

INFORMATION AND SOCIETY

MICHAEL BUCKLAND

The MIT Press | Cambridge, Massachusetts | London, England

CONTENTS

Series Foreword vii

Foreword by David Bawden ix

Preface xiii

1 Introduction 1

Information – My passport – The division of labor and the need to know – Agendas of others – Information society – Truth, trust, and belief – The structure of this book

2 Document and Evidence 21

Information as thing – Documents and document anatomy – The history of information technology – The rise of data sets – Some practical initiatives – Problems of later use – Bibliography reconsidered – World brain and other imagery – Summary

3 Individual and Community 51

What individuals do – What communities know – Culture – Documents as the activity of others – The social and the individual – Physical, mental, and social dimensions of information – Summary

4 Organizing: Arrangement and Description 71

Collections – Arrangement and lists – Description – Not so easy! – Generating descriptions – The basic mechanism – Summary

5	Naming	89
	Topic descriptions – Documentary languages for naming topics – Time and naming – Mention and meaning – Naming is cultural – Summary	
6	Metadata	111
	The first purpose of metadata: Description – Creating indexes – Index terms – The second use of metadata: Search – What, who, where, and when – Relationships among index terms – Facets and context – Summary	
7	Discovery and Selection	135
	Retrieval and selection – The anatomy of selection machinery – Searching text – A library catalog – Searching the web – Other examples – Summary	
8	Evaluation of Selection Methods	153
	Relevance, recall, and precision – Recall with random, perfect, and realistic retrieval – Precision with random, perfect, and realistic retrieval – Trade-off between recall and precision – Some problems with relevance – Why relevance is difficult – Summary	
9	Summary and Reflections	167
	Summary – The past and the future – Coping: Orality, literacy, and documentality – What kind of a field?	
	Appendix A: Anatomy of Selection	183
	Appendix B: Retrieval Evaluation Measures	189
	Further Reading	199
	Glossary	203
	References	207
	Index	215