

Information Ecologies Online Activity

Part 1 Due: Wednesday, February 25th, 2009

Part 2 Due: Wednesday, March 4th, 2009

The purpose of this assignment is twofold:

- To help you to recognize, analyze and summarize the scholarly argument sequence and structures in Nardi and O'Day's *Information Ecologies: Using Technology with Heart*
- To help you to begin to collaboratively develop a conceptual model of the inherent complexity of any information ecology.

The sequenced directions that appear below are offered to assist your learning in completing this assignment. If, after reading all of the steps, you feel that you can accomplish *the same goals and end results* using a different procedure and in a way that is more amenable to your learning styles and preferences, please feel free to use that approach instead.

Part 1 (due 2/25/09)

1. Having read chapters 1-6 of Nardi and O'Day's *Information Ecologies*, please begin your preparation for writing this paper by listing -- *without looking through the book* -- what you remember Nardi and O'Day's primary assertions (that is, points, theses, arguments, ideas, etc.) to be. Please use your own language to summarize these points as much as possible, while ensuring accuracy.
2. Now please add to your list of the author's **primary assertions** as you refer to the contents of the book. Try to construct as complete a list of these **primary** points as possible. Be sure to distinguish the primary points that you remembered without looking in the book from those that you recalled after you started reviewing the book's contents -- perhaps using different colors of text, asterisks, text formatting, etc.
3. Review your list of assertions and decide which are predominant. Those are probably the ideas that the authors express in multiple ways and repeatedly in different places in the book. Narrow your list to just these predominant assertions.
4. For each of the assertions on your narrowed list, please add a summary of the **evidence** that Nardi and O'Day present to convince the reader of the truth of the claim.
5. For each of the assertions on your narrowed list, please add a summary of the **assumptions and/or beliefs** that Nardi and O'Day either states directly or implies to convince the reader of the truth of the claim.

(over, please)

6. Decide upon a way to present (in any type of electronic document) your narrowed list of assertions, along with the evidence and assumptions/beliefs for each, that explains or demonstrates the relationships of all of the assertions, evidence, and assumptions/beliefs with each other. (This could be a chart, model, diagram, semantic map, textual explanation, or something else – whatever format seems to work best to represent the structure of Nardi and O’Day’s primary arguments in *Information Ecologies*.) Please note that if you rely primarily on a visual model, please add textual explanation that will enable me to understand the content. Email this representation to Dr. Hofer by 7:00pm on February 25th.

Part 2 (due 3/4/09)

7. In consultation with the other members of your group, select ONE of the remaining case study chapters in the book (chapters 7-12). On the class Information Ecologies Wiki Page (<http://crin602.wmwikis.net/Information+Ecologies>) and add your group members names next to the chapter you’d like to focus on by Editing the wiki page. Please note that it’s “first come, first served; only one group can work with each of the cases).
8. Each member of the group should read the selected chapter carefully. In a collaborative Mindmeister (<http://www.mindmeister.com>) concept map, sketch out a representation of the authors’ description of how the information ecology functions in this chapter. Once you’ve completed the concept map, Export the map as an image file. Then navigate back to your group’s wiki page and insert the image in the page.
9. In a collaborative narrative statement following the image on your group wiki page, please discuss how the ideas the concept map help to illustrate the complexity of the information ecology explored in the chapter. Finally, each group member should append an individual statement in the discussion tab of the page in which you reflect on how the ideas embodied in the case connect with your own experience.
10. All elements of the group wiki pages (described in steps 7-9) should be posted online by 7:00 pm on March 4th, 2009.