Controlled Vocabularies Assignment

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Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH)

In this assignment, I used *The Discipline of Organizing,* edited by Robert Glushko (2013). It's a book on information organization and organization systems, so I chose the following Library of Congress Subject Headings:

- Textbooks

- Information organization

- Metadata

- Classification

- Resource allocation

The main reasons these were chosen were based on keywords found in the site the link took me to, but I first chose "textbooks" because the resource is a textbook. A few keywords like organizing systems didn't lead to any meaningful LCSH, so they weren't included. Once a keyword was matched with a relevant subject heading on the Library Congress Authorities search website, the subject heading was checked for an "Authorized Heading" label (Library of Congress, n.d.b). Then, the subject heading was double checked on the Library of Congress' website (Library of Congress, n.d.a). I limited the list to five subject headings because that felt sufficient.

Then I checked the Library of Congress Catalog (Library of Congress, n.d.c). There, I found that the actual subject headings were:

- Information organization

- Information resources management

- Metadata

It was interesting to see that two of my terms were exactly correct, and that I had two more than necessary. Looking back, "textbooks" wasn't necessary because its subject headings and textbooks were not the actual subject. Information resources management is better than my choice of resources allocation because it's more specific, but I do think classification should stay.

Faceted Applications of Subject Terminology (FAST)

For FAST terms, I chose the following:

- Information organization

- Information resources management

- Metadata

- Classification

These topics were decided on based on having finished the LCSH section of this assignment. I simply took the subject headings from that assignment and found them in the FAST search (OCLC, n.d.). However, I did search other terms like "organizing systems," but once again found nothing.

Differences and Similarities

From the readings and lectures in this module I know a good deal about the differences and similarities among FAST and LCSH. FAST is derived from LCSH, but is faceted and simpler. While LCSH uses combined headings, FAST separates concepts across headings.

Furthermore, FAST is easier to use and more intuitive. It's not as complex or precise as LCSH, and could rely on different facets to get the full picture. Overall, I prefer FAST because it doesn't give me a headache.

References

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