What are the advantages of using classification systems to manage information? Are traditional systems of classifying documents relevant to the handling of online materials? How can metadata help with the classification of online materials?

**Lab component**

Working in pairs,

1. Have at the look at the metadata used with the following home pages, as well as some of the internal web pages they point to (choose ‘View Page Source’ / CTRL-U in Navigator to find the metadata tags):
   
   
   

   How is Dublin Core used in each case? Which tags would you add/amend if you were responsible for these web pages? Why are some non-Dublin Core metadata tags used as well?

2. Go to the Yahoo web site ([www.yahoo.com](http://www.yahoo.com)), and find the section entitled ‘Web Site Directory - Sites organized by subject’. Use Yahoo’s directory to find four web pages with information about one of the following: the Big Brother TV show in Australia (or another country); animals; cars. Write down the directory path (‘bread crumbs’) you followed to reach these web sites.

3. Now use the Search box at the Yahoo site to find information about the same topic **within the Yahoo directory**. Are some of these sites listed in a different part of the directory to the one you found in step 1? If so, identify the basis upon which these sites are listed separately.

4. Go to the BUBL LINK site ([http://bubl.ac.uk/](http://bubl.ac.uk/)). What classification system is in use here?

5. Use both BUBL and the Yahoo Directory to find:
   
   a. A site where you can download Web browsers;
   
   b. Sites relating to political parties in Australia;
c. Sites containing photo collections of jazz musicians.

6. What are the advantages and disadvantages of using the Yahoo directory to classify web sites? What are the advantages and disadvantages of using the Dewey system to classify web sites? How do the two approaches compare? Which do you prefer? Why?

7. Like many other libraries, Monash uses the Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC). Do the tutorial on the DDC at http://www.oclc.org/dewey/about/ddctour/index.htm.

8. If there is time, answer the questions in the section ‘Test your knowledge of the DDC!’ Do you agree that the DDC ‘can help you organize information on any topic under the sun’? Why?

Tutorial component:

Working in groups of four or five,

a) You have inherited a pet shop from your favourite uncle. All common household pets (and maybe some unusual ones) can be found there. What criteria would you use to classify and group its animals from the point of view of:

1. Different customer needs
2. Physical layout of the shop
3. Feeding requirements

b) What sort of information products and byproducts would you expect to be managed in a pet shop? How would you group (ie classify) them in order to run the business well?

c) Consider the animal classification system in the handout (taken from http://www.uncc.edu/jmarks/2141/Folk_Classification.pdf).

1. What criteria underlie its divisions (ie the way animals are grouped)?
2. What are the advantages of this system of classification?
3. Are there any disadvantages?
4. Can you think of animals that don’t fit into any of these categories (eg animals with many feet that are EDIBLE)?
5. How would you classify the animals that you encounter from day to day?

If there is time remaining, work on your group assignment.