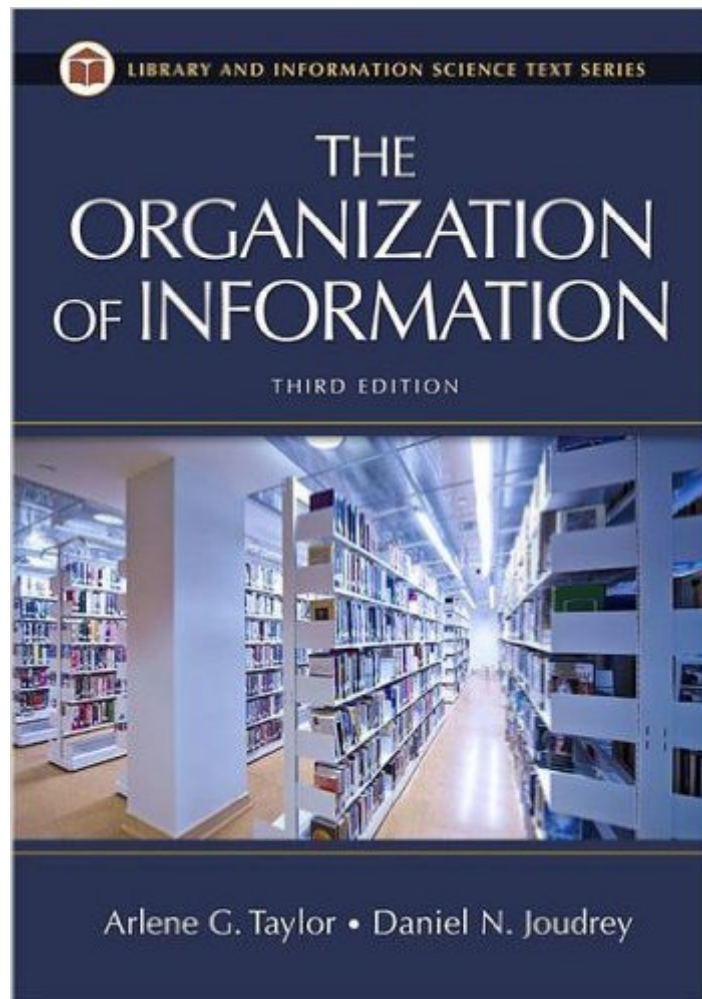


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# The Organization Of Information, 3rd Edition



## 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

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.

More and more information comes into the world every day, and if it can't be managed, there is little point to it. Now in an updated and expanded third edition, "The Organization of Information" is a library science manual focusing on the modern advancements and how they affect libraries and other key compounds of information. Libraries, archives, museums, even the internet are all discussed in the forms they are used to store the massive amounts of information and data the world produces. 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.

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.

This book was a textbook for an information science course that I took. The topics are pretty self-evident from the title. The book covered many good topics that any information professional should be familiar with. Chapter titles included: retrieval tools, history of organization of recorded information, metadata, encoding standards, system and system design, subject analysis, controlled vocabularies, and classification systems. Overall full of good information, provided overviews of many topics, and included many notes and suggestions for further readings.

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 purchased this textbook for a class on Information Organization. Although the content is detail-heavy and is not meant to be read cover to cover, it is a good resource that student librarians, information professionals, and those interested in the subject will be satisfied with. Topics include the history of cataloging and classification, information retrieval systems, metadata, subject analysis, and authority control. The Semantic Web and the future of information organization on the internet are also discussed throughout the text.

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.

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