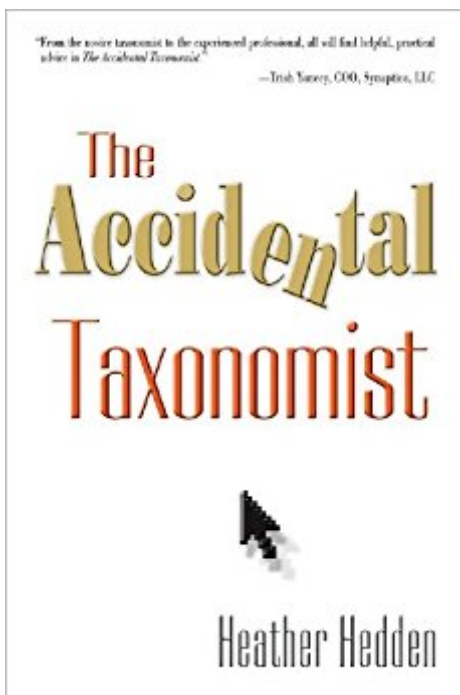# The Accidental Taxonomist (The Accidental Library Series)

Synopsis

â œClearly details the conceptual and practical notions of controlled vocabularies. â | provides a crash course for newcomers and offers experienced practitioners a common frame of reference. A valuable book.â •â " Christine Connors, TriviumRLG LLCThe Accidental Taxonomist is the most comprehensive guide available to the art and science of building information taxonomies. Heather Heddenâ "one of todayâ ™s leading writers, instructors, and consultants on indexing and taxonomy topicsâ "walks readers through the process, displaying her trademark ability to present highly technical information in straightforward, comprehensible English.Drawing on numerous real-world examples, Hedden explains how to create terms and relationships, select taxonomy management software, design taxonomies for human versus automated indexing, manage enterprise taxonomy projects, and adapt taxonomies to various user interfaces. The result is a practical and essential guide for information professionals who need to effectively create or manage taxonomies, controlled vocabularies, and thesauri.â œA wealth of descriptive reference content is balanced with expert guidance. â | Open The Accidental Taxonomist to begin the learning process or to refresh your understanding of the depth and breadth of this demanding discipline.â •â " Lynda Moulton, Principal Consultant, LWM Technology Servicesâ œFrom the novice taxonomist to the experienced professional, all will find helpful, practical advice in The Accidental Taxonomist.â •â " Trish Yancey, TCOO, Synaptica, LLC"This book squarely addresses the growing demand for and interest in taxonomy. ...Hedden brings a variety of background experience, including not only taxonomy construction but also abstracting and content categorization and creating back-of-the-book indexes. These experiences serve her well by building a broad perspective on the similarities as well as real differences between often overlapping types of work."â " Marjorie M. K. Hlava, President and Chairman, Access Innovations, Inc., and Chair, SLA Taxonomy Division

Book Information

File Size: 2591 KB

Print Length: 475 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 1573873977

Publisher: Information Today, Inc. (May 31, 2010)

Publication Date: May 31, 2010

Sold by:Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00507HJSE

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #536,778 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store)   #43 inÂ Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Library & Information Science > Cataloging   #70 inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Library & Information Science   #721 inÂ Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Library & Information Science > General

Customer Reviews

This "accidental taxonomist" fell into this work via SharePoint design projects. I've often found that the best designed SharePoint architecture and user interface nonetheless fails due to a poorly-planned taxonomy. Heather Hedden's book is an ideal handbook on taxonomy for those coming into it, as I did, as an "add-on" to SharePoint projects. Ms. Hedden's book starts with the basics, and drills into the finer points, while maintaining a pragmatic approach that doesn't get bogged down in academic disputes. The result is an indispensible handbook for someone who needs to put taxonomy knowledge to use immediately and effectively.

As a student transitioning from a Library & Information Science graduate program to the real world, this book was amazingly helpful, both in its breadth of information and the way in which it is delivered. Taxonomy is complicated! Many people think they know what it means, and most are wrong. Beyond the navigational application of a taxonomy is its conceptual implications, which, when applied correctly, provides a structure and organizational framework that empowers the entity for which it was built. The approach, organization,and delivery of information that this book reflects, is a perfect example of the content it aims to communicate. What better way to illustrate this complex practice of creating a visual system of classification and order? Ms. Hedden is known as an expert in the field of taxonomy and classification, and this comes through in what I, a now employed taxonomist, refer to as my "bible".

