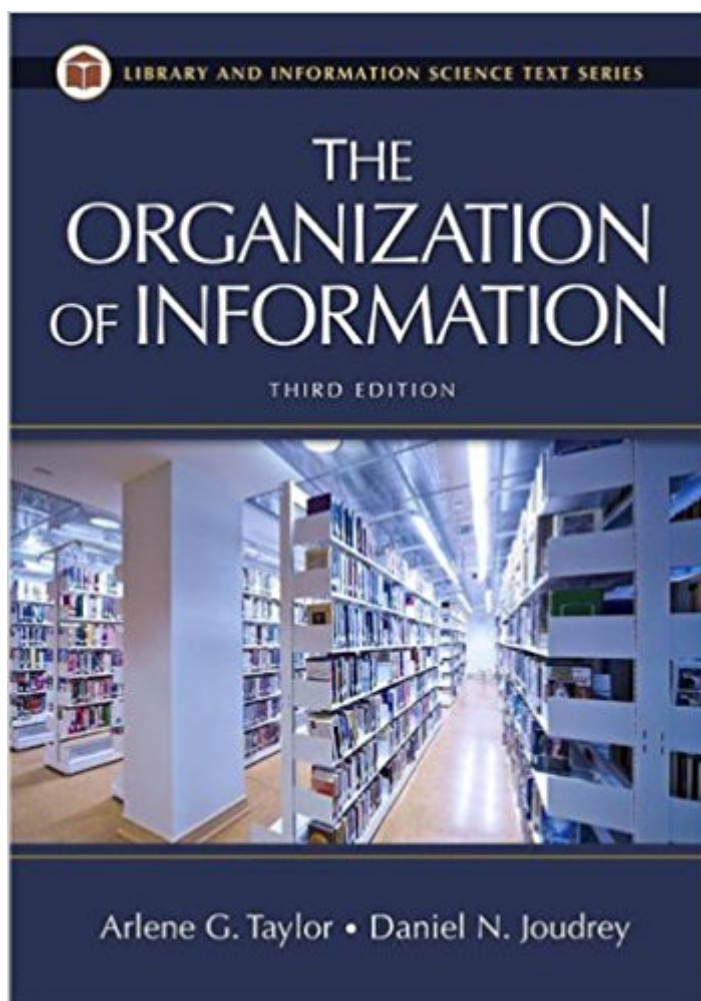


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The Organization Of Information, 3rd Edition



Synopsis

This third edition of Taylor's modern classic continues to articulate the theory, principles, standards, and tools behind information organization. As with previous editions, it begins with strong justification for the continued importance of organizing principles and practice. Following a broad overview of the concept and its role in human endeavors, Taylor and Joudrey provide a detailed and insightful discussion of such basic retrieval tools as inventories, bibliographies, catalogs, indexes, finding aids, registers, databases, major bibliographic utilities, and other organizing entities; and subsequently trace the development of the organization of recorded information in Western civilization from 2000 B.C.E. to the present. Standards of codification (MARC, SGML, and various DTDs), controlled vocabularies and ontologies, and Web 2.0 technologies are but a sample of its extensive topical coverage. The Organization of Information remains the title of choice for students and professionals eager to embrace the heritage, immediacy, and future of this fascinating field of study.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"With chapters on the many complex methods one must deal with to maintain the integrity of original documents, items, and other important subjects, The Organization of Information is complete and comprehensive in its application. The Organization of Information is enhanced with bibliographies, indexes, glossaries, and more, making it an absolute must for any archive which wants to serve its purpose well." - The Midwest Book Review

"While the text covers the theory, principles, standards,

and tools behind information organization in all types of environments, the main focus is on libraries. The text has been reorganized and extensively updated throughout, including new and expanded material on indexing, abstracting, archival finding aids, museum databases, metadata models, XML and XML schemas, the future of MARC, discovery interfaces to information systems, next generation catalogs, new metadata standards (DACS, CCO, CDWA, and FRBR), bibliographic relationships and authority control, the aboutness of an information resource, issues related to tagging, the nature of categories and classification, and clustering." - Reference & Research Book News "This work is highly recommended for anyone seeking to know more about the organization of information." - ARBA

Arlene G. Taylor is professor emerita, School of Information Sciences, University of Pittsburgh, and author of several works on cataloging and classification and authority control. Daniel N. Joudrey is an associate professor in the Graduate School of Library and Information Science, Simmons College, Boston, Massachusetts, where he teaches information organization and cataloging.

As a student nearly finished with her ALA accredited MLIS, I felt that this was not a clear textbook. There were frequent editing issues that, at times, made comprehending the material distracting or, at worse, difficult. The lack of examples and flow made it difficult for me, personally, to feel I learned from the book. While I am aware of the discussion/debate about terms and meanings such as "cataloging" and "metadata," many of the other terms in the book are not solidly defined and terms with variations are not used with a consistent tone for better comprehension. This book may work better for those that have some previous experience in cataloging or metadata. I would not suggest it for those that learn better with examples, as the book tends to try and write out many explanations that could have better been conveyed with comparative illustrated examples. As the subject matter largely covers digital cataloging and metadata, encoding standards, and systems and system design, visual examples of entries would be of greater help than attempting to write a description of an entry out. I would not consider this a textbook for beginners/novices.

This is one of the first books that I've used for my MLIS degree that I've started recently. I'm actually really enjoying reading it. The writing is presented in a way that isn't boring or hard to read and it's one of the few books that I've been required to read for school that actually keeps my attention and doesn't make me want to take a nap. The points discussed in it are interesting and I like the lists of suggested readings at the end of each chapter.

Though it's not a page turner (what textbook is?), this is a really solid introduction to cataloging and information organization. It was the most useful of my MLIS textbooks by far and one I'll keep as a reference for a long time to come.

I suspect that not even the most well-written and sensibly organized text could make me thrill to the subjects of metadata and cataloging, but I'll never know since my instructor for Information Organization chose to use Taylor and Joudrey's *The Organization of Information* instead. The first three chapters (an argument for the continued importance of organizing metadata, a brief synopsis of the types of retrieval tools available, and a historical survey of the history of information organization) are completely appropriate to an introductory text if - with the exception of the third chapter giving historical context - a bit dull. The remaining eight chapters, however, are riddled with acronyms for organizations and concepts that sometimes receive only the slightest of explanations, and rendered even more confusing by the authors' use of APA citations, which left me unable to discern whether the person referred to in the text was an acknowledged authority in the field I was supposed to recognize or just someone who happened to make it into a journal. The book does include illustrations, but frequently they only depict one of two concepts being contrasted, which does little to help the reader visualize the difference the authors are attempting to point out. Overall, while this text does at least provide basic vocabulary for the topic, I'm not sure it does a particularly good job at conveying much more. At the end, I'm left able to recognize keywords but little else.

Class text. Lots of unnecessary jargon.

This was a textbook in my class on organization of information. I didn't enjoy it or find it useful.

If you know absolutely nothing about LIS, get this textbook. It is written clearly and concisely. Also, it has a nice glossary in the back. I will not sell this back. This is the first textbook I've purchased that was worth the money!

This book offers a good background in theories behind how information / metadata is organized. It provides examples of MARC records for examination, but is still an introductory book in librarianship.

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