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Folksonomies: Indexing and Retrieval in Web 2.0 (review)

Ali Shiri

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de bibliographie. L'auteur ne cite que les sources « les plus récentes » accessibles sur Internet et se contente de renvoyer le lecteur à la bibliographie de la revue *Archives* de l'Association des archivistes du Québec et à celle du Portail international archivistique francophone (PIAF). Il est dommage que ne soient pas mentionnés les principaux textes ayant pu orienter la réflexion tant théorique que méthodologique de l'auteur qui se dit avant tout influencé par une expérience pratique sur le terrain.

Sabine Mas, professeure adjointe, École de bibliothéconomie et des sciences de l'information (EBSI), Université de Montréal.

Isabella Peters. 2009. *Folksonomies: Indexing and Retrieval in Web 2.0*. Berlin: De Gruyter/Saur. ISBN 978-3-598-25179-5. US\$93.00.

The concepts of folksonomies, social tagging, social bookmarking, and collaborative information services have been addressed recently from a wide array of disciplines and domains, ranging from library and information science and computing to linguistics and social sciences. Over the past few years, more than ten books have been published on various aspects of folksonomies, social tagging, and bookmarking. Peters's book takes a more comprehensive approach to placing folksonomies in the context of information organization, representation, and retrieval. As the author states in the introduction, this book summarizes the research findings of more than 700 publications. The book is a very well-referenced source for the discussion of folksonomies and social tagging. While the author does not refer to a particular type of audience for the book, she notes that the aim of this book is to provide conceptual answers to open questions in folksonomy research and to describe the close relation between the endeavours of knowledge representation and information retrieval.

The book consists of four chapters, starting with an introduction that includes the current state of and open questions in folksonomy research. Chapter 1 provides an introduction to the context of folksonomies and offers definitions of common terms in Web 2.0, social software, and collaborative information services. It highlights examples of social bookmarking and sharing services. While the author claims to provide popular examples of these services, it is not evident what criteria were used to select the examples; for instance, Peters presents Delicious and *Bibsonomy* as two examples of social bookmarking, but many other popular bookmarking services such as Digg, Reddit, and Google remain

unmentioned. Also, academic bookmarking services such as CiteULike and Conntea received cursory attention in this chapter. Slide-sharing services such as Slideshare as one category of social tagging systems are also missing from the categorized list of media sharing services. Furthermore, in this chapter there is a section entitled “Libraries 2.0—Museums,” which discusses social booking only briefly in the context of library OPACs; therefore, the term *Museums* here is misleading to the reader who expects to see a discussion of social bookmarking as it relates to museums.

Chapter 2 provides a short commentary on the basic terms of knowledge representation and information retrieval. It briefly introduces the reader to such knowledge organization systems as thesauri, ontologies, nomenclature, and classification systems and provides a basic and very brief discussion of information retrieval models and evaluation in information retrieval, which is confined to only two traditional measures: recall and precision. User-centred evaluation models and measures have not been addressed.

Chapters 3 and 4 are particularly useful and well-laid-out sections of the book. Chapter 3 is devoted to folksonomies and their role in knowledge representation, with a focus on the typology of folksonomies. It presents a particularly detailed discussion of term and document frequency models as well as relevance feedback and similarity measures as they apply to folksonomies to enhance the effectiveness of information retrieval. Chapter 4 discusses folksonomies as tools for information representation with a view to searching, browsing, and retrieval. Advantages and disadvantages of folksonomies for information retrieval and visualization techniques for tag presentation are the key topics covered here. The conclusion section provides a succinct account of the general advantages and disadvantages of folksonomies and elaborates on important areas for further research.

The book covers a broad range of publications, representing many different countries, perspectives, and disciplinary foci. It is certainly a useful and well-referenced monograph for those interested in pursuing research and development in folksonomies, social tagging, social bookmarking, as well as for researchers and practitioners who would like to explore the intersection of standard knowledge organization systems and social tagging services.

Ali Shiri, associate professor, School of Library and Information Studies, University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB