Categories in a Wiki System

Deliverable #01
CS 297
Why Categorization?

- Wikipedia strives to be the sum of all human knowledge.
- However, for knowledge to be useful, it must also be accessible.
- The obvious way of making the Wikipedian articles more accessible is categorization.
- The central goal of the category system is to provide navigational links to all Wikipedia pages in a hierarchy of categories (characteristics of a topic).
- Users can browse and quickly find sets of pages on topics that are defined by those characteristics.
Categories on Wiki pages

• Categories are normally found at the bottom of an article page.
• Clicking a category name brings up a category page listing the articles (or other pages) that have been added to that particular category.
• There may also be a section listing the *subcategories* of that category.
• The subcategorization feature makes it possible to organize categories into tree-like structures to aid navigation.
Categorization ➔ List and Category

• There are two main ways to use categories: lists and topics.
• Making an early decision on whether to implement an article as a list or a category reduces later renames, recategorizations, and discussions.
• To make a list of articles, you edit the list directly; but to place articles into a category, you edit each article and insert a category tag by placing `[[Category:category_name]]` in the body of the text.
List VS Category

• List:
  1. Good for exploratory browsing of Wikipedia.
  2. Can be built and maintained by editing a single page.
  3. Less comprehensive hierarchy
  4. Complex automated processing

• Category:
  1. Auto-linking. Create a link to a category on an article page, and a corresponding link to that article will be visible on the category page.
  2. Filling a category requires the editing of multiple pages.
  3. Multi-directional navigation
  4. Difficult to maintain
MediaWiki

- MediaWiki is a free and open source wiki application.
- The MediaWiki software maintains tables of categories, to which any editable page can be added.
- To add a page to a category, include "[[Category:Category name]]" or "[[Category:Category name|Sortkey]]" in that page's wikimarkup.
- A category is usually associated with a category page in the "Category:" namespace.
Category Pages

• A "category page" is any page in the Category namespace. They each act as a category, and are termed a "category".

• The category page has one section titled Subcategories listing other "categories", and one section titled Pages, listing pages as categorized (in other namespaces).

• New categories are created by creating a page in the Category namespace. A category page displays at the bottom a generated list of all pages in that category, in the form of links.

• Other category pages which appear in this list are treated separately, as subcategories.
Displaying Category Trees

• {{PAGESINCATEGORY:Example}} or {{PAGESINCAT:Example}} returns the number of pages in "Category:Example". Each subcategory counts as one page; pages in subcategories are not counted.

• The page Special: CategoryTree enables you to see the tree structure of a category (its subcategories, their subcategories and so on.)

• The basic syntax is: <categorytree>Category name</categorytree>, to display just the category tree & <categorytree mode=pages>Category name</categorytree>, to display member pages as well.
Wikipedia Category System (a partial view)
References

• https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:Category
• https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:Category#Displaying_category_trees_and_page_counts