Chapter 5
Ontology: Advancing Flawless Library Services

Syed Raiyan Ghani
SCS, India

ABSTRACT

Library requires mighty technologies to support, sort and categorize information in the shortest span of time for better knowledge-tasks and decision-making. Ontology is one of the needs and adroitness which helps library users in acquiring better standardized vocabulary, better routes and better search. The chapter discusses how ontology libraries can process as a connection in modifying versatile users and diligence to reveal, judge, utilize, and disseminate the information overload. The Ontology–based Information Systems (IS) and Knowledge Management Systems (KMS) helps cognitive process of reaching a decision which are used to draw out user information and fuzzy ontologies are applied to store the accumulated knowledge.

INTRODUCTION

Ameliorated library services is one of the most irresistible demand and need of the time which not only attracts users but also exuviate brand mark for any library. Moving in the direction of a “coalesced” technology and deploying multiple technologies library and its services has not only meliorated its services but even have enhanced exact discovering.

A comprehensive understanding of ontology in information studies can be reached by practicing Slavoj Zizek (2009) parallax view which admits that “reality is not only best understood by articulating conflicting perspectives on a particular phenomenon, but that given phenomena are fundamentally constrained by incommensurable perspectives that must be acknowledged accordingly.” However, ontology in information studies comprises antimonic conceptions, methodologies, and emphases in both application and philosophizing.

Slavoj Zizek’s belief of parallax should be taken as a model and leitmotiv to understand the dissenting opinions on ontology within information studies. No doubt, “Information Studies” definitely accommodates the established subject area of library and information studies (LIS), but also merely refers the

DOI: 10.4018/978-1-5225-1653-8.ch005
interdisciplinary study of information. This is not an effort to sort out the dissimilar kinds of ontological information systems. It is not an authoritative treatment of every study, scholar, or family of ontology in the field of LIS. The explanations are cautiously spotted to establish the nature of ontology with respect to the study of information, information technology, and users. All effort should be made carefully to delimitate the different uses of ontology so that the topic of analysis is clear as subsequently the term "ontology" is quite polysemantic.

**ONTOMETRY**

The word ontology, likewise to the term concept, has been characterized from many distinctly separate points of view and with different levels of formalities. Ontologies can be held as intercessors in the presentation to the mind in the form of an idea or image or knowledge by means of conceptions. Hence, ontologies occupy a certain position between conceptions (which they include) on one hand and on the other it includes as part of something broader knowledge domain.

“Ontology” has respective meanings, but the following two are the most wide-eyed primary definitions pertinent to information studies:

- “Ontology is an area of philosophy that to some extent, depending on the orientation of the philosopher, questions and/or provides an outline for being, entities, and reality in general and relationships within and between the three”; (Ghani and Rahim, 2012) and
- “Ontology is the name given to a type of powerfully structured digital information system (computational ontologies) representing entities, universals, classes, and relationships; most often a computational ontology is constructed for a particular knowledge domain”. (Kurilovas et al., 2014).

A more adept interpretation of what “ontology” is, implies in the diversity of contexts in which it is practiced could be implemental for learners, instructors, and scholars in LIS in a number of potential manners:

- Able to just communicate them of what the term represents in its diversity of contexts of use;
- Assist them to depict their own decisions about what the term signifies in its mixture of contexts;
- Help instructors better explicate what ontology stands for in its sort of contexts including the growth of computational ontologies; and
- It gives system developers to develop a system with a nuance understanding of the strengths and disadvantages that cause computational ontology.

Ontology library schemata extend functions for handling, accommodating and standardizing groups of ontologies, for categorization of content with ontologies, and for applying ontologies in applications.

**Conception and Significance**

Concept of Ontologies can be more practiced with the following explanation:
Related Content

Role of Library Professional Association in Enhancing Information Literacy Programme
[www.igi-global.com/article/role-of-library-professional-association-in-enhancing-information-literacy-programme/214912?camid=4v1a](www.igi-global.com/article/role-of-library-professional-association-in-enhancing-information-literacy-programme/214912?camid=4v1a)

Cloud-Based Digital Library Era
Ahmed Shawish and Maria Salama (2016). *Special Library Administration, Standardization and Technological Integration* (pp. 226-247).
[www.igi-global.com/chapter/cloud-based-digital-library-era/138862?camid=4v1a](www.igi-global.com/chapter/cloud-based-digital-library-era/138862?camid=4v1a)

Opportunities and Challenges of Academic Librarians in Teaching Information Literacy in Institutions of Higher Learning in Zimbabwe

Social Media and Library Services
[www.igi-global.com/article/social-media-and-library-services/188342?camid=4v1a](www.igi-global.com/article/social-media-and-library-services/188342?camid=4v1a)