

SLA Virtual Conference 2020 – Taxonomy Division Events and Programs

The **SLA Taxonomy Community** is proud to sponsor a CE workshop and five other events at the SLA 2020 Annual Conference. For conference information and registration see the [SLA website](#).

What am I Supposed to Do with This (Taxonomy) Now?

Oct 26, 27, 28, 29

3:00 - 4:45 pm ET each day

SLA Member Price: \$149

Non-Member Price: \$249

CE registration is independent of conference registration. You can do one or the other or both

Taxonomies are a great intellectual exercise and can be the basis for the entire Knowledge Organization System for a body of knowledge or the organization's collections and staff. The promises are great but the implementation is frequently fraught with missteps. The managers may see it only as a "library or information center" project. What else can you do with a taxonomy and how do you get it implemented in search or on the web site? How can it be enabled in commercial transactions and orders? How are taxonomies used as descriptions of products and services the company has for sale or to auto-index special collections? How can taxonomy be used as a way to identify personnel with shareable areas of expertise or as a way to monitor trends in an industry? What are some of the myriad of things taxonomies are used for?

The variety of people working with taxonomy or taxonomy-adjacent work is amazing. They need to know what to do after those initial steps of understanding and building a taxonomy. Assuming the role of taxonomist allows wide influence and affects the organizational perspective. This course will cover these topics in the context of what you can do with your taxonomy and how to implement it.

Instructors: [Marjorie M.K. Hlava](#), President, Access Innovations, Inc., [Heather Kotula](#), VP of Marketing and Communications, Access Innovations, Inc.

Internationalization of Taxonomies and Controlled Vocabularies

October 14, 2:00-2:30 pm

Whether you are looking to add translated terms to an existing taxonomy, build a taxonomy for a new market or country, or just need to understand how to manage multilingual and/or international taxonomies in your current system, this session will touch on what it means to "internationalize" a taxonomy. Even if a taxonomy management system allows for multiple languages, there are still questions as to what it really means to make a taxonomy international. Is it safe to merely translate terms or should research be conducted into what a term means in another market and language, or if it even exists as a concept in that market or language? The panelists in this session will describe their experience with international taxonomies, what they've learned about what it means to make a taxonomy international, and answer questions you may have about real-life scenarios.

Speakers: David Bender, Manager, Medical Ontology, Radiological Society of North America; Kristin Kolshus, Information Management Specialist, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; Imma Subirats, Senior Information Management Officer, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Moderator: Heather Hedden, Taxonomy Consultant, Hedden Information Management

Taxonomy Roundtable

October 15, 12:15-1:15 pm

Join fellow taxonomists and ontologists to discuss hot topics, areas of concern, and share success stories. Tables will be loosely grouped by industry to facilitate networking as well as learning. Discussion time will be followed by summary reports from each table about the issues and solutions discussed.

Moderator: Benjamin Cooper, Senior Index Editor, Bloomberg Industry Group

Taxonomy Community Virtual Open House

October 15, 4:30-6:30 pm

Join us for the Taxonomy Community Virtual Open House! This is a great networking event for everyone, whether you work in taxonomy or just want to talk about it with hierarchically-like-minded people! The Open House will be on the Online Town platform. We will need to send you an email just before the Open House starts in order for you to access the platform. To participate in the open house please register at the link provided above so we can send you an invite to the virtual room.

Revealing and Banishing Bias in Taxonomies

Session available on demand

What does it even mean to have a biased taxonomy? Are your terms appropriate for your market or country? Are your terms outdated? Are they gender-neutral when possible or do they include all gender possibilities? Should every taxonomy be reviewed for all kinds of bias? Participating on this panel are taxonomists who have experience finding, understanding, and banishing bias as well as expert panelists who will speak about understanding and banishing bias. Hear how, as information professionals, we can recognize and correct biased terminology, definitions, and relationships within and around the taxonomies we manage.

Speakers: Alicia Cherry, Sr. Taxonomy Analyst, Indeed; Michael Sholinbeck, Public Health Librarian, University of California Berkeley

Moderator: Michele Lamorte, Product Taxonomist

Challenges in Building Healthcare and Medical Taxonomies: Case Studies

Session available on demand

This Case Study session discusses taxonomies within the healthcare and medical subject areas/industries including the Berklee Music & Health Institute, American College of Physicians

(ACP), and the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO). Participants will learn about how these resources started (with ideas and advice on how to start something similar) and will touch on how some have been updated with recent events (COVID). They will also learn from the shared challenges which include, but certainly are not limited to, cross-disciplinary considerations, different audiences for the same resource, blockers in gathering sufficient user input, system limitations, and design issues that need to be considered for both internal and external users.

Speakers: Heather Hedden, Taxonomy Consultant, Hedden Information Management; Travis Hicks, Director of Web Operations, American Society of Clinical Oncology; Christine Karpeles, Metadata Specialist; Brandy King, Owner, Knowledge Linking; Todd Ware, Director of Production and Electronic Publishing, American College of Physicians

Moderator: Paula McCoy, Senior Manager, Content Systems & Operations, ProQuest