

## Implementing your taxonomy

*Between future discounting and the fact that classification is largely for the group, classification is vulnerable to the tragedy of the commons where people prefer looking for classified documents, but don't invest the effort in classification themselves.*

(McMullin, 2004)

If you think that most of your work is done when you have your designed taxonomy on the table, then you're in for a disappointment. All you have, valuable though it may be, are the equivalent of the architect's blueprints for how your knowledge and information resources can be structured. There's still a considerable way to go before your taxonomy pays off in information and knowledge infrastructure enhancements that support more effective knowledge use and knowledge flow across the organisation. Until the building is built, the architect's blueprints represent theory, art or fantasy. Only the tangible building itself provides the payoff for the effort involved thus far.

There are three main stages in working through the implementation of a taxonomy. You will already have been thinking through some of the issues inside those stages in your planning phase earlier on, but your planning and design phases may have taken several months to work through. Things will have changed, and you will have learned new things about your client organisation along the way. It's now time to look at how your taxonomy will be implemented in practice, with real people and real content. Throughout the whole process, it's important to keep in mind your original purpose. If necessary (because of new discoveries about opportunities and needs along the way) revisit that purpose with your project sponsor or your governance committee. But it is especially easy in the course of a fairly long project to lose sight of