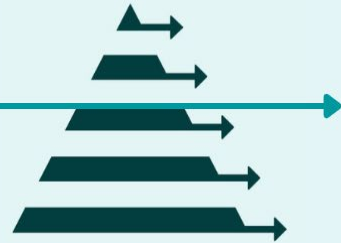# taxonomy times

Bulletin of the SLA
Taxonomy Community

Issue 51 | July 2022

Letter from the President

When my mother was asked what was the most important thing she had learned in her 99 years of life, she said, "I guess it's always moving forward and changing, like the seasons." Since my last letter in Taxonomy Times, I've finished up a difficult months-long work project, started a new work project, bought a new car, decided to move and found a new place, successfully avoided Covid (wait, did I just jinx it), and went on a fabulous beach trip, complete with double rainbows. As I write this, I can see August and fall right around the corner, and although I'm already waxing nostalgic for the longer days, I'm also excitedly packing for the upcoming SLA conference in Charlotte, NC, July 31st – August 3rd. Even though my daughter is practicing social distancing from the store back-to-school displays, I'm ready to move forward and change.

The SLA Source Forward conference offers a great way to move your career forward by taking advantage of the many interesting presentations -- either in-person or virtually – and making new connections. Information on everything taxonomy-related at the conference can be found below, so please check it out and consider registering if you haven't already. If you are attending in-person,

try to drop by our Taxonomy Division Open Community Meeting on Monday, August 1st, 5:30 – 6:30 PM. For questions about all things conference-related, feel free to reach out to myself or Julie Vittengl, our Conference Coordinator.

If you can't make it to the conference but you would like to be more involved, this fall is a great time to start. Look out for an announcement in Connect about our upcoming Board meeting in September (date TBD), which everyone can attend. We currently have an open Membership Committee position, several roles within the Bulletin Committee to work on the Taxonomy Times newsletter, positions within our Web & Connect community, and many more opportunities to lead the Taxonomy Community in a positive direction. If you have ideas for our community, for events, or have an interest in any of our volunteer positions, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Our member survey – which we hoped to get out this summer but was overtaken by events -- should be heading your way in September. This will be another tool for us to determine the ways in which the Taxonomy Division can best contribute to your career and professional development. This will be sent through SLA Connect as well as via e-mail, so please take the time to provide your feedback.

As always, feel free to reach out to me with any suggestions, commentary, or ideas for the community as we continue to evolve and change, and please say hi if you're in Charlotte!

Stay safe and healthy!

Best,

Marisa Hughes

Marisa is the Taxonomist in APA Publishing at the American Psychological Association (APA), in Washington, DC. She began her career at APA as an indexer in 1987, and has worked as a Senior Information Analyst, Technical Information Specialist, and Consultant. She holds a B.A. in Psychology from Purdue University in West Lafayette, IN, and an M.A. in Psychology from George Mason University in Fairfax, VA. Her favorite things are bicycling, volunteering at an animal rescue, and hanging out with her 16 year old daughter.

2022 Conference

SLA 2022 Annual Conference

SOURCE FORWARD→

July 31 – August 2, 2022

Conference Info

PLEASE JOIN US!
Taxonomy Division Open Community Business Meeting

Monday August 1   5:30 pm -6:30 pm EDT

Please join the Taxonomy Division for their open community business meeting. We will have a general discussion of our division activities so far and into the next year, with a focus on new ideas and directions. All are welcome to attend!

Light food and cash bar will be available.

TAXONOMY PRESENTATIONS:

SATURDAY

"There ain't no Sanity Clause": Taxonomy and Data Analysis
On-Demand Presentations
8:00 AM EDT
Primary Speaker: Michele A. Lamorte, MLS
On Demand Only
15 minute Lightning Talk

Duplicates? Obscure text? Unfamiliar terminology? What does this have to do with taxonomy? Taxonomy and data analysis are important co-conspirators. We will try our darnedest to show how data analysis is an important skill to have overall and what data analysis of taxonomies mean. This presentation will be useful for those interested in taxonomy

work, taxonomists managing existing taxonomies, and data folks interested to hear about other tracks of work related to data analysis.

SUNDAY

The Role of DEI in Taxonomy Development, Maintenance, Search, and Retrieval

Concurrent Session B1

3:20 PM – 4:05 PM EDT

Speaker: Marisa R. Hughes, MA Psychology – American Psychological Association

In-Person and On Demand

45 minute presentation

Live Streaming

Words are very powerful, and clear, unambiguous, and accurate wording of taxonomy terms needs to incorporate much more than can be derived from an automated analysis of content. Over the past 2 years, we have seen the need for reliable and precise tagging of COVID-19 related research, as well as the need to incorporate diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) and avoid bias in the choice of terms. This session examines the role of DEI and inclusive language guidelines in taxonomy development and maintenance with evolving research, as well as the implications for accurate tagging and information retrieval.

