

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 Wikipedia 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.

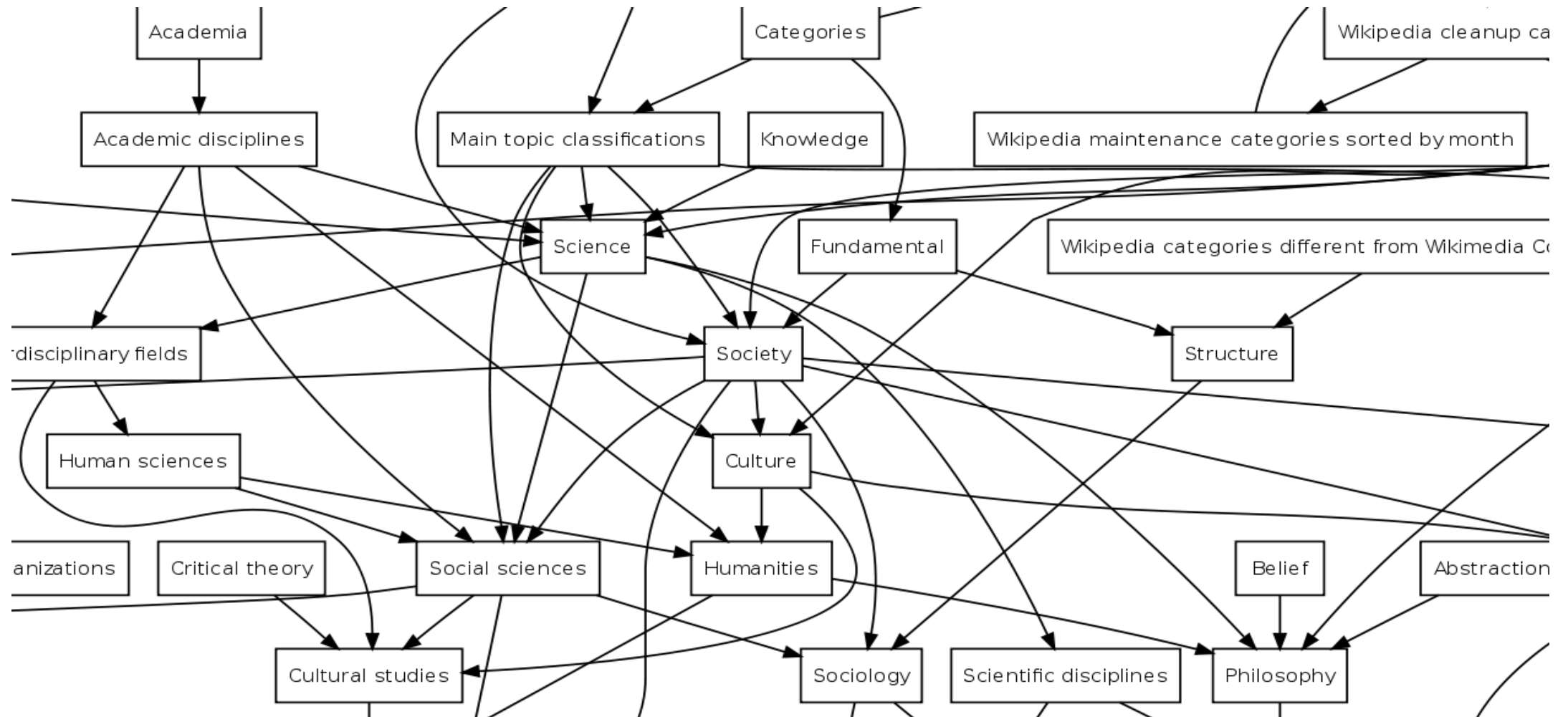
Category Pages

- 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/Wikipedia:Categoryization_policy
- <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Categoryization>
- <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:FAQ/Categoryization>
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Categories,_lists,_and_navigation_templates
- <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:Category>
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:Category#Displaying_category_trees_and_page_counts