

MLIS 7360 Abstracts Assignment

Matusiak, Krystyna K. "Towards user-centered indexing in digital image collections," *OCLC Systems & Services* 22, no.4 (2006): 283-298. <http://www.emeraldinsight.com/1065=-75X.htm> (accessed August 26, 2008).

Abstract:

Purpose – User-created metadata, often referred to as folksonomy or social classification, has received a considerable amount of attention in the digital library world. Social tagging is perceived as a tool for enhancing description of digital objects and providing a venue for user input and greater user engagement. This article seeks to examine the pros and cons of user-generated metadata in the context of digital image collections and compares it to professionally created metadata schema and controlled vocabulary tools.

Design/methodology/approach – The article provides an overview of challenges to concept-based image indexing. It analyzes the characteristics of social classification and compares images described by users to a set of images indexed in a digital collection.

Findings – The article finds that user-generated metadata vary in the level of description, accuracy, and consistency and do not provide a solution to the challenges of image indexing. On the other hand, they reflect user's language and can lead toward user-centered indexing and greater user engagement.

Practical implications – Social tagging can be implemented as a supplement to professionally created metadata records to provide an opportunity for users to comment on images.

Originality/value – The article introduces the idea of user-centered image indexing in digital collections.

This abstract type most clearly aligns with the informative abstract type and provides the four divisions that make up an informative abstract type as listed in our text. It includes the objective or scope of the work as denoted under Purpose; methods used denoted as Design/methodology/approach; results denoted as Findings; and conclusions denoted as Practical implications. Not part of the text divisions but present in this abstract are also divisions for Originality/value, Keywords, and Paper type.

Indicative Version:

This article compares and contrasts the use of social classification (tagging) of images with traditional image indexing practices in terms of image indexing and searching relevancy. The article surmises that social classification is not a solution to image indexing problems, but may be able to contribute towards an increase in user-centered indexing vocabulary.

Critical Version:

This article compares and contrasts the use of social classification of images with traditional methods in terms of image indexing and searching relevancy. Although information is presented to show that social classification, while not a solution to the problems that face image indexing, may yet have a part to play in creating more user-centered image indexes; this report is but an updated synopsis of several articles on the topic of social classification and doesn't present any new material in the field.