

# SORTING THINGS OUT

CLASSIFICATION AND ITS CONSEQUENCES

GEOFFREY C. BOWKER AND SUSAN LEIGH STAR

# **Sorting Things Out Classification And Its Consequences**

Jianjun Gao

#### **Sorting Things Out Classification And Its Consequences:**

**Sorting Things Out** Geoffrey C. Bowker, Susan Leigh Star, 2000-08-25 A revealing and surprising look at how classification systems can shape both worldviews and social interactions What do a seventeenth century mortality table whose causes of death include fainted in a bath frighted and itch the identification of South Africans during apartheid as European Asian colored or black and the separation of machine from hand washables have in common All are examples of classification the scaffolding of information infrastructures In Sorting Things Out Geoffrey C Bowker and Susan Leigh Star explore the role of categories and standards in shaping the modern world In a clear and lively style they investigate a variety of classification systems including the International Classification of Diseases the Nursing Interventions Classification race classification under apartheid in South Africa and the classification of viruses and of tuberculosis The authors emphasize the role of invisibility in the process by which classification orders human interaction. They examine how categories are made and kept invisible and how people can change this invisibility when necessary They also explore systems of classification as part of the built information environment Much as an urban historian would review highway permits and zoning decisions to tell a city's story the authors review archives of classification design to understand how decisions have been made Sorting Things Out has a moral agenda for each standard and category valorizes some point of view and silences another Standards and classifications produce advantage or suffering Jobs are made and lost some regions benefit at the expense of others How these choices are made and how we think about that process are at the moral and political core of this work The book is an important empirical source for understanding the building of information infrastructures Sorting Things Out Geoffrey C. Bowker, Susan Leigh Star, 1999 Classification systems and their role in shaping philosophy and social interactions are explored in this unique analysis of human infrastructures International Handbook of Internet Research Jeremy Hunsinger, Lisbeth Klastrup, Matthew Allen, 2010-06-17 Internet research spans many disciplines From the computer or information s ences through engineering and to social sciences humanities and the arts almost all of our disciplines have made contributions to internet research whether in the effort to understand the effect of the internet on their area of study or to investigate the social and political changes related to the internet or to design and develop so ware and hardware for the network The possibility and extent of contributions of internet research vary across disciplines as do the purposes methods and outcomes Even the epistemological underpinnings differ widely The internet then does not have a discipline of study for itself It is a eld for research Baym 2005 an open environment that simultaneously supports many approaches and techniques not otherwise commensurable with each other There are of course some inhibitions that limit explorations in this eld research ethics disciplinary conventions local and national norms customs laws borders and so on Yet these limits on the int net as a eld for research have not prevented the rapid expansion and exploration of the internet After nearly two decades of research and scholarship the limits are a positive contribution providing bases for discussion and interrogation of the

contexts of our research making internet research better for all These limits challenges that constrain the theoretically limitless space for internet research create boundaries that give de nition to the eld and provide us with a particular topography that enables research and investigation Ambient Findability Peter Morville, 2005-09-26 How do you find your way in an age of information overload How can you filter streams of complex information to pull out only what you want Why does it matter how information is structured when Google seems to magically bring up the right answer to your questions What does it mean to be findable in this day and age This eye opening new book examines the convergence of information and connectivity Written by Peter Morville author of the groundbreaking Information Architecture for the World Wide Web the book defines our current age as a state of unlimited findability In other words anyone can find anything at any time Complete navigability Morville discusses the Internet GIS and other network technologies that are coming together to make unlimited findability possible He explores how the melding of these innovations impacts society since Web access is now a standard requirement for successful people and businesses But before he does that Morville looks back at the history of wayfinding and human evolution suggesting that our fear of being lost has driven us to create maps charts and now the mobile Internet The book's central thesis is that information literacy information architecture and usability are all critical components of this new world order Hand in hand with that is the contention that only by planning and designing the best possible software devices and Internet will we be able to maintain this connectivity in the future Morville s book is highlighted with full color illustrations and rich examples that bring his prose to life Ambient Findability doesn t preach or pretend to know all the answers Instead it presents research stories and examples in support of its novel ideas Are we truly at a critical point in our evolution where the quality of our digital networks will dictate how we behave as a species Is findability indeed the primary key to a successful global marketplace in the 21st century and beyond Peter Morville takes you on a thought provoking tour of these memes and more ideas that will not only fascinate but will stir your creativity in practical ways that you can apply to your work immediately A lively enjoyable and informative tour of a topic that s only going to become more important David Weinberger Author Small Pieces Loosely Joined and The Cluetrain Manifesto I envy the young scholar who finds this inventive book by whatever strange means are necessary. The future isn t just unwritten it s unsearched Bruce Sterling Writer Futurist and Co Founder The Electronic Frontier Foundation Search engine marketing is the hottest thing in Internet business and deservedly so Ambient Findability puts SEM into a broader context and provides deeper insights into human behavior This book will help you grow your online business in a world where being found is not at all certain Jakob Nielsen Ph D Author Designing Web Usability The Practice of Simplicity Information that s hard to find will remain information that s hardly found from one of the fathers of the discipline of information architecture and one of its most experienced practitioners come penetrating observations on why findability is elusive and how the act of seeking changes us Steve Papa Founder and Chairman Endeca Whether it s a fact or a figure a person or a place Peter Morville

