**What's Format Got to Do with It? The Role Information Formats Play in Evaluating Search Results**

<https://www.webjunction.org/events/webjunction/whats-format-got-to-do-with-it.html>

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **What are your goals for viewing this webinar?** | |
| **Personal Goals** |  |
| **Team Goals** |  |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Formats** | | | |
| These are the four elements of format identified in the webinar.   * Container: recognizable ways of collecting and presenting texts of particular genres for publication * Genre: typified rhetorical actions based in recurrent situations * Mode: building blocks for communication, resources for or ways of creating meaning * File type: any file format, or standard for creating and storing information digitally   Listed below are examples of each as mentioned in the webinar. Add your own examples of format to each box that are pertinent to your work or subject areas. | | | |
| **Containers**  Blog  Book  Conference Proceeding  Journal  Magazine  News  Preprint  Website | **Genres**  Article  Chapter  Post | **Modes**  Text  Image  Audio | **File types**  PDF  MP4 |
| Look at the lists of formats you identified above. Indicate the different elements of format that tend to appear together (e.g., journal – article – text – pdf).  Think about the purpose (**why** an information resource is created) and the process (**how** an information resource is created) that lead to these different elements of format. Do the elements that you marked always appear together? Why or why not? | | | |
| **Discussion Questions** | | | |
| Which **cues** do your users find most misleading when trying to identify containers? (Cues are features of an information resource that people might pay attention to while evaluating it. Examples of cues shared in the webinar include: genre, source, aboutness, visual appearance, URL, and Google result snippet.)  What **strategies** do you use to identify containers?  Which databases, vendors, or publishers that you work with are equated with certain types of format? How does this both help and hurt your users’ understanding of containers?  If you were redesigning the discovery system at your library, what would you do to make identifying the containers easier?  In your role at the library, where do you see yourself helping to address users’ difficulty in identifying containers? | | | |
| **Action Plan:** | | | |
| Think about concepts and findings discussed in the webinar and the problems, strategies and changes you identified during your discussion. Write down steps you can take to address the issues you and your users are encountering. For each step, describe:   * **When** you will do it * **Who** you will work with * **What** resources you will need for it * **How** you will monitor the impact   **Next Steps** | | | |