

Summaries

Frank Sejer Christensen: Relevans og erkendelses sociale grundlag (The social epistemic foundation of relevance)

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The article is a preliminary relegation of an ongoing ph.d project on the social and epistemological foundation of relevance and relevance assessments within the sciences. It is an attempt to show that relevance assessments are made on an epistemological basis that determines what documents are considered relevant. It is shown, that this basis is a social one inasmuch as it is the product of a socialization process into an academic field. Since the epistemological foundation of an academic discipline is closely connected to the activities carried out, the relevance assessments of scientist are thereby linked to the activities they partake in. Furthermore it is shown, that the institutions in scholarly communication, such as the peer-review or editorial role, can be seen as relevance assessing institutions acting on behalf of the discipline. The library assessing the relevance of documents for its users is thus embedded in the broader context of the scholarly communication system, and is linked to the relevance assessing institutions found there.

Birger Larsen: Polyrepræsentation som princip for indeksering og genfindning af videnskabelige

fuldtekstdokumenter (Polyrepresentation as principle for indexing and retrieval of scientific documents in full text)

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The article describes the inspiration and motivation behind the author's PhD project and the methodology to be used. The main purpose of the project is to carry out empirical tests of the principle of polyrepresentation as put forward by Ingwersen in 1996. With the cognitive viewpoint in Information Retrieval as theoretical framework the idea is to work with a large number of representations of the same documents. By utilising overlaps between these poly-representations it is hoped that the uncertainty and inconsistency inherent in IR can be reduced and better performing IR systems designed. The article outlines the research questions as well as the methodology to be used in the project.

Lennart Björneborn: På tværs af "verdensvævet": om linkstrukturer og "small-world"-fænomener på WWW (Across "Verdensvævet" [the "World Web"]: about link structures and "small-world" phenomena on the Web)

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The article presents ideas from the author's PhD project: *'Small-world' linkage and co-linkage: Out-*

lining a conceptual framework for link structures, 'small-world' phenomena and knowledge discovery on the Web. This is a novel research field in Library and Information Science, and the article gives a broader outline of some relevant research approaches drawing on webometrics (i.e., bibliometrics applied to the Web), hypertext theory, social network analysis, graph theory, and KDD (Knowledge Discovery in Databases). The PhD project includes case studies of so-called co-linkage chains consisting of co-linking and co-linked web nodes (analogous to bibliographic couplings and co-citations) in a context of researchers' homepages and published bookmark lists. An example of a case study is presented in the article, describing attempts to identify and locate so-called transversal co-linkages on such co-linkage chains. Transversal links (on ordinary link paths between web pages) and transversal co-linkages (on co-linkage chains) function as short cuts or 'weak ties' between heterogeneous web 'clusters' in the shape of different subject domains and interest communities on the Web. According to a hypothesis in the project, transversal links make the Web more strongly connected and 'crumpled up' by creating small-world phenomena in the shape of short distances between nodes in the Web graph. This may have implications for knowledge discovery or 'web mining', when potentially useful relationships and patterns are revealed, e.g., in order to identify fertile scientific areas for cross-disciplinary exploration.

Jack Andersen: Document Theory and Knowledge Organization: an Approach Based on Epistemology and Sociology of Knowledge

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The article describes the authors dissertation project, which is an analysis of the role of knowledge organization in (written) scholarly communication. Being an agent in written communication, knowledge organization ought to be an instrument contributing to optimize scholarly communication and the intellectual access to scholarly knowledge. But the scholarly communication system doesn't work optimally due to scholarly knowledge suffering from quality problems and information overload. Given that knowledge

organization has a role in scholarly communication, it is not primarily a matter of giving better access to scholarly information in terms of technological improvements. Rather, it requires an understanding of the problems facing scholarly knowledge production, when trying to optimize the intellectual access to knowledge in terms of organization and representation of documents in scholarly information systems. That way, the analysis of the role of knowledge organization in scholarly communication will be framed in terms of the problems of information overload and quality. It is argued that one way to conceive of knowledge organization in LIS-context is to consider it in the first place an epistemic enterprise. By epistemic enterprise is meant knowledge organization as a mean to maximize over time the intellectual utilization of recorded scholarly knowledge and minimize falsity, error, or ignorance in this process. By approaching knowledge organization from an epistemological and sociology of knowledge point of view, the objective is to demonstrate how this epistemic enterprise can be interpreted from a LIS point of view. The key research question of the dissertation will be: *Under the assumption that knowledge organization, as an epistemic instrument in the control of writings and reading, should help scholarly communication work optimally, how and to what extent does it contribute to ascribe to documents cognitive authority?* This is considered a question of documents as sources to knowledge and of the role of documents in (written) scholarly communication, which will be treated as the epistemological and sociology of knowledge dimensions of knowledge organization. By examining selected primary documents from Library and Information Science Abstracts (LISA) and Information Science Abstracts (ISA), the key research question will be empirically studied using text analysis. The aim is to analyze the correspondence between the knowledge the documents claim to produce and contribute with, and how they are actually indexed. As a consequence of the research question, the dissertation seeks to outline a theory of scholarly documents (i.e. primary, secondary, and tertiary) explaining the epistemological and communicative division of labor between the various types of documents in scholarly communication. Such a theory will show how and why knowledge organization

can be interpreted as an epistemic enterprise and its connection with scholarly documents, and what the practical consequences of the theory are in relation to the quality of knowledge and information overload.