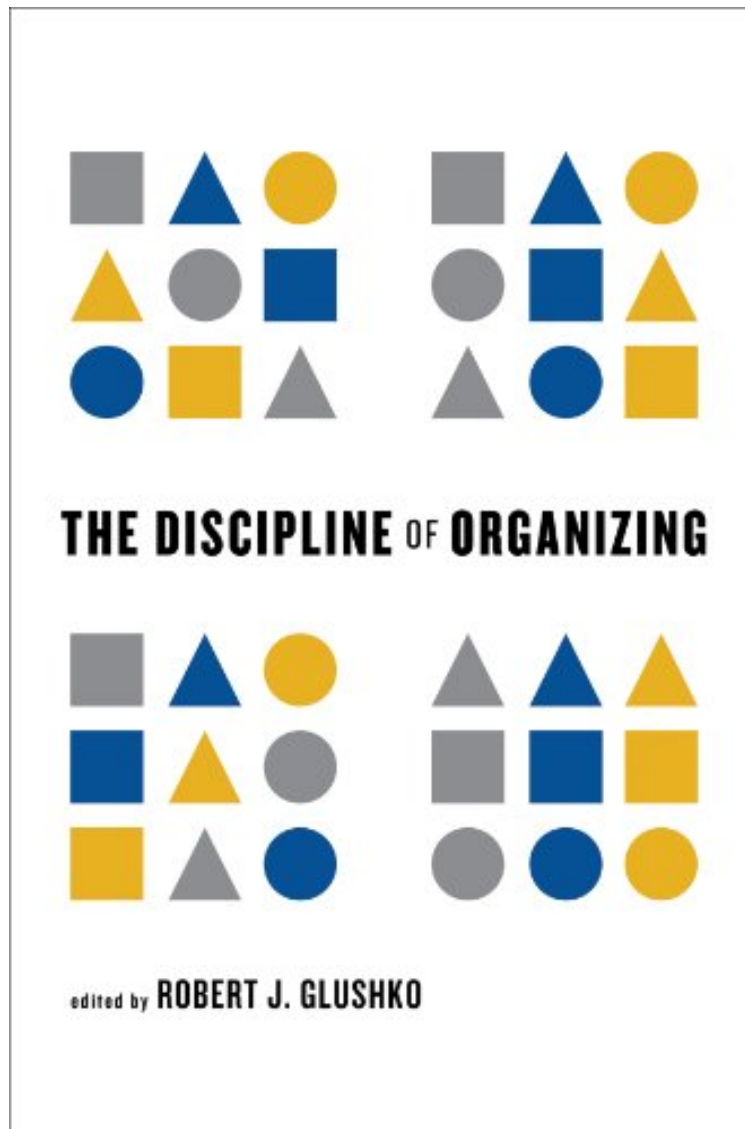


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## The Discipline of Organizing (MIT Press)

*Robert J. Glushko*

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**Robert J. Glushko : The Discipline of Organizing (MIT Press)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Discipline of Organizing (MIT Press):

17 of 17 people found the following review helpful. Best Value for LIS AND Big DataBy Let's Compare Options PreptorialI assemble all the metadata for library picks dot com for LIS systems, from tags to ebooks, digital collections, xml, and many others. In that capacity, I've read, reviewed and recommended over a dozen of the top metadata books, and this volume stands head and shoulders above the rest. I originally heard about it when the librarians at textextras dot com sent a flyer of the top five metadata books, and this was number 1. Number two (albeit MUCH more costly) was June Abbas fine book: Structures for Organizing Knowledge: Exploring Taxonomies, Ontologies, and Other