knows how to make it findable Morville explores the possibilities of a world where everything can always be found and the challenges in getting there in this wide ranging thought provoking book Jesse James Garrett Author The Elements of User Experience It is easy to assume that current searching of the World Wide Web is the last word in finding and using information Peter Morville shows us that search engines are just the beginning Skillfully weaving together information science research with his own extensive experience he develops for the reader a feeling for the near future when information is truly findable all around us There are immense implications and Morville's lively and humorous writing brings them home Marcia J Bates Ph D University of California Los Angeles I ve always known that Peter Morville was smart After reading Ambient Findability I now know he s as we say in Boston wicked smart This is a timely book that will have lasting effects on how we create our future Jared Spool Founding Principal User Interface Engineering In Ambient Findability Peter Morville has put his mind and keyboard on the pulse of the electronic noosphere With tangible examples and lively writing he lays out the challenges and wonders of finding our way in cyberspace and explains the mutually dependent evolution of our changing world and selves This is a must read for everyone and a practical guide for designers Gary Marchionini Ph D University of North Carolina Find this book Anyone interested in making information easier to find or understanding how finding and being found is changing will find this thoroughly researched engagingly written literate insightful and very very cool book well worth their time Myriad examples from rich and varied domains and a valuable idea on nearly every page Fun to read too Joseph Janes Ph D Founder Internet Public Library The Nocebo Effect Stewart Justman, 2016-04-30 The Nocebo Effect documents the transformation of normal problems into medical ones and brings out the risks of this inflationary practice One notable risk is that people labeled as sick may find themselves living up to their label through the alchemy of the nocebo effect **Angels of Efficiency** Florian Hoof, 2020-03-02 Angels of Efficiency traces the invention of film and the parallel rise of management consulting telling the story of how these together brought about new forms of information visualization and visual management The period from 1880 to 1930 author Florian Hoof argues saw the genesis of a form of visual knowledge that provided a novel means to intervene in management processes Visual management largely superseded oral and written forms of communication and decision making instituting a strategy for overcoming the mid nineteenth century crisis of control and resulting in a media based form of rationality Focusing largely on early corporate consulting in America by tracing the careers of Frank Gilbreth and his wife and business partner Lillian Gilbreth Hoof examines the rise and lasting effects of corporate consulting as a visual form Framing consulting as a cultural technique that is characterized by media processes in which the boundaries of economic logic and legitimacy emerge Angels of Efficiency forges a new approach to the history of consulting In addition to pioneering a new field of film and media studies Hoof contributes original research to American cultural and economic history such as archival findings concerning Gilbreth's consulting efforts for the German Army during WWI With this distinct and innovative interdisciplinary approach Hoof has marshalled cinema and media studies

