

LibraryThing Tags and Library of Congress Subject Headings: a Comparison of Science Fiction and Fantasy Works

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Abstract:

This study examines the extent to which LibraryThing tags match their equivalent Library of Congress subject headings and looks at whether they offer any additional information about the subject matter of the books to which they are applied. This study has a largely quantitative methodology with some qualitative aspects. The researcher harvested tags from ten books in the genres of science fiction and fantasy. The tags were then classified into categories created by the researcher and examined using descriptive statistics inside Excel.

The most frequently used tags were those that matched the Library of Congress subject headings, but there were a significant number of non-matching tags that offered useful additional information about the books in the sample. Library of Congress subject headings mostly identify the basic genres that the books in the sample belonged to, but added little additional information. Integrating tagging into library OPACs would create more opportunities for library users to find books in which they are interested.

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LC Subject Headings are an integral part of bibliographic control, which is the function by which libraries collect, organize and disseminate documents. LCSHs are applied to every item within a library's collection, and facilitate a user's access to items in the catalogue that pertain to similar subject matter. If users could only locate items by 'title' or other descriptive fields, such as 'author' or 'publisher', they would have to expend an enormous amount of time searching for items of related subject matter, and undoubtedly miss locating many items bec. Social tagging, as a recent approach for creating metadata, has caught the attention of library and information science... Expand. Is this relevant? Science fiction, often called "sci-fi," is a genre of fiction literature whose content is imaginative, but based in science. It relies heavily on scientific facts, theories, and principles as support for its settings, characters, themes, and plot-lines, which is what makes it different from fantasy. So, while the storylines and elements of science fiction stories are imaginary, they are usually possible according to science—or at least plausible. Many science fiction works involve elements of fantasy, like imagined worlds, made-up beings from other galaxies, paranormal powers etc; so the two genres tend to overlap. However, the primary distinction is that that elements of fantasy in science fiction always have a basis in science, whereas fantasy is strictly imaginative. The Science Fiction and Fantasy Fiction Collection is comprised of public domain books contributed by The Charles E. Young Research Library Department of Special Collections at UCLA from the Nitka Collection of Fantastic Fiction. Other contributions are from the University of Toronto and the... To page this item, use the collection record; to find the collection record, search the title: Nitka collection of fantastic fiction. Item is in box 45. Purchase, Zeitlin & Ver Brugge Booksellers, 1967. 1 Introduction 1.1 Cultural Studies and Popular Culture 1.2 Fantasy Literature and Science Fiction 1.3 Fantasy and Children's Literature 1.4 The appeal of fantasy. 2 Harry Potter, by J.K. Rowling: Why Harry Potter? 2.1 The author, the plot and the main characters 2.2 Magic 2.3 Society, Politics and Class 2.4 Discrimination: Race and Blood 2.5 Gender inHarry Potter 2.6 There's something about Harry 2.7 Language Use inHarry Potter. Start by marking "Library of Congress Subject Headings: Philosophy, Practice, and Prospects" as Want to Read: Want to Read saving... Want to Read. Currently Reading. Read. The first comprehensive theoretical treatise on Library of Congress subject headings, this important book provides an analysis of the Library of Congress subject heading system and its application. Library of Congress Subject Headings aims to help improve the clarity of the system, increase

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consistency and arrangement, increase the number of effective access points, facilitate The first comprehensive theoretical treatise on Library of Congress subject headings, this important book provides an analysis of the Library of Congress subject heading system and its application.