

Search Assistance for Searching Unfamiliar Metadata

Michael Buckland

School of Information Management & Systems

University of California, Berkeley

USA

The provision of metadata is very important for effective searching, but searches in metadata schemes that are unfamiliar tend to be neither efficient nor effective. A solution is to provide mappings from the ordinary, natural language words that a searcher might want to use ("entry vocabulary") to the "vocabulary" of metadata systems, just as Dewey provided an index to his Decimal Classification. The paper reports on the "Search Support for Unfamiliar Metadata Vocabularies" project which uses statistical association techniques to provide "entry vocabulary" mappings to a variety of classifications, categorization systems, and thesauri, including translingual mappings. www.sims.berkeley.edu/research/metadata/