business history and science and technology studies to make sense of the rise of consulting practices and their remarkable stability to this day ARIST 38: Annual Review of Information Science and Technology Blaise Cronin, 2003-10 Contents for Volume 38 Science and Technology Studies and Information Studies by Nancy A Van HouseNew Theoretic Approaches for Human Computer Interaction by Yvonne RogersCommunity and Electronic Community by David Ellis Rachel Oldridge and Ana VasconcelosLatent Semantic Analysis by Susan T DumaisThe Use of Web Search Engines in Information Science Research by Judit Bar IlanWeb Mining Machine Learning for Web Applications by Hsinchun Chen and Michael ChauData Mining in Health and Medical Information by Peter A BathIndexing Browsing and Searching of Digital Video by Alan F SmeatonICT s and Political Life by Alice Robbin Christina Courtright and Leah DavisLegal Aspects of the Web by Alexandre Lopez Borrull and Charles OppenheimPreservation of Digital Objectives by Patricia GallowayThe Internet and Unrefereed Scholarly Publishing by Rob Kling **Power of Position** Robert D. Montoya, 2022-05-24 How biodiversity classification with its ranking of species has social and political implications as well as implications for the field of information studies The idea that species live in nature as pure and clear cut named individuals is a fiction as scientists well know According to Robert D Montoya classifications are powerful mechanisms and we must better attend to the machinations of power inherent in them as well as to how the effects of this power proliferate beyond the boundaries of their original intent We must acknowledge the many ways our classifications are implicated in environmental ecological and social justice work and information specialists must play a role in updating our notions of what it means to classify In Power of Position Montoya shows how classifications are systems that relate one entity with other entities requiring those who construct a system to value an entity s relative importance by way of its position within a system of other entities. These practices says Montoya are important ways of constituting and exerting power Classification also has very real world consequences An animal classified as protected and endangered for example is protected by law Montoya also discusses the Catalogue of Life a new kind of composite classification that reconciles many local traditional taxonomies forming a unified taxonomic backbone structure for organizing biological data Finally he shows how the theories of information studies are applicable to realms far beyond those of biological classification **Engaging Donna Haraway** Cynthia Huff, Margaretta Jolly, 2022-08-18 Engaging Donna Haraway Lives in the Natureculture Web explores the impact of major theorist Donna Haraway in such diverse areas as feminisms Marxism new materialism science studies posthumanism animal studies ecocriticism digital media and life narrative The book shows how Haraway s decades long career as a major theoretical voice and provocateur of thinking about new and complex connections across technology species and disciplines has generated bold experiments in writing from the perspective and senses of non human species in photographic self portraiture of bodily life in animating the lives of scientists in radical genealogy in playful teaching methods and much more Focusing on the ways in which Haraway's oeuvre have affected and will continue to challenge life narrative theory and practice the chapters in this book present cross disciplinary

perspectives which are both personal and critical As scholars students and activists inspired by Haraway s work these essays together ask all of us to think about where we place ourselves in an age of environmental crisis and how to live in a natureculture web which is as fragile as it is beautiful The chapters in this book were originally published as a special issue of a b Auto Biography Studies Standardization in the Middle Ages Line Cecilie Engh, Svein Harald Gullbekk, Hans Jacob Orning,2024-05-07 Rainbow Trap Kevin Guyan, 2025-06-12 Rainbow Trap reveals how the fight for LGBTQ equalities in the UK is shaped and constrained by the classifications we encounter every day Looking across six systems the police and the recording of hate crimes dating apps and digital desire outness in the film and television industry borders and LGBTQ asylum seekers health and fitness activities and DEI initiatives in the workplace Rainbow Trap documents how inclusive interventions such as new legislation revamped diversity policies and tech fixes have attempted to bring historically marginalized communities out of the shadows Yet as part of the bargain LGBTQ people need to locate themselves in an ever growing list of classifications categories and labels to make sense to the very systems they are seeking to access This requirement to be classified catches LGBTQ communities in a rainbow trap Because when we look beyond the welcoming veneer of inclusive interventions we uncover sorting processes that determine what LGBTQ lives are valued and what gueer Governing Biobanks Jane Kaye, Susan Gibbons, Catherine Heeney, Andrew Smart, 2012-02-03 futures are possible Biobanks are proliferating rapidly worldwide because they are powerful tools and organisational structures for undertaking medical research By linking samples to data on the health of individuals it is anticipated that biobanks will be used to explore the relationship between genes environment and lifestyle for many diseases as well as the potential of individually tailored drug treatments based on genetic predisposition However they also raise considerable challenges for existing legal frameworks and research governance structures. This book critically examines the current governance structures in place for biobanks in England and Wales It shows that the technologies techniques and practices involved in biobanking do not always conform neatly to existing legal principles and frameworks that apply to other areas of medical research Using a socio legal approach including interview data gathered from the scientific community this book provides unique insights and makes recommendations about appropriate governance mechanisms for biobanking in the future It also explores the issues around the secondary use of information such as consent and how to protect privacy when biobanks are accessed by a number of different third parties These issues have relevance both within England and Wales and to a wide international audience as well as for other areas where large datasets are used **Critical Theory and the Thought of Andrew Feenberg Darrell** P. Arnold, Andreas Michel, 2017-11-01 This volume explores Andrew Feenberg s work in critical theory Feenberg is considered one of the key second generation critical theorists with a keen interest in philosophy of technology He has made a vital contribution to critical theory in ways that remain of interest given the pressing technological issues of our time The authors of this book highlight not only the ways that Feenberg has begun to make good on what is often characterized as the

