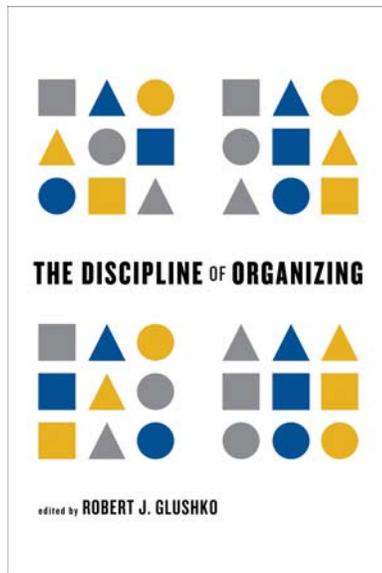# THE DISCIPLINE OF ORGANIZING

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Today's Agenda

THE DISCIPLINE OF ORGANIZING

edited by ROBERT J. GLUSHKO

- Overview; Introductions (2:00-2:30)
- TDO Teaching Profiles (2:30-3:30)
- Break ...(3:30-3:45)
- Future of TDO Content (3:45-4:30)
- Future of TDO Process (4:30-5:15)
- Wrap Up; Action Items (5:15-5:30)

WORKSHOP OVERVIEW & INTRODUCTIONS

- Motivation for TDO
- Introducing TDO in 5 minutes
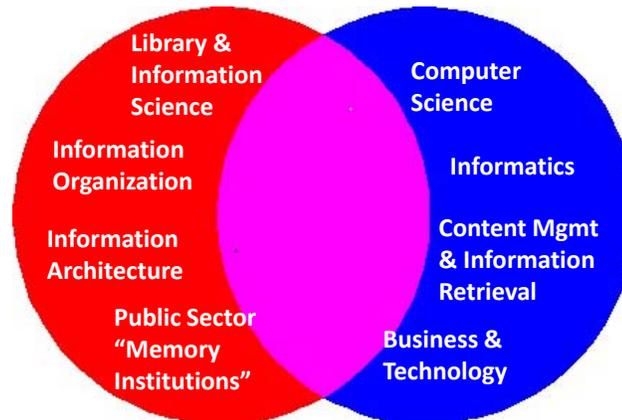- Who is here
- Who is not here

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Motivation for TDO (Professional)

- Teaching the UC Berkeley School of Information "gateway" course since 2005
- The ~40 ISchools are highly diverse in focus
  - Library and information science
  - Informatics
  - MIS
  - Innovation and entrepreneurship
  - …
- As well as in student populations, typical employers, etc.

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The Undefined Intersection

Library & Information Science

Information Organization

Information Architecture

Public Sector "Memory Institutions"

Computer Science

Informatics

Content Mgmt & Information Retrieval

Business & Technology

- No textbook existed that focused on their intersection, their intellectual core

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TDO Motivation (Personal)

- In our daily lives organizing is a common personal and group activity that we often do without thinking much about it
- It is also an important part of most business and professional activities
- Organizing in any context can be more effective and satisfying if we are more self-aware and systematic about it

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Bob's Garage

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Creating TDO

- In January 2010, starting with the detailed lecture notes from my Berkeley course, I recruited current and former students and other colleagues to write draft chapters
- By the time we finished in early 2013, TDO had involved almost 20 authors and another 10 reviewers

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We Organize…

- Libraries, museums, business information systems, scientific data… and other institutional resource collections
- Social collections of resources… Web 2.0… where organizing is informal / implicit but very useful
- Personal information and artifacts of all kinds in our kitchens, closets, personal computers, smartphones…

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Motivating the Concept of "Organizing System"

- We can emphasize how all of these domains and types of collections differ… or we can emphasize what they have in common
- They are all "Organizing Systems"

A collection of resources
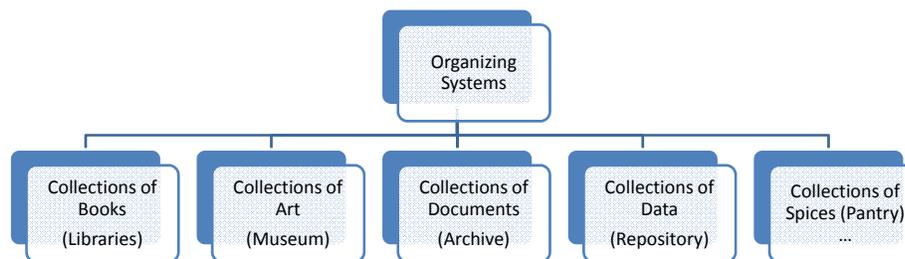*intentionally arranged*
to enable some set of interactions

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The Activities in Organizing Systems

- We can identify four activities in the lifecycle of every organizing system:
  - Selecting resources
  - Organizing resources
  - Supporting resource-based interactions and services
  - Maintaining resources

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Categorizing by Resource Type

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                    Organizing
                    Systems
   ┌──────────┬──────────┼──────────┬──────────┐
Collections  Collections Collections Collections Collections
of Books     of Art      of          of Data     of Spices
             (Museum)    Documents   (Repository) (Pantry)
(Libraries)              (Archive)                 ...
```

We most often think about organizing systems in terms of the type of resources they contain

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A "Design Space" or "Dimensional" Perspective

- In addition to using categories like Library or Museum or Business Information System, we can consider a specific organizing system as a point in a multidimensional design space and these categories as regions in that space...

- This treats the familiar categories as "design patterns" that embody typical configurations of design choices

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Consequences of Dimensional Thinking

- Overcomes the bias and conservatism inherent in familiar categories

- Design patterns support multi-disciplinary work that cuts across familiar categories and applies knowledge about them to new domains

- Creates a design vocabulary for translating concepts and concerns from category and discipline-specific vocabularies

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The 5 Dimensions of
an Organizing System

1. What Is Being Organized?
2. Why Is It Being Organized?
3. How Much Is It Being Organized?
4. When Is It Being Organized?
5. Who (or What) is Organizing It?

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Summary

- The concept of Organizing System unifies a vast body of design and analysis practice from many disciplines
- Thinking in terms of design dimensions overcomes the limitations and inertia of the traditional categories
- It is a generative, forward-looking approach that encourages and accommodates innovation while preserving conventional theory and practice as design patterns
- It enables intelligent conversations between people who didn't have much common language before

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Who's Here

- Quick introductions

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Who's Not Here

- Murray Maloney
- Several other TDO instructors
  - TDO instructors at St. Louis, Penn State, Colorado, Kentucky, Rhode Island, Michigan, and elsewhere
  - Other members of TDO-related graduate student research group at Berkeley
- Technology partners – O'Reilly, Hypothes.is

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