

# 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