

RHETORICAL IMPLICATIONS OF CLASSIFICATION SYSTEMS

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HOW DO CLASSIFICATION SYSTEMS USED IN LIBRARIES INFLUENCE PERCEIVED VALUE OF THE DIFFERENT FORMS OF KNOWLEDGE THE SPACE CONTAINS?

KEY CONCEPTS: KNOWLEDGE ORGANIZATION | GROUNDED THEORY | USER NEEDS | DEI IN LIBRARIES

WHAT WE LEARNED

- Existing Awareness of the Flaws of Generalized Classification Systems
- Effective Alternatives Exist
- Human Resources Limit Expansion
- Classification Systems' Power Impacts Spaces
- Professionals Intentionally Use Classification



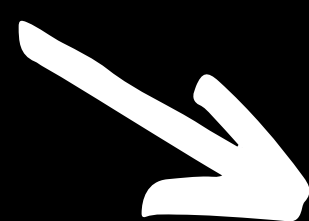
SO, WHAT'S NEXT?

- How can we measure the emotional experience of users regarding classification?
- What is the most efficient way to communicate the intentionality of alternative systems?
- In what ways might we measure long-term effectiveness of need management?

RESEARCH PROCESS

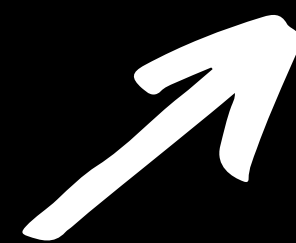
Literature Review

- Melanie Feinberg
- Melissa Adler
- Jens-Erik Mai
- Jonathan Furner
- Hope Olson



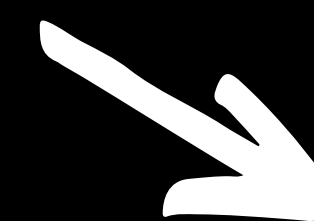
Acknowledge Disconnect

- Generalized vs. Specific Systems
- Knowledge Organization in Research vs. Practice
- Cost vs. Benefit



Site Interviews

- Denso Project Digital Repository
- Seattle Art Museum Libraries
- Gay City Resource Center



Coding Findings

- Developed Rubric
- Measured Core Literature Concepts
- Compare/Contrast Across Sites

RESEARCH LOCATIONS

Densho Project Digital Repository

"We also had this kind of topic list [...] which were really subject terms, along with this kind of geographic list of terminology or geographic facet, a chronological facet, and then a specific facet around camp or around facility [...] because that was one way that users very often wanted to access content."

Seattle Art Museum: Dorothy Stimson Bullitt & McCaw Foundation Libraries

"I want to kind of try to eliminate this underpinning of some sort of hierarchy, or [...] judgment about, what's better, what's not better - all these sort of judgments that are kind of implicit with the classifications schemes that we use right now."

Gay City Resource Center

"the emotional [...] connection that happens through literature right? The ability to see yourself reflected in something, in a way of connection to community that you might not have access to."

"How do we navigate [...] a system from a time that doesn't encompass all of our identities?"