

Indexing and Abstracting Assignment

Assignment four, Group Issue Assignment

Overview

In this assignment, you will work with a group to identify current issues in a relevant area of indexing and abstracting. Your group will select and review one significant article per person and will write a critical abstract about that article to share with the class. In addition, your group should collectively write up a short overview of the issue that you are presenting and come up with at least three discussion questions.

During your assigned class – Weeks 10 (10/22) through 15 (11/26), your group will share your overview and abstracts with the class and will lead the class discussion.

Purpose

The purpose of this assignment is to encourage you to look into specific issues in indexing and abstracting in more depth.

Group Definition

Group 1

Members

Broad topic

Who should index is a growing issue in the indexing and abstracting field. Traditionally, only trained indexers were allowed to create indexes and abstracts. With the web, that is changing.

Group 2

Members

Broad Topic

Automated indexing and abstracting is a mechanism by which indexing and abstracting can keep pace with the growing amount of publication. Is this a good thing? A bad thing?

Group 3

Members

Broad Topic

The career of the indexer is not the same as it used to be. The field requires new skills and is competing with new players. What impact does this have on the indexing profession?

Group 4

Members

Broad Topic

Multi-media is both a growing component of information and is much different from text in indexing. What issues surround indexing and abstracting multi-media?

Group 5

Members

Broad Topic

The Internet has radically changed the publishing and information landscape. The sheer amount and type of information on the web seems to defy indexing, what issues surround this?

Guidelines

- Meet virtually (via email, phone, or other system) with your group to refine your topic and do preliminary research
- Identify a single issue to investigate further
- Perform a more extensive search of literature, news, etc and select one resource per person to review
- Read your resource and write a critical abstract to share with the class
- As a group, write a brief overview (no more than 500 words or 1 page) which presents the issue, key players/sides, etc.
- Upload all of this information to your group workspace on Blackboard
- During your assigned week, the class will read your abstracts. Your group will be responsible for leading the discussion.

Evaluation

This assignment will be evaluated using the following rubric.

Group Issue presentation

Your group will be evaluated on its presentation of the issue that you selected and your discussion of this issue during your assigned class week.

Individual abstract evaluation

Quality of abstracting

Extensivity of indexing

Are the main ideas of the resource covered?

Are supplemental ideas, procedures, information covered where appropriate

Specificity of indexing

Does the level of coverage for the resource match the type/scope of the abstract?

Consistency of abstracting

Consistency of structure

Do the abstracts follow standard formatting and structure?

Consistency of content

Are the abstract contents consistent with the resource being reviewed?

Formatting of the abstract

Does the abstract follow expected format (particularly for structured abstracts)?

Are sentences well formed and grammatically correct?

Does the abstract 'make sense'?

Important Dates

Assignment due dates vary by group.

10/22/2007	Group 1
10/29/2007	Group 2
11/5/2007	Group 3
11/12/2007	Group 4
11/19/2007	Thanksgiving 11/20-26
11/26/2007	Group 5

Resources to consider

Library and information science databases