


Benefiting from the Hive: Folksonomy in Technical Libraries

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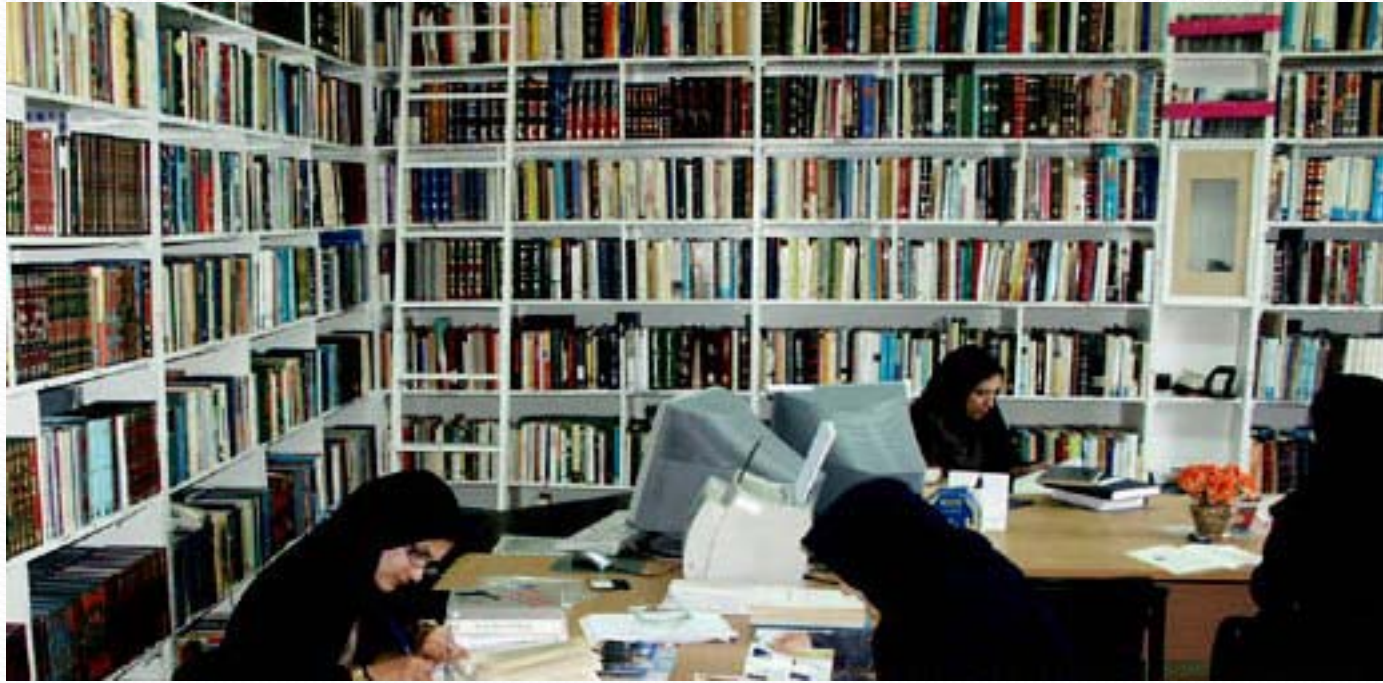
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- Folksonomy (also known as social tagging, social indexing, social classification, and collaborative tagging) is the practice and method of collaboratively generating and managing tags to annotate and categorize content. Metadata is generated not only by experts but also by creators and consumers of the content. Usually, freely chosen keywords are used instead of a controlled vocabulary (folksonomy, 2008).



Islamic Azad University
 1.3 million Students
 9000 Faculty Members
 300 Branches
 27 Research Centers



Location of the project site:
Islamic Azad University, Shahriar-Islam Shahr



Information Counselors participating in the project

1. There were a large number of common or redundant keywords. When the frequency of a word is high, there is a high degree of certainty that it would be accepted as a main tag
2. Different people offered different versions of a particular word. This is especially important when you deal with Persian script whereby you can combine or separate the suffixes. This lead to serious thinking about the kind of recommender system envisioned for the library.
3. Homonyms and synonyms provided in farsi as well as pidgin argot posed the biggest challenge
4. Lack of any subject hierarchy. It seemed that the users considered all subjects to share the same value in ranking and rated them as such.
5. With respect to information resources such as images and drawings, instead of articulating search terms, users often express their emotions. There seemed to be no consensus on categorization of such emotives..

Controlled Folksonomy

- A consensus was reached to adopt one term from among the similar tags offered. The information Counselors made effort to have more diversified information resources available on the subject.
- While acknowledging language variances only one form was used in the tag (applicable only to Persian Language)
- Homonyms were identified
- Subject Specialists were recruited to overcome the issues of semantic as well as misspelling mistakes.
- A shifting thesaurus function for the tags was envisioned.
- A/V sources were given a folksonomic tags