Boundary objects in information science research

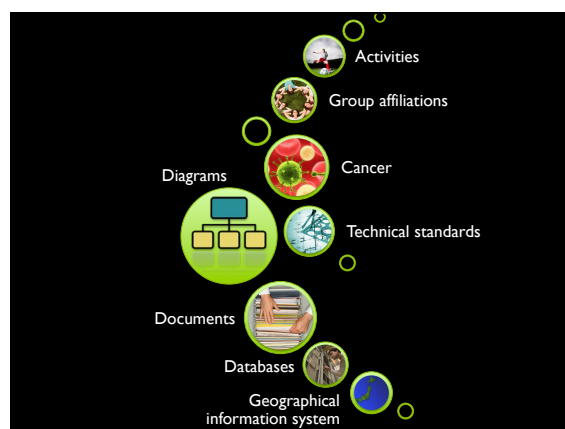**An approach for explicating connections between collections, cultures and communities**

Isto Huvila
Theresa Dirndorfer Anderson
Eva Hourihan Jansen
Pam McKenzie
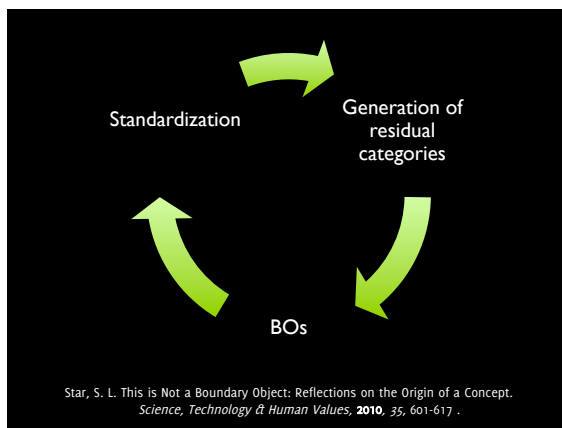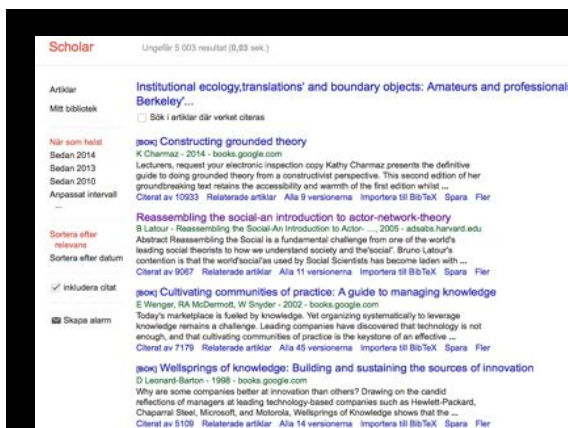