broken promise of critical theory to address issues of technology but also the continued importance of critical theory more generally and of Feenberg's contributions to understanding this tradition Education by the Numbers and the Making of Society Sverker Lindblad, Daniel Pettersson, Thomas S. Popkewitz, 2018-03-19 International statistical comparisons of nations have become commonplace in the contemporary landscape of education policy and social science This book discusses the emergence of these international comparisons as a particular style of reasoning about education society and science By examining how international educational assessments have come to dominate much of contemporary policymaking concerning school system performance the authors provide concrete case studies highlighting the preeminent role of numbers in furthering neoliberal education reform Demonstrating how numbers serve as rationales to shape and fashion social issues this text opens new avenues for thinking about institutional and epistemological factors that produce and shape educational policy research and schooling in transnational contexts **Collection Thinking** Jason Camlot, Martha Langford, Linda M. Morra, 2022-09-07 Collection Thinking is a volume of essays that thinks across and beyond critical frameworks from library archival and museum studies to understand the meaning of collection as an entity and as an act It offers new models for understanding how collections have been imagined and defined assembled created and used as cultural phenomena Featuring over 70 illustrations and 21 original chapters that explore cases from a wide range of fields including library and archival studies literary studies art history media studies sound studies folklore studies game studies and education Collection Thinking builds on the important scholarly works produced on the topic of the archive over the past two decades and contributes to ongoing debates on the historical status of memory institutions. The volume illustrates how the concept of collection bridges these institutional and structural categories and generates discussions of cultural activities involving artifactual arrangement preservation curation and circulation in both the private and the public spheres Edited and introduced collaboratively by three senior scholars with expertise in the fields of literature art history archives and museums Collection Thinking is designed to stimulate interdisciplinary reflection and conversation This book will be of interest to scholars and practitioners interested in how we organize materials for research across disciplines of the humanities and social sciences With case studies that range from collecting Barbie dolls to medieval embroideries and with contributions from practitioners on record collecting the creation of sub culture archives and collection as artistic practice this volume will appeal to anyone who has ever wondered about why and how collections are made **Social and Cultural Perspectives** on Health, Technology and Medicine Ciara Kierans, Kirsten Bell, Carol Kingdon, 2016-02-22 Developments in health science and technology have long provided fertile analytical ground for social science disciplines. This book focuses on the critical and enduring importance of core concepts in anthropology and sociology for interrogating and keeping pace with developments in the life sciences The authors consider how transformations in medical and scientific knowledge serve to reanimate older controversies giving new life to debates about relations between society culture knowledge and individuals

They reflect on the particular legacies and ongoing relevance of concepts such as culture society magic production kinship exchange and the body The chapters draw on the work of key historical and contemporary figures across the social sciences and include a range of illustrative case studies to explore topics such as transplant medicine genetic counselling cancer therapy reproductive health and addiction Of particular interest to students and scholars of anthropology sociology and science and technology studies this volume will also be a valuable resource for those working in the fields of health and Introduction to Cataloging and Classification Daniel N. Joudrey, Arlene G. Taylor, David P. Miller, 2015-09-29 A medicine new edition of this best selling textbook reintroduces the topic of library cataloging from a fresh modern perspective Not many books merit an eleventh edition but this popular text does Newly updated Introduction to Cataloging and Classification provides an introduction to descriptive cataloging based on contemporary standards explaining the basic tenets to readers without previous experience as well as to those who merely want a better understanding of the process as it exists today The text opens with the foundations of cataloging then moves to specific details and subject matter such as Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records FRBR Functional Requirements for Authority Data FRAD the International Cataloging Principles ICP and RDA Unlike other texts the book doesn't presume a close familiarity with the MARC bibliographic or authorities formats ALA's Anglo American Cataloging Rules 2nd Edition revised AACR2R or the International Standard Bibliographic Description ISBD Subject access to library materials is covered in sufficient depth to make the reader comfortable with the principles and practices of subject cataloging and classification In addition the book introduces MARC BIBFRAME and other approaches used to communicate and display bibliographic data Discussions of formatting presentation and administrative issues complete the book questions useful for review and study appear at the end of each chapter

