Subject Information Gateways in Library Science

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ABSTRACT

A subject gateway, in the context of network-based resource access, can be defined as some facility that allows easier access to network-based resources in a defined subject area. The simplest types of subject gateways are sets of Web pages containing lists of links to resources.

Some gateways index their lists of links and provide a simple search facility. More advanced gateways offer a much enhanced service via a system consisting of a resource database and various indexes, which can be searched and/or browsed through a Web-based interface. Each entry in the database contains information about a network-based resource, such as a Web page, Web site, mailing list or document. Entries are usually created by a cataloguer manually identifying a suitable resource, describing the resource using a template, and submitting the template to the database for indexing.

KEYWORDS: Subject, Information, Gateways, Library Science.

INTRODUCTION

The Internet as a whole is not well organised and information retrieval can often be a difficult and frustrating process: "the sheer enormity of information available and the corresponding lack of organisation of this information can prove an effective barrier to potential users". If access to networked information is to be an effective strategy in exploiting information technology as well as off-setting resource shortages in higher education, improvements in the way in which information is accessed on the Internet are required.

Internet subject gateways are concerned both with taking advantage of the opportunities offered by the Internet, and also acting as one possible solution to the problem of information retrieval and quality control which will be more effective than other solutions such as search engines (which lack discrimination), metadata (which would have to be added by authors), classification schemes, catalogue entries or the use of PICS (Platform for Internet Content Selection) to set quality selection criteria.

DEFINITIONS

According to Lorcan Dempsey : "Subject gateways are internet services which support systematic resource discovery. They provide links to resources (documents, objects, sites or services) predominantly accessible via the internet. The service is based on resource description. Browsing access to the resource via a subject structure is an important feature".

CHARACTERISTICS OF A SUBJECT GATEWAY

- An online service that provides links to numerous other sites or documents on the internet
- Manual creation/intervention, often by information and/or subject specialists
- Selection of resources according to published quality and scope criteria
- Intellectually produced content descriptions, ranging in length from short annotation to review
- Search and browse access, and
- Collection management policy, supported by maintenance and updating procedures.

CONCEPT OF LIBRARY SCIENCE

Subject Information Gateway in library science is the first full-fledged subject information gateway exclusively in the field of Information Technology (IT). It is an effective and efficient way to provide easy access to quality information on the Internet on Information Technology to meet the information requirements of the scientific and academic community in the digital era. The content rage of SIGIT is almost every area of Information Technology like e-journals, e-books, IT schools and their curriculum, databases, free as well as open source software, research projects, electronic theses and dissertations, forthcoming conferences/workshops, fellowships and grants, training programmes in IT, etc.

IMPORTANT OF INITIALS SUBJECT GATEWAYS IN LIBRARY SCIECNE

- ACQNET: The Acquisitions Librarians Electronic Network
- American Library Association
- Deptt. of Library & Inf. Sc./ University of Delhi/ Useful Websites
- Dewey Blog
- Digital Librarian: a librarian's choice of the best of the Web
- Digital Library of India

- Digital South Asia Library

- Dublin Core Metadata Initiative

- EasyBib - The Free Automatic Bibliography and Citation Generator

- IFLA Blogs

- IFLA International Federation of Library Associations & Institutions

- Infolibrarian

- Internet Library for Librarian

- Library and Information Links (LIS Links)

- Library and Information Science Gateway

- Library and Information Science Resources on the Web

- Librarian Blogs and Sites Internet Directory

- Library of Congress Online Catalog

- LIS Learning

- INFOPORT

- MARC Standards

- National Library of India

- Open Access resources

- PADI

- Social Science Cyber Library

- Subject Information Gateway in Information Technology (SIGIT)

- UNESCO Libraries Portal

- The Universal Digital Library

- World Digital Library

- Effective Study - How to study effectively

CONCLUSION

Subject Information Gateway in library science will cater the information needs of the specialists who are directly or indirectly concerned with IT as a subject or an activity. It will be also useful for scientists, academicians, researchers, authors, students, etc. who are engaged in IT based study/research work. We work hard to keep updated the Gateway resources and keep on adding new & innovative features.

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