

# Intersectional perspectives on Knowledge Organisation Systems

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## Abstract

This poster shows some thoughts on how knowledge organisation systems (KOS), with a focus on the example of collaborative tagging, can be analyzed from an intersectional perspective. The perspective which is proposed includes ideas and influences from intersectionality, gender and queer theories. Some reasonings on what may prove to be interesting approaches in analyzing and comparing different KOS are also made.

A selection of earlier research, what critical studies of KOS have shown so far, the author's own reflections on them and a couple of examples of tagging are presented. Some suggestions and conclusions are put forward on how intersectional/gender theories in LIS have been used and might be used in future research.

An intersectional perspective in looking at KOS appears as both *needed* in terms of not having used much in KO(S)-research, and so it can be further developed, and *relevant* in that constructions of gender and other social categories, aswell as KO and KOS, have to do with with categorisations, structures, hierarchies and vocabulary or language. Critical research in KO, taking the for this study relevant example of gender focussed studies, has developed and changed. From being influenced by and performing women's studies, broader approaches are now used where newer theories and perspectives such as social constructionist influences, queer theories and intersectionality are incorporated. Still, these are used to a quite small extent in LIS research and in studies of KOS. This can be done to a larger and more diverse degree.

KOS, both traditional and new ones, are pertinent to analyze and compare from an intersectional perspective because the systems and their ways of organizing knowledge can tell us important and interesting things about society, our knowledge of it and our views on these things. Writings on collaborative tagging do not often seem to include a critical approach, which makes it especially relevant and interesting to do so.