

TECH 305:
Information Literacy
for Technologists

Wednesday, February 3

Professor Ethan Lipton

WINTER QUARTER 2010

Today's Agenda

Understanding and Using Information Databases

- *Group Activity:* Database in a Bag

Communication and Information Organization

- How to Read a Battery
- Scholarly versus Popular
- *Exercise:* Target Reading a Scientific Paper

Assignments Due:

- *Exercise:* Searching Library Catalogs
- Newspaper Article 1
- Information Diary Entry

Database in a Bag

?

Academic subscription databases

Potentially useful fields for your users

- Keyword
- Format (book, periodical, conference proceeding)
- Source title
- Source type (trade, popular, peer-reviewed)
- Article title
- Author(s)
- Year
- Volume
- Issue
- References
- Subject

Database in a bag

- Who is your user community?
- What are the contents?
- Growth/maintenance requirements?
- How are you going to describe contents for your users in a way that makes sense to them but operationally helpful for you?
 - Multiple access points (fields)
 - Controlled vocabulary = human intervention

Subject headings

- AKA “controlled vocabulary”
- A standard search term assigned to an item record to identify its primary content
- Pre-coordinated syntax anticipates searchers
- These search terms are part of a taxonomic structure (indexes, thesauri) which ensures vocabulary control
- Terms are assigned by humans
- A subject but standard control

*Information Organization:
Use Communities*



How to Read a Battery:
Communities and Information Organization

Discussions and Exercises:

- Scholarly versus Popular
- Target Reading a Scientific Paper

See you next week. . .

Delivering Information

–Ken Ryan, University Library

- Public Information: Government Publications, Technical Reports, Gray Literature, Patents, Legal resources
- Delivering Private Information: Indexes and Abstracts / Bibliographical Databases
- Article Sharing

Assignment Due: Information Diary Entry