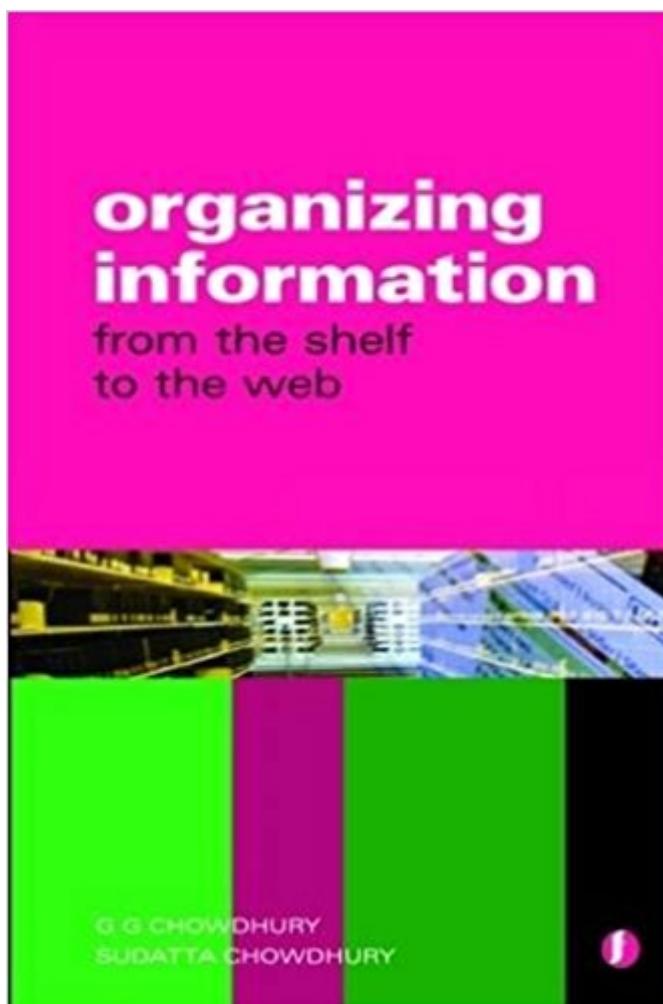


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# Organizing Information: From The Shelf To The Web



## **Synopsis**

Tomorrow's LIS professionals will have to be conversant with all the tools and techniques for organizing information in different domains - from the traditional library shelf to full-scale digital libraries. This core text covers the organization of the entire spectrum of information, and the principles, tools and techniques needed to do this effectively. The most up-to-date textbook yet available on this subject, this comprehensive book covers everything from traditional cataloguing and classification through to metadata, information architecture and the semantic web. Written by experienced academics in the area, who have authored several other successful textbooks, this book provides both an overview of the whole field of information organization and an easy-to-understand introduction to each of the individual topics, which can be followed up with further study by following the references at the end of each chapter. The chapters cover: organizing information - what it means; organizing information in different non-library environments; cataloguing; bibliographic formats - MARC21 and others; library classification; subject heading lists and thesauri in information organization; organization of internet information resources; metadata; markup languages; ontology; information architecture; the semantic web; and, information organization - issues and trends. A key student text for all information and library studies courses, the book is also valuable for practising LIS professionals who need to gain an understanding of the various tools and techniques required to master information organization.

## **Book Information**

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## Customer Reviews

The attractive design of the book helps to highlight the major topics in each chapter. --Technicalities, Vol. 28, No. 2, March/April 2008 "The Chowdhury's have provided a detailed and up-to-date text book on organizing information in the digital era. The content is of immense practical value for librarians and information professionals involved in both traditional and digital libraries." --Libray Collections, Acquisitions and Technical Services

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This book is clear and can be used as a textbook. I love the way everything is explained and the contents can be applied on practical exercises or to prepare small courses on the subject. I think it is difficult to find this content as well explained like this one.

The first thing you need to know about *Organizing Information: From the Shelf to the Web* by G. G. and Sudatta Chowdhury is that it is published in England. Consequently, despite being the size of a trade paperback and a mere 230 pages, it will cost ninety-five dollars if bought new (and a fair hunk of change if you buy it used too). If you can get over the sticker shock, *Organizing Information* has some good stuff going for it. I will also grant that the high price was an excellent motivation to read the book in its entirety. The book looks at what it means to organize information and how said organization works in realms outside the library. Later chapters look at specific aspects of knowledge organization in a library setting: cataloging (MARC), library classification (LCC, DDC, Colon), subject headings, organizing information on the web, metadata, markup languages, ontologies, information architecture, the semantic web, and finally current issues and trends. I liked the structure of this book especially. Each chapter begins with an introduction that provides an overview of the topic before going into more detail in the body of the chapter which organized into different headings. The chapter ends with a summary, review questions, and a list of references. Knowledge organization is one of those areas where some topics will be more interesting than others. This book gives everything a fair shake and provides a nice amount of information about everything. It just does so for a really ridiculous amount of money.

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