Imagined Futures in Science, Technology and Society Gert Verschraegen, Frédéric Vandermoere, Luc Braeckmans, Barbara Segaert, 2017-04-07 Imagining forecasting and predicting the future is an inextricable and increasingly important part of the present States organizations and individuals almost continuously have to make decisions about future actions financial investments or technological innovation without much knowledge of what will exactly happen in the future Science and technology play a crucial role in this collective attempt to make sense of the future Technological developments such as nanotechnology robotics or solar energy largely shape how we dream and think about the future while economic forecasts gene tests or climate change projections help us to make images of what may possibly occur in the future This book provides one of the first interdisciplinary assessments of how scientific and technological imaginations matter in the formation of human ecological and societal futures Rooted in different disciplines such as sociology philosophy and science and technology studies it explores how various actors such as scientists companies or states imagine the future to be and act upon that imagination Bringing together case studies from different regions around the globe including the electrification of German car infrastructure or genetically modified crops in India Imagined Futures in Science Technology and Society shows

how science and technology create novel forms of imagination thereby opening horizons toward alternative futures By developing central aspects of the current debate on how scientific imagination and future making interact this timely volume provides a fresh look at the complex interrelationships between science technology and society This book will be of interest to postgraduate students interested in Science and Technology Studies History and Philosophy of Science Sociology Cultural Studies Anthropology Political Sciences Future Studies and Literary Sciences The Organization of Information Daniel N. Joudrey, Arlene G. Taylor, 2017-11-27 This fourth edition provides an updated look at information organization featuring coverage of the Semantic Web linked data and EAC CPF new metadata models such as IFLA LRM and RiC and new perspectives on RDA and its implementation This latest edition of The Organization of Information is a key resource for anyone in the beginning stages of their LIS career as well as longstanding professionals and paraprofessionals seeking accurate clear and up to date guidance on information organization activities across the discipline The book begins with a historical look at information organization methods covering libraries archives museums and online settings It then addresses the types of retrieval tools used throughout the discipline catalogs finding aids indexes bibliographies and search engines before describing the functionality of systems explaining the basic principles of system design and defining how they affect information organization The principles and functionality of metadata is next with coverage of the types functions tools and models particularly FRBR IFLA LRM RDF and how encoding works for use and sharing for example MARC XML schemas and linked data approaches The latter portion of the resource describes specific activities related to the creation of metadata for resources These chapters offer an overview of the major issues challenges and standards used in the information professions addressing topics such as resource description including standards found in RDA DACS and CCO access points authority control subject analysis controlled vocabularies notably LCSH MeSH Sears and AAT and categorization systems Transformations of Retailing in Europe after 1945 Ms Lydia Langer, Prof Dr Ralph such as DDC and LCC Jessen, 2012-10-28 After World War II structures practices and the culture of retailing in most West European countries went through a period of rapid change The post war economic boom the emergence of a mass consumer society and the adaptation of innovations which already had been implemented in the USA during the interwar period revolutionized the world of getting and spending But the implementation of self service and the supermarket the spread of the department store and the mail order business were not only elements of a transatlantic catch up process of Americanization of retailing National patterns of the retail trade and specific cultures of consumption remained crucial and long term processes of change starting in the 1920s or 1930s also had an impact on the transformation of retailing in post war Europe This volume presents a series of case studies looking at transformations of retailing in several European countries offering new insights into the structural preconditions of the emerging mass consumer societies and also into the consequences consumerism had on the practices of retailing

Unveiling the Energy of Verbal Art: An Mental Sojourn through Sorting Things Out Classification And Its Consequences

In some sort of inundated with monitors and the cacophony of fast transmission, the profound power and emotional resonance of verbal beauty usually fade in to obscurity, eclipsed by the constant assault of sound and distractions. Yet, located within the lyrical pages of **Sorting Things Out Classification And Its Consequences**, a interesting function of literary brilliance that pulses with natural thoughts, lies an memorable journey waiting to be embarked upon. Written with a virtuoso wordsmith, that mesmerizing opus guides readers on a psychological odyssey, lightly revealing the latent possible and profound influence stuck within the delicate web of language. Within the heart-wrenching expanse of this evocative examination, we shall embark upon an introspective exploration of the book is central subjects, dissect its interesting publishing model, and immerse ourselves in the indelible effect it leaves upon the depths of readers souls.

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