

IS 590: Fall 2008

Information Architecture

Information architecture is concerned with the way shared information environments are structured. This course will provide an overview for people new to the field and a theoretical foundation for those with practical experience. Information architecture draws from three independent bases. The first is the study of user needs and behaviors when people interact with information. The second is the field of information organization, including the study of formal approaches to subject classification and controlled vocabularies as well as the evolving practice of social classification. The third base is the study of user interfaces to information systems. In this class, we will look at theories and research findings and at the implications that these draw for the design of web-based information systems. Design implications to be studied include those concerned with labeling, website navigation and information search. The course will use the 3rd edition of Morville and Rosenfeld's classic text, "Information Architecture for the World Wide Web".