The Accidental Taxonomist provides a highly practical description of taxonomy jobs, the skills required, and the opportunities out there for employment and freelancing. For anyone considering

entering the field, this book is an excellent place to start. It introduces the basic concepts and techniques as well as resources for further learning. It also does a great job of summarizing the different types of work that fall under the taxonomy umbrella. For those who currently do some form of taxonomy work, this "big picture" is especially helpful in communicating to prospects and clients what taxonomists do and the benefits they can deliver.As a small-business owner, I always look for professional development resources that will pay for themselves in one way or another. I consider this book an excellent value and recommend it without hesitation.

This book is a great reference for anyone who is starting a taxonomy, modifying one, or maintaining one.The history portion can be skimmed through if you're just looking for practical how-tos and best practices...but really, even the history portion will help you out in the long run.I'm an information architect, and keep this by my computer constantly.

This very readable book starts with a nice story of how the author became a taxonomist, and then dives right in to the technical details. Well, not too deep - but certainly deep enough for aspiring taxonomists to get a great overview of the skills and techniques required to build, maintain and apply good taxonomies.The Accidental Taxonomist contains life lessons and practical advice about taxonomies, ontologies, vocabularies, entities, relationships and all manner of other semantic tools.The thing about taxonomies is that they really are simple for humans to understand. We all think in terms of hierarchies of knowledge whether we are conscious of it or not. The human cerebral cortex is even organized physically as a hierarchy of layers. Along with pattern matching and the four F's - feeding, fighting, fleeing and reproduction - implicit taxonomies inform how we perceive just about every object and concept around us.This book makes these concepts accessible as either a primer or a refresher for seasoned readers. As CEO of a company that makes taxonomy software (not featured in this edition of the book, lest you smell some astroturf), I can tell you that it really represents much of our philosophy of the best way to use taxonomies in the enterprise.

In the business world classifications are created with little regard to their logic, coherence or usability. These classification schemes are used in ERP systems for configuration, in databases for searching and selection and reference data throughout systems and applications. This book provides a good overview of taxonomy principles and is a good book to read, but when trying to manage taxonomies in the business world, various human factors impact taxonomy design and

management. Typically taxonomy design is left to IT who lack the training and skills. They are directed by various departments to create classifications and use terms that only a small group of people understand and even they create ambiguous, duplicative, overlapping and frequently incoherent taxonomies.With the increasing proliferation of data and our dependencies on data, we need some practical tools and techniques for business organizations to use when designing taxonomies. For example how to select facets and validate facets. This book does not provide this.Those creating taxonomies lack Data Literacy and as a result we continue to create code lists, reference data and classifications that are random, temporal and biased.

The Accidental Taxonomist (The Accidental Library Series) The Accidental Taxonomist: Second Edition Cisco ASA for Accidental Administrators: An Illustrated Step-by-Step ASA Learning and Configuration Guide Just for Fun: The Story of an Accidental Revolutionary The Pioneer Woman Cooks: Recipes from an Accidental Country Girl Swinging by a Thread: The Misadventures of an Accidental Swinger Home Game: An Accidental Guide to Fatherhood The Accidental President of Brazil: A Memoir Radio Shangri-La: What I Discovered on my Accidental Journey to the Happiest Kingdom on Earth The Accidental Guerrilla: Fighting Small Wars in the Midst of a Big One The Unnatural and Accidental Women The Accidental Life Of Greg Millar The Accidental Vampire: An Argeneau Novel (Argeneau Vampire Book 7) Soccerhead: An Accidental Journey into the Heart of the American Game The Accidental Explorer: Wayfinding in Alaska The Accidental Species: Misunderstandings of Human Evolution Stravinsky - Oedipus Rex and Symphony of Psalms: The Masterworks Library (Boosey & Hawkes Masterworks Library) (The Boosey & Hawkes Masterworks Library) J.A. Jance Series Reading Order: Series List - In Order: J.P. Beaumont series, Joana Brady Mysteries series, Ali Reynolds series, Walker Family series (Listastik Series Reading Order Book 13) W.E.B. Griffin Series Reading Order: Series List - In Order: Presidential Agent series, Badge of Honor series, The Corps series, Honor Bound series, Brotherhood ... (Listastik Series Reading Order Book 14) Stephen King Series Reading Order: Series List - In Order: The Dark Tower series, Shining series, Talisman series, The Green Mile series, stand-alone novels, ... (Listastik Series Reading Order Book 30)