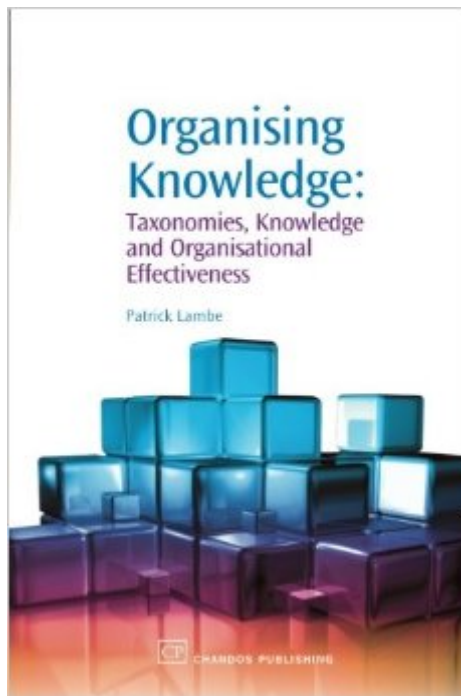


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# Organising Knowledge: Taxonomies, Knowledge And Organisational Effectiveness (Chandos Knowledge Management)



## Synopsis

Taxonomies are often thought to play a niche role within content-oriented knowledge management projects. They are thought to be a "nice to have" but not essential. In this ground-breaking book, Patrick Lambe shows how they play an integral role in helping organizations coordinate and communicate effectively. Through a series of case studies, he demonstrates the range of ways in which taxonomies can help organizations to leverage and articulate their knowledge. A step-by-step guide in the book to running a taxonomy project is full of practical advice for knowledge managers and business owners alike. Written in a clear, accessible style, demystifying the jargon surrounding taxonomies. Case studies give real world examples of taxonomies in use. Step-by-step guides take the reader through the key stages in a taxonomy project.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

If I follow the writing principle of bottom line and idea first then I would have to say Patrick Lambe's "Organising Knowledge: Taxonomies, Knowledge and Organisational Effectiveness" is a five-star publication. Using the four-point scale Study, Read, Skim, Bin as a guide to the effort that might be invested, this book definitely warrants a Study rating. So what's so good about the book? Well judging by my margin scribbles and underlining lots! First it is an entertaining, coherent and easy read. Patrick's assertion that - "If taxonomies classify, describe and map knowledge domains, then taxonomy work is made up of the things we must do to achieve that outcome: listing, creating and modifying categories, standardising, mapping, representing, discovering native vocabularies and

categories, negotiating common terms" (p. 11) - resonates with me and is an example of the practical flavour of the book. Similarly I found Patrick's taxonomy forms - lists, trees, hierarchies, poly-hierarchies, matrices, facets, and system maps - to be a useful classification and a guide to why some taxonomies fail and others succeed. I must admit that I had never considered in any detail how our reasoning patterns impact on our taxonomies. Most of us reason by beginning in the middle and generalising upwards and differentiating downwards. It's an interesting insight which explains why so many tree structures don't work. I suspect we like tree structures because they are easy to understand and they at first impose order onto chaos. I do think one or two longbows are drawn with some of the examples in the book - the Victoria Climbié child abuse discussion being a case in point. The archetype typology - a special type of taxonomy - is another.

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