Schema. Frankly, although both are outstanding, THIS title has less history, more content, and is just as up to date as June's, although if you have the budget, Abbas is also a must. First, at nearly 500 pages, it compares (actually excels) others that sell for \$100 plus, at a fraction of the cost and three times the coverage. As an MIT title, the editing quality is comparable to Springer titles that are not as up to date, and cost \$150 US plus. I'm sometimes surprised at the "hot selling" big data titles for companies, when this lesser known Library Information Science/Systems (LIS) field has extraordinary metadata information, from digital files to storage and retrieval (this author's forte). There even is a new "CDSO" position in companies (Chief Data Science Officer) paying in some cases over \$240K US, which is, essentially, a digital librarian with great semantic web and/or XML skills! Data Science folks take note: you get a much bigger bang for your buck with this title, which covers your field as well as many deeper search/ cataloging topics, very up to date, than specialized books lurching off the "big data" title and really not covering the "how to" essentials as this fine text does. If you're new to the field, "meta" generally means recursion, so metadata is data about data-- keywords, searches, indexing, cataloging, taxonomy, ontology, classification science, etc. It is the old card catalog updated to the Google era of search/ retrieval, and at its apex, deals with bayesian models, markov, stats, etc. in "guessing" the most relevant hierarchies. In the words of one of the greatest philosophers of all time (Jeff Goldblum in Law and Order, Criminal Intent): "The brain is, essentially, a relevance machine." Ergo, hierarchies and classifications using recursion! Some scholarly journals are now even requiring standardized classification system numbers in specialized areas (like ISBN or ASIN), only for numerous science topics. Two examples: The MSC2010 in math, and the ACM 2012 in Computer Science. Google them for examples. Physicists are already aware of the newer Gauge classifiers, and LIS and big data folk are now folding those into wider bodies of knowledge in STEM. Other bodies of knowledge focus on standards, like IEEE, but also are essentially classification systems. The book covers the broadest range of topics I've found in metadata, from digital to classic organization science. It also gives a great bib, so you can buy the RIGHT XML detail book for \$20 instead of the prettied-up "XML for Librarians" for \$80! Big data-ers take note: this author also details more specialized software and apps that are just as important for IT departments and corporations in general, as libraries. If you're into LIS, search engines, bodies of knowledge, classifications systems, etc. this is a MUST. But I'd also push the envelope and say that it also will find a great new audience for the price and content in big data. Highly recommended. By the way, speaking of, if you ARE in IT or big data, Glushko also has a more technical corporate-frame book that's also from MIT, and was on sale for a while (at 700 pages!) for under \$20 US. Compare it to others HERE: Document Engineering: Analyzing and Designing Documents for Business Informatics and Web Services. E-mailer question: "I heard this guy is more of a library than IT person, and trashes IT. Is that true?" A. Actually, no. The author makes a point of "staying positive" but does tell a sad and funny story of Bush/Memex and a bunch of MIT researchers who wasted nearly entire careers on a "weblike organizing machine"-- even presaging URLs in some ways, but which never saw the light of day or proved useful to anyone. Glushko deftly shows how LIS principles not only would have saved that effort, but also how they were and are being employed in the digital age in many forms. Some LIS folks call things resources, arrangements, relationships, scans, retrieves, interactions etc. that we IT folks would call parsing, compiling, links, subroutines, objects and classes, but Glushko is savvy enough to relate these to each other throughout the text. This book really creates an entirely new field of "organizing science" at the intersections of Big Data, LIS and IT, pretty amazing. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Detailed and useful. By Holly J. This book is quite comprehensive and I'm sure it would give someone in the field a good thorough introduction to the systematics of organization. For me, it went into more of the tech based/computer databases organization than I was interested in - but still useful. I am more interested in the hows and whys of organization, and the different systems used in different fields, and how they evolved. My personal emphasis in this area has to do with the practice of indexing. This was certainly covered here, but I would have liked more of the material dealing with the practice of determining categorization - which this book covers - instead of so much in the area of designing databases, and the use of concordances, and search tools. Still, a worthwhile book. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. It's a Book. About Organizing. And it's Very, Very Well Organized. By Erin Hughes. If you're a library student, or a grad student doing research on information behavior, this is the book for you. It's an extraordinarily well-researched book on how to organize information. Because of its relative newness, it does delve into concepts of social tagging, etc. I found it very useful for my indexing and organizing information class, and as I said, it has its own extensive index and well organized chapters. Once you get used to the formatting and subheadings, you'll notice that the author even has a pretty good sense of humor- he uses real-life, and TV shows to illustrate some of his points, and this book, though the title sounds boring, is actually pretty darn good if you're an information junky.

Organizing is such a common activity that we often do it without thinking much about it. In our daily lives we organize physical things -- books on shelves, cutlery in kitchen drawers -- and digital things -- Web pages, MP3 files, scientific datasets. Millions of people create and browse Web sites, blog, tag, tweet, and upload and download content of all media types without thinking "I'm organizing now" or "I'm retrieving now." This book offers a framework for the theory and practice of organizing that integrates information organization (IO) and information retrieval (IR), bridging

the disciplinary chasms between Library and Information Science and Computer Science, each of which views and teaches IO and IR as separate topics and in substantially different ways. It introduces the unifying concept of an Organizing System -- an intentionally arranged collection of resources and the interactions they support -- and then explains the key concepts and challenges in the design and deployment of Organizing Systems in many domains, including libraries, museums, business information systems, personal information management, and social computing. Intended for classroom use or as a professional reference, the book covers the activities common to all organizing systems: identifying resources to be organized; organizing resources by describing and classifying them; designing resource-based interactions; and maintaining resources and organization over time. The book is extensively annotated with disciplinary-specific notes to ground it with relevant concepts and references of library science, computing, cognitive science, law, and business.

A masterful piece of work. (Don Norman, author of *Living with Complexity* and *The Design of Everyday Things*) This book is long overdue. Robert Glushko demystifies the discipline of organizing things, making the case for a unified approach to the way we arrange things and the information about them. This book is not only jam-packed full of extremely practical advice, it's a fascinating read loaded with examples from all walks of life. A must-read! (Scott Abel, The Content Wrangler, Inc.) *The Discipline of Organizing* is an innovative synthesis of library science and computer science that is both of fundamental interest and entirely practical. It is a must-read for all students, faculty, and practitioners who aspire to be better designers of product and service systems. (James C. Spohrer, Director, IBM University Programs Worldwide) This is a wonderfully executed book that represents a significant new way, in both form and substance, of thinking about knowledge representation within an expanding interdisciplinary field. It is an ideal introduction to the conceptual and technical problems of knowledge representation that will serve library and information professionals and those in many other professional fields. It provides an exemplary model for rethinking the core library and information curriculum toward an inevitable, broader, and more inclusive information discipline. (Ron Day, Associate Professor, School of Library and Information Science, University of Indiana) This ambitious and well-written book provides a foundation of the theory and practice of organizing. It is highly recommended to library and information science academics who incorporate the concept of organizing or organization into their courses. (Library Journal) About the Author Robert J. Glushko is Adjunct Full Professor in the School of Information at the University of California, Berkeley. He is the coauthor (with Tim McGrath) of *Document Engineering: Analyzing and Designing Documents for Business Informatics and Web Services* (MIT Press).