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Project #5

After much deliberation, the concept of using a system for rating manuscripts from fans and readers alike could be done on a star system ranging from one to five. However, associating tags with this rating system seems to defeat the point. Because, the concept of a star rating system would qualify as a social knowing tool and the use of tags is an authority knowing tool. By implementing a simple search bar so that users who have a better understanding of what they are searching for can obtain their results easily while also leaving those without a clue a lifeline in the form of a rating system. With that said, there are a few major tags that may captivate the audience.

The first tag keeps to the fundamental roots of the website, that is in commemoration of #Richard\_Brautigan. As mentioned by Jaron “Lanier [,] calls attention to the so-called 'Artificial Intelligence' and the race to erase personality and be most Meta.” (Lanier, Jaron) By linking the websites tag directly to the person directly this eliminated the artificial intelligence’s impact. Lanier makes a great point that by trying to obtain the top meta spot many sites lose their personality to garner a better rating. Whereas the Brautigan Library does not, after Googling this term, the result places the website at top three sites.

Another important tag ensures that his writings are listed in the geographical location associated with Richard Brautigan, which is the Pacific Northwest abbreviated #PNW\_Literature. As noted by Clay Shirky, “User-generated content is a group phenomenon, and an amateur one… Why would anyone put such drivel out in public? It’s simple. They’re not talking to you.” (Ontology Is Overrated, pg. 4-5) What Shirky seems to be insinuating is that content like Brautigan’s which is associated with the area he lived in can be better associated with those that may be seeking the information. A problem associated with this tag is that it alienates those not from the PNW. However, it also creates a tighter bond and association with those that are. After searching this term, the library was not present in the first few pages of results as it currently stands.

Albeit a narrower focus, the use of counterculture that Richard Brautigan was associated with can be noted with the tag #Bridging\_Counterculture and would yield a unique result. As noted by Clay Shirky, “Categorization schemes allow, based on two units — the link, which can point to anything, and the tag, which is a way of attaching labels to links. The strategy of tagging — free-form labeling, without regard to categorical constraints.” (Here Comes) By utilizing a more open form and eliminating some categorical constraints a tag can be more effective. And as Richard Brautigan lives on in a digital matter this tag seems befitting of the material.

An effective tag that combines both location and name is #Brautigan\_Tacoma. While searching for a poet, or perhaps a novel from the area the tag links Richard Brautigan by both his last name and where he was born. Due to Brautigan’s niche audience this reflects some knowledge of the source material without knowing exactly what they are searching for. Almost all search results pertain in some manner to Richard Brautigan and features the Library.

By associating popular works from Brautigan there is a reasonable chance that the tag will be successful in linking to the website and accurately defining a search result. Such is the case with #Trout\_Fishing\_In\_America. Because this is the most popular and commonly referenced work from Richard Brautigan this tag seemed to resonate with the topic.Coming in the ninth spot on the first page of results was Brautigan Library along with several other sites that had a similar tag.

As previously mentioned, this new tagging system does not seem to work well with the current method employed in the collection. However, perhaps adding a filter that allows for popular tags to be added to the results like that of Reddit or Instagram. This would also enforce a social knowing tool, and still leaves the ability for the host to dictate what appears in search results and exemplifies an authority knowing tool.

When applied to a manuscript in the collection that is Brautigan Library, Moose by Len Kirschner, the appropriate tags based on the system used above would be #Brautigan\_Moose, and #Len\_Kirschner. This is because these tags include vital information as well as words that both avid fans and new readers could associate with the work. After searching the results for the first tag were successful, but the second search was inconclusive.

Works Cited

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