Panel: Current challenges and advanced taxonomy topics

Concurrent Session C2

4:30 PM – 5:30 PM EDT

Speaker: Heather Kotula, MBA – Access Innovations, Inc.
Speaker: Heather Hedden, MA – Semantic Web Company
Speaker: Marisa R. Hughes, MA Psychology – American Psychological Association
Presenter: John Bertland, MLIS – Presidio Trust
In-Person Only
60 minute presentation

This panel will cover advanced taxonomy topics, including common and current challenges taxonomists are facing in their jobs along with various business and use case discussions. The panel will also have career discussions around what separates a senior position from a junior position and how to take the next step in your taxonomy career.

MONDAY

Research Sources and Methodologies for Taxonomy Development
Concurrent Session F2
4:30 PM – 5:15 PM EDT
Speaker: Marisa R. Hughes, MA Psychology – American Psychological Association
Speaker: Heather Hedden, MA – Semantic Web Company
In-Person Only
45 minute presentation

This session explores the information sources and research methodologies available to those who are starting out in taxonomy development. Information sources discussed include publicly available taxonomies and ontologies, authoritative vs non-authoritative sources , and the role of pre-print, conference, and online first sources. Research

methodologies include card sorting, tree testing, actionable recommendations, content analysis, and the use of metrics in development and maintenance.

DON'T FORGET...
Taxonomy Division Open Community Business Meeting
5:30 PM – 6:30 PM EDT
All are welcome to attend! Light food and cash bar will be available.

TUESDAY

Presentation Featuring One of our Community Members

Communities of Practice: Where Everybody Knows Your Name
Concurrent SessionG2
9:00 AM – 10:00 AM EDT
Speaker: Richard Huffine – Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC)
Speaker: Kendra Albright, PhD, MSLS, BS – Kent State University
Speaker: Heather Hedden, MA – Semantic Web Company
In-Person Only
60 minute presentation

Communities of Practice (CoPs) can be invaluable for connecting people with common goals and interests and facilitate the sharing of knowledge,

resources, and more. Sharing best practices and knowledge can result in better ideas, innovation, and improved culture. Join this session to learn more about what a community of practice is, considerations for designing and growing your CoP, and strategies for success in maintaining a CoP.

Latest Blog Post

How Would I Go about Designing a Digital Asset Management System?

Sereen Suleiman

What is the goal of my DAM system?

YouTube is a website for uploading and sharing videos. Flickr is a website for uploading and sharing photos. What if I can design a website in which public audiences all over the world can upload and distribute photos, videos, and graphics all in one place? After being inspired by the digital asset management (DAM) systems of Flickr, FotoWare, and Cloudinary, I decided that this is the route I would like to take should I create a DAM of my own, and I would call my website VidiShare Max.

Prior to describing my DAM, I believe it is necessary to provide a short background of my sources of inspiration. Flickr is a website where anyone from anywhere can automatically upload, access, comment on, and distribute

photos. FotoWare offers a DAM that also enables users to access and distribute photos, along with videos and graphics, but focuses more on the metadata. Based on what is stated on the FotoWare homepage, users can customize metadata schemas, install access controls to manage privacy, develop their own brand, and design their own user interface (UI), among other features (FotoWare, 2022). Finally, Cloudinary takes a more Application Programming Interface (API)-based approach for users to upload the metadata of their digital assets to their system.

User Needs

First and foremost, to truly understand my users, it is critical that they set up a user profile account. In their profile, they can share information including their name, where they were born, their preferred language, their interests and hobbies, and a photo of themselves. Although it is the user's discretion to choose which pieces of information to make public, the best way for users to optimize the website's features is through the information provided in their profile accounts.

Read More

Interested in writing an article for the newsletter or joining our team?
We'd love to have you!
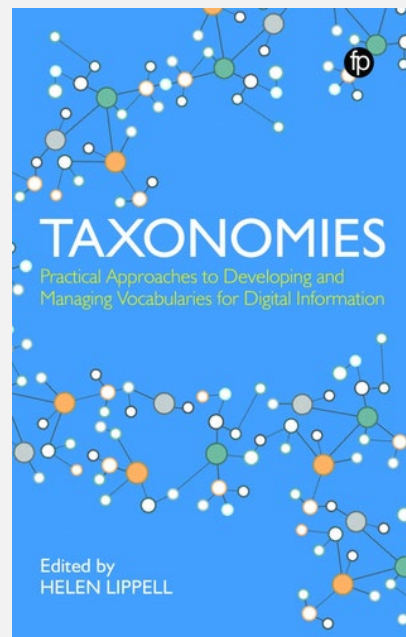Contact Marisa Hughes.

Book Review

"Taxonomies: Practical Approaches to Developing and Managing Vocabularies for Digital Information"

Edited by Helen Lippell

Summary by Kathy Berry

This is a summary of an interview of Helen Lippell and Bob Kasenchak done by by Vivs Long-Ferguson for Synaptica's "Insights" interviews about this anthology published in July 2022 by Facet Publishing. For the full interview, click here.

Helen Lippell's new book, just published this month, is a collection of chapters each written by different experts in the field of taxonomy. This culmination of different voices offers up practical experiences to create a guide that gets you through the entire taxonomy process from "inception, to development, to adoption, and finally maintenance." Helen used her experience from organizing the Taxonomy Boot Camp London conferences to gather together the words of those respected in the field and put it all together in an anthology with advice, examples, and approaches that will help anyone tasked with creating and maintaining a taxonomy.

Each chapter covers a different aspect of taxonomy work, giving useful examples and best-practice advice and tips on both the business and technical aspects. This approach is different from an instruction manual or text book in that it really helps to focus on learning how to manage a taxonomy as a project.

Throughout, the text maintains that taxonomy work needs to be user-centered, recognizing the critical skill for all taxonomists which is to work with people in mind. Skills like "persuading, listening, adapting, understanding, even arguing" are needed to create and use a functional taxonomy. Put together with skills such as building standards-compliant and sensible taxonomies, this book works to present readers with a roadmap for the process. The industry-wide representation of the various authors means that this steps away from being a library science-only viewpoint and serves as a guide for a variety of digital information environments.

For more details on the book, including a table of contents, visit this link to the publisher's website.

Taxonomy Community Committees

Bulletin Committee

To provide input, contribute features, or join the Bulletin community, please reach out to Marisa Hughes.

Networking Committee

Send networking ideas and suggestions to Ashley Hamblin.

Professional Development Committee

Send professional development webinar topic and speaker suggestions to Paula McCoy or Jaye Lapachet.

If you haven't already signed up for the email version of this newsletter, click on the button below.

Sign up for the Newsletter

Membership

Welcome to the members who recently joined
the Taxonomy Community!

April

- Lisa Dang
- Jan Sheppard

May

- Connor Cantrell

- Randi Hawkins
- Elizabeth Martin

June

- Susannah Barnes

- Rosine Bingol

- Daryl Lee

July

- Ariell Lomax

- Fernanda Shaefer

Member Profile

Kathy Berry

Kathy recently graduated from Kent State University with a Master of Library and Information Science. She got a start in libraries as a school librarian's assistant and found that she enjoyed the technical services work, as well as helping teachers and students to find books. This sent her on a path to library school where she found her passion in taxonomies, metadata, and indexing.

She volunteered to help out with the Taxonomy Times newsletter last fall and helped to craft the new design. Now she is responsible for compiling, formatting, and delivering the newsletter using Mail Chimp.

Kathy lives in Ohio and when she's not working, she likes to get outside to hike and kayak.

Why did you join the SLA taxonomy community?

I joined SLA a year ago so that I could be a part of the taxonomy community. I wanted to better understand the work that was being done and to keep up with what was happening in the world beyond the classroom. My focus is on indexing and controlled vocabularies so this group seems like a good place to be.

What is your definition of taxonomy?

A hierarchical arrangement of terms within a given domain where classes have the same level of differentiation from the parent class and group members share common properties.

What's Your Sign...
...Your Taxonomy Sign?

Do you know which taxonomist personality type you are?

Call it your Meyers-Briggs personality or maybe it's your zodiac sign or an archetype of taxonomy. Whichever you decide, here's a fun list put together by Ahren Lehnert back in 2019 (which he refers to as a taxonomy of taxonomists). If you haven't seen this yet, take a peek and find yourself.

ACADEMIC NEWBIE APPEASER META AUTHORITARIAN ARTIST ACCIDENTAL TECHNOLOGIST NEGOTIATOR PREACHER ONTOLOGIST PRAGMATIST