope>>Environment>>Sustainable

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search terms

Wordmap is searching for :

environment | search

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results

Environment Agency - Home page
The leading public organisation for protecting and improving the **environment** in England and Wales ... **Environment** Agency. Skip to page content ... Anglian Region **Environment** Agency Wales Midlands Region North East Region North West Region South West Region Southern ...
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European Commission - **Environment** ... visitors about all relevant issues pertaining to the **environment**. It provides up-to-date information on the state of our **environment**, policy initiatives and legislative issues ...
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Energy & **Environment**

EU funding
EU institutions
EU relations with the world
Employment & social affairs
Energy

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other locations of the word(s):
Environment

- Euroscope>>Environment>>Chemicals>>Protection of the environment
- Euroscope>>Environment>>Sustainable development>>EU Environment Council
- Euroscope>>Environment>>Air pollution>>Sixth Environmental Action Programme>>Urban environment
- Euroscope>>Environment>>Air pollution>>Sixth Environmental Action Programme>>Marine environment
- Euroscope>>Environment>>Air pollution>>Sixth Environmental Action Programme>>Health and the environment
- Euroscope>>EU institutions>>Other EU bodies>>European Environment Agency
- Euroscope>>Environment>>Sustainable development>>EU Environment Council>>Sixth Environmental Action Programme>>Urban environment
- Euroscope>>Environment>>Sustainable development>>EU Environment Council>>Sixth Environmental Action Programme>>Marine environment
- Euroscope>>Environment>>Sustainable development>>EU Environment Council>>Sixth Environmental Action Programme>>Health and the environment
- Euroscope>>EU funding>>Structural funds>>Grants>>Productive environment

1 2 3 4 >>

Environment Agency - Home page
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Energy & **Environment**
Energy and **Environment**. editor: Dr. Sonja Boehmer-Christiansen. published bi-monthly
URL: http://www.multi-science.co.uk/ee.htm
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Environment Australia
Environment Australia **Environment** Australia The Department of **Environment** and Heritage Web site, **Environment** Australia, gives an overview of environmental concerns of the country. Topics covered include the atmosphere, biodiversity, coasts and ...
URL: http://www.ea.gov.au/
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What is **Environment** Wales?: **Environment** Wales
... **Environment** Wales is a partnership of organisations in the voluntary sector, funded by the Welsh ... and encouraging voluntary action to protect and improve the **environment** of Wales ...
URL: http://www.environment-wales.org
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EUROPA - **Environment** DG
European Commission - **Environment** DG - On this page you will find information about European Commission **Environment** DG ... **Environment** DG. The **Environment** DG is one of 36 Directorates-General (DGs) and specialised services which make ... in the Member States. The **Environment** DG is based largely in Brussels ...
URL: http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/environment/index_en.htm
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University of York, **Environment** Department
environmental economics, environmental ecology, environmental science, **environment**, atmospheric ... Welcome to the **Environment** Department's website. Situated at the heart of the University of York campus, the **Environment** Department provides a focus for excellence ...

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DISCOVERY

you are in:

Euroscope > EU funding > Structural funds > Grants > Productive environment

other words mapped under:
Grants

Cross-border co-operation
Employment equality
Environmental protection
Information society
Inter-regional co-operation
Research development
Technological development
Trans-national co-operation

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search terms

Wordmap is searching for :

"productive environment" grants [search]

Add your own terms and press 'search' to narrow your search, or start a new search.

results

International **grants** Dec 03
19 December 2003. Latest lottery funding to improve children's health and education around the world. The Community Fund's International **Grants** Programme has today awarded over Â£1.4 million to help disadvantaged children around the world. ... **productive environment** for children who are living in disadvantaged countries. Our International **Grants** Programme award **grants** ...
URL: http://www.community-fund.org.uk/about-us/news/internation...tional-grants- dec-03.html
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International **grants** Dec 03
19 December 2003. Latest lottery funding to improve children's health and education around the world. The Community Fund's International **Grants** Programme has today awarded over £1.4 million to help disadvantaged children around the world. ... **productive environment** for children who are living in disadvantaged countries. Our International **Grants** Programme award **grants** ...
URL: http://www.community-fund.org.uk/about-us/news/international-gran...tional-grants-dec-03.html
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New Mexico Environment Department
NMED's mission is is to provide the highest quality of life throughout the Great State of New Mexico by promoting a safe, clean, and **productive environment**. ... Brownfields Program Targeted Brownfields Assessment / Cleanup **Grants** ... EPA Brownfields Cleanup and Assessment **Grants** ... Housing and Development Brownfields Economic Development **Grants** ...

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US Patent 5,924,090

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Classification and Taxonomy

- Health care industry ID#26340
  - Ambulatory care ID#204
  - @Biomedical industry (ID#40622) ID#5517
  - Group medical practice ID#26441
  - Health & Medical professionals ID#27311
  - Health & medical services ID#14635
  - @Health Care Financing Administration (ID#14972) ID#240
  - Health care administration ID#5514
  - Health care costs ID#234
  - @Health care policy (ID#42103) ID#27781
  - @Health care software (ID#41566) ID#20935
  - @Health insurance industry (ID#14969) ID#5536
  - Health maintenance organizations (HMO's) ID#232
  - Home health care industry ID#5532
  - Hospice industry ID#5533
  - Hospital industry ID#5535
  - Managed care ID#5539
  - @Medical activism (ID#40696) ID#6406
  - Medical billing ID#5513
  - Medical coding ID#5519
  - Medical economics ID#5541
  - Medical equipment industry ID#26353
  - Medical malpractice insurance ID#5537
  - Medical records ID#5542
    - Medical records privacy ID#24209
      - @HIV/AIDS privacy issues (ID#40971) ID#10473
    - Medical transcription ID#11034
  - Medical savings accounts (MSAs) ID#5544
  - @Medical technology (ID#40373) ID#223
  - @Medicare & Medicaid (ID#14971) ID#241
  - Nursing homes ID#244
  - Personal care products & services ID#27315
  - Pharmaceuticals industry ID#5553

An extract from Northern Light's taxonomy showing three levels of specificity under 'Health care industry'

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What is a taxonomy for?

- Browse/navigation/drill-down
  - Hierarchical
  - Lateral
- Search
  - Filtering
- A combination
- Something else?

Taxonomy: worth the effort?

- Building/maintaining the taxonomy
- Indexing/tagging
- Quality control to achieve consistency
- Training the indexers
- Training the users?
- And if there is more than one taxonomy?
- With mapping between them?

Worth the effort?

Indexing with a controlled vocabulary "is strictly based on past knowledge and experience. Aspects of documents which might prove useful in the light of future enquiry are therefore liable to be made inaccessible."

H.P.Luhn (1961) The automatic derivation of information retrieval encodements from machine-readable texts. In A. Kent (Ed) *Information retrieval and machine translation*. Vol 3, Pt 2, pp 1021-1028. New York: Interscience Publication.

Worth the effort?

"There is some research - and many anecdotes - that shows that the best retrieval situation is a mix of human indexing using a controlled vocabulary and the ability to search full text. But there appears to be no work that will assist the index designer in deciding how much expensive human effort is really warranted."

Jessica L Milstead (1994)

Multilingual *v* monolingual

- Multilingual taxonomies can be much more useful than monolingual
- But also much harder to build and maintain … very much harder

Coping with different user needs

- Are they different?
- Why?
- Possible approaches to diversity

What's involved in building and maintenance

- Decide what it is for
- Involve everybody
- Assign responsibilities
- Organise a good budget
- Plan for sustainability
- Choose software and understand operational environment
- Get on with it! … And keep it up!