

Judi Vernau

Curriculum Vitae

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Personal Profile

Judi Vernau is Director of Information Architecture Consultancy for Metataxis Ltd, a company she set up in 2002. Judi has worked in the area of information provision and development for over 30 years, focussing increasingly from the mid 1980s onwards on the structuring and delivery of electronic information, and from the mid 1990s on metadata and taxonomy.

Skill Summary

Information Architecture

Information analysis; developing information landscapes; information design and data modelling; mapping information flows and barriers; identifying quick wins and longer term recommendations for more efficient use of information assets.

Metadata

Development of metadata schemas, especially in the public sector; implementation of systems for metadata creation; metadata mapping; metadata review.

Taxonomy

Development of taxonomy strategies; development of thesauri, navigation taxonomies, Business Classification Schemes, ontologies and other controlled vocabularies and relationships; reviews of existing taxonomies.

Management

Strategy development for electronic data products and services; building and management of editorial and technical teams; recommendation and implementation of new procedures and practices in technical and editorial departments.

Editorial

Information analysis and design; editorial and research project management; content acquisition; content development; editorial skills and experience.

Training

Inhouse and public training courses in information architecture, taxonomy and metadata development.

Recent Projects

Cancer Research UK

Advising on the development of a findability strategy for all content, and management of a taxonomy to support it. (May 2011 -)

National Audit Office

Development of a business case for information architecture to support more efficient and effective working. (Feb – April 2011)

A South-East Asian government

Development of a government-wide standard for recordkeeping metadata. (February 2011 -).

British Council

Scoping study for an organisation-wide Business Classification Scheme, and continuing advice to the BCS development project. Development of a metadata framework (including strategy, governance and schema) for use across Council resources, both internal and external, and the development of required vocabularies. Scoping study for an approach to cataloguing images, and the development of a taxonomy to support this. (Feb 2010 -)

A European Central Bank

Input into the development of a business case for information management; recommendations for the development of a business classification scheme and the development of a pilot scheme for two departments; development of a draft metadata schema. (Dec 2010 -)

Macmillan Cancer Support

Management of the development of a taxonomy to support search and browse for internal and externally-facing content. (May 2010 -).

The National Archives

Training in taxonomy development to support searching, browsing, filtering and navigation (May – June 2010).

NICE (National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence)

Development of an information architecture (structure, metadata and taxonomy) for information fragments to support publishing of different combinations in different formats. Development of a metadata framework and recommendations for semantic structures to support findability and interoperability across internal and external sources. (Dec 2009 – June 2010)

Department of Energy and Climate Change

Development of the information architecture for a Knowledge Bank to support policy-making (Dec 2009-June 2010).

Department for Schools, Children and Families

Mapping of all metadata schemas used across the organisation, and development of a core set of elements. Advice on vocabulary development and governance to cover DCSF requirements and into the wider sector (Dec 2009 – April 2010)

Directgov

Development of a navigation taxonomy for an externally-facing web site. (October 2009 – May 2010)

South Tyne and Wear PCT

Workshop on information management, in particular on aspects of findability and taxonomy (2009)

NHS Information Centre

Content inventory of all NHS IC documents, records and data to support EDRMS, re-use and the development of an information architecture. Development of a taxonomy to support management and discovery of internal documents and records using MOSS 2007, and content discoverability on the external website. Research and report on the nature

and feasibility of an overarching taxonomy to cover all health and social care content across the UK (October 2008 – October 2009).

Elexon plc

Inhouse training course in information architecture. (October 2008)

Penguin Group

Asset audit, and report on an approach to digital asset management in terms of content structuring and metadata management (August – September 2008)

Joint Information Systems Committee

Evaluating the progress and take-up of JISC's Information Environment Services Registry, a registry of collections and services of interest to the UK Higher Education community. (March – May 2008)

Department for International Development

Reviewing the organisational file plan (Business Classification Scheme), setting out options for ways to improve the plan and the user experience, and making recommendations for quick wins and longer term developments. (January – February 2008).

The National Archives

Analysing and documenting the content of the Generic Metadata Management System , with particular regard to the potential for display of metadata and controlled vocabularies for born-digital records (August – November 2007)

Confederation of British Industry

Development of an enterprise-wide information architecture and Business Classification Scheme for implementation in MOSS 2007. (May – August 2007, and April 2008). Training in information management and MOSS 2007 (July – August 2008)

Northamptonshire County Council

Development of a metadata framework, including schema and vocabularies, to support the introduction of a new Customer Services Centre incorporating mail processing, customer relationship management and knowledge management. (May – July 2007)

HBOS Treasury Services

Development of the information architecture for a new intranet implemented in MOSS 2007 (March – April 2007)

United Utilities North West

Development of an information architecture for a high profile project to be implemented in MOSS 2007 (February – March 2007)

Inter-IKEA Systems BV

Development of an information architecture and large-scale taxonomy for the IKEA Virtual Store, a knowledge management initiative to deliver know-how to all IKEA co-workers. Audit of all know-how repositories. Requirements gathering for a content management system. Training for senior staff in IA and taxonomy development. Project managing content upload to the new content management system (January – December 2006, and December 2007 – January 2008)

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Development of a Business Classification Scheme and file plan for the FCO, including all Embassies and High Commissions (September 2005 – March 2006)

British Computer Society

Development of a taxonomy for BCS content (May – August 2005)

London Borough of Hackney

Development of an entity model and metadata schema as part of an enterprise information architecture. Creation of an information inventory (April – July 2005)

Becta

Development of a vocabulary management tool to support the creation and cross-mapping of education taxonomies (January – July 2005)

Defra

Review of the metadata implemented in a new records management system, and recommendations for an approach to future metadata development, including the application of metadata to classes and folders in the Business Classification Scheme (June 2005).

Atomic Weapons Establishment

Review of requirements for a Business Classification Scheme, taxonomy and metadata scheme (March 2005).

Becta

Development of a taxonomy for the Adult Community Learning portal, aimed at practitioners using and developing e-learning material. (October 2004).

British Computer Society

A content audit for all the Society's published assets, print and electronic, to pave the way for more efficient processes and greater exploitation of content. This was followed by a feasibility study to review the options for going forward, with outline methodologies and costings for each. (September – October 2004).

Department for Education and Schools

Creation of a metadata schema for pupil and attainment statistics, together with a mapping of six other related schemas. (August 2004).

Police Information Technology Organisation

Development of a taxonomy and thesaurus for use across England and Wales police forces. (June 2004).

IDeA

An Information Audit in preparation for taxonomy development, also reviewing the structures and findability of all content published internally and externally. (April 2004).

House of Lords

Development of an editorial system for the indexing of the House of Lords Hansard, and management of the compilation work (2004 - 2007).

TSO

- A metadata schema for TSO, based on the e-Government Metadata Standard but greatly extended, and covering all internal and externally-facing bibliographic and fulltext content. The schema included mappings to Dublin Core, e-GMS, MARC and Onyx.
- The mapping of three external taxonomies to TSO's own taxonomy in order to create a single view onto combined data sets.
- Report on the take-up of the e-Government Metadata Standard within central and local government departments for TSO, compiled from telephone and face-to-face interviews.
- A draft information architecture for parliamentary publications (primarily Hansard) and legislation.
- Development of use cases for Digital Object Identifiers.

Commission for Health Improvement

An information architecture for the Commission for Health Improvement performance indicators and ratings as the basis for navigation of a new, greatly expanded web site. (2003).

Network Rail

An information architecture for Network Rail guidance and procedures documents, and subsequently also for the regional plans and manuals. This included designing templates for documents, developing metadata schemas, and for the plans, developing a standard method of representing data and symbols for use across all the different regions. (2003).

NHS Estates

An information architecture for NHS Estates Health Building Notes, including a method of structuring and linking content at a much greater level of granularity, and the development of a metadata schema and outline taxonomy. (2003).

EMAP

- Development of a draft taxonomy for EMAP automotive division to support the provision of enhanced web services to consumers.
- A report on the use of coding schemes in the automotive industry for EMAP.

Macmillan

- Design of editorial systems for Macmillan Publishers for various major reference works including the Encyclopedia of Life Sciences.
- Feasibility study for the electronic development of Macmillan's prestigious 34-volume Dictionary of Art.
- Management of the Holtzbrinck Content Management Competency Centre, auditing all Holtzbrinck companies in the UK, US and Germany, and providing expert advice on all areas of content management.
- Content design, including DTD development, for all Macmillan's scientific journals, including Nature;
- Project management of data preparation for the Nature CD-ROM, including the capture of text and graphics, and the cross linking of citations.

Bowker-Saur

- Management of the introduction and maintenance of IT systems at Bowker-Saur.
- Editorial and production management of various multi-volume bibliographic and biographical reference works for K.G.Saur (later Bowker-Saur).
- Management of the development of CD-ROMs for bibliographic, biographical, abstracting and indexing, and fulltext products;
- Development of a content management strategy for Bowker-Saur, focussed primarily on SGML.

Other

- Development of a system for improving search and retrieval by classifying all the meanings of all English language words, and management of the company engaged in the project. The system could also be used for automatic document classification;
- Compilation of the Reed Reference Publishing Technical Services Audit (covering London, Munich and New Jersey);
- Secondment to Reed Optiware, part of Online Computer Systems, for 6 months part-time as Electronic Publishing Consultant;
- Member of the ISMN (International Standard Music Number) Working Group within the International Association of Music Librarians, working to develop the concept of the ISMN into a workable standard.

Employment History

2002 - Present : Metataxis Limited – Director of Information Architecture

Founder member of the Information Architecture Consultancy Metataxis Limited. Providing information management technology consultancy for public sector and commercial organisations. Specific focus being on taxonomies, classification systems, information architecture and metadata development.

2001 – 2004: TSO Ltd – Chief Taxonomist and Information Architect

Developing metadata schemas and vocabularies, and providing consultancy services around information architecture, information audits, and taxonomy development for a variety of commercial and government clients.

2000 – 2001: EMAP Automotive – Information Architect

Connecting structured and unstructured data and developing a draft taxonomy to provide enhanced services for the automotive industry.

1997 – 2000: AND Classification Data Ltd – UK Director

Developing a method of classifying the meanings of words to support more efficient retrieval of documents and automatic document classification. The system was granted a patent in 2002. Also management of a reference list of dictionaries and other works, including the Cambridge Encyclopaedia.

1994 – 1997: Macmillan Publishers Ltd – Director of Electronic Publishing Services

Developing data structures and editorial systems for reference works and academic journals (including the Encyclopaedia of Life Sciences, Grove Dictionary of Music, The Dictionary of Art, and Nature magazine). In 1996 she was asked to head up the Content Management Competency Centre for Holtzbrinck Verlag (owners of Macmillan), which involved travelling to all the Holtzbrinck companies (notably Scientific American, Spektrum, Handelsblatt and Fischer) to audit processes and systems and to advise on content management issues.

1991 – 1994: Bowker-Saur Ltd – Technical Services Director

Managing CD-ROM development, editorial systems development, and IT services.

1983 – 1991: Bowker-Saur Ltd (formerly K.G.Saur) – Managing Editor, then Publisher

Managed the development of major bibliographies and also biographical encyclopedias for Britain, the USA, Scandinavia, France and Africa. As the importance of computers in publishing became more widely understood, Judi took on responsibility for introducing administrative and editorial IT systems into the company, and also developed some of the first CD-ROM reference products in the UK. She also commissioned and edited several print reference publications.

1979 – 1983: K.G. Saur Ltd – Editorial Assistant, then Editor

Working on a new edition of the British Library Catalogue of Printed Books and for Printed Music, both large-scale projects which ran for eight years.

1974 – 1979: Berkshire County Libraries – Librarian

Qualifications

1976: Post-graduate Diploma in Librarianship – Ealing Technical College

1974: BA (Hons.) Classics - Reading University

Professional Memberships

- Vice chair of ISKO UK (The International Society for Knowledge Organisation UK branch).
- A member of the Asilomar Institute for Information Architecture.
- A member of AIIM (The Association for Information and Image Management) Europe.