



Metadata Vocabularies

About This Exercise

In this exercise you will work in your group to discuss vocabularies for metadata attributes which may be required in order to help end users discover information on your Web-site more quickly and easily.

The Problem

AltaVista and other Web search engines support the

```
<META NAME="keywords" CONTENT="....." >
```

HTML elements to improve their ranking of search results. The Dublin Core defines several metadata elements that will benefit from the use of controlled vocabularies for their values, notably Subject and Type. What terms should be placed into such META elements in order to benefit end-user searching?

Your Tasks

Task 1 Think About Searching

We should all be familiar with keyword searching. What other kinds of search techniques might your users find useful for discovering resources on your Web-site? For example:

- Author searches.
- Searching by type, e.g. prospectus materials.

Task 2 Defining Vocabularies

Discuss possible vocabularies and formats that might aid the kinds of searches discussed above. For example:

- Should author names be given in a particular format?
- What 'types' of resources are there?
- How useful are the lists below? How could they be improved for your site?

Background Material

Queen's University, Belfast (<URL: <http://www.qub.ac.uk/webmasters/metatags.html>>) have defined the following list of 'subject' keywords for resources on their Web site:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| 1.Generalities | 8.Law | 14.Computer Science |
| 2. Philosophy & Theology | 9.Education | 15.Physics |
| 3.Psychology | 10.Music | 16.Chemistry |
| 4.History | 11.Fine Arts & Architecture | 17.Life Sciences |
| 5.Geosciences | 12.Language & Literature | 18.Medicine |
| 6.Social Sciences | 13.Mathematics | 19.Agriculture |
| 7.Politics | | 20.Engineering |

They have also defined a list of 'object types':

- | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Assignment or tutorial | 6. Lecture notes | 12. Review |
| 2. Contact information | 7. Mail archive | 13. Service guide |
| 3. Course information | 8. Meeting or conference notes | 14. Software archive |
| 4. Exam paper | 9. Project information | 15. Thesis |
| 5. Image | 10. Reading list | 16. Index or directory |
| | 11. Research paper | |

A Dublin Core working group (URL: http://www.agcrc.csiro.au/projects/3018CO/metadata/dc_tf/) has defined a simpler list of 'types':

1. text
2. image
3. sound
4. dataset
5. software
6. interactive
7. [event] - proposed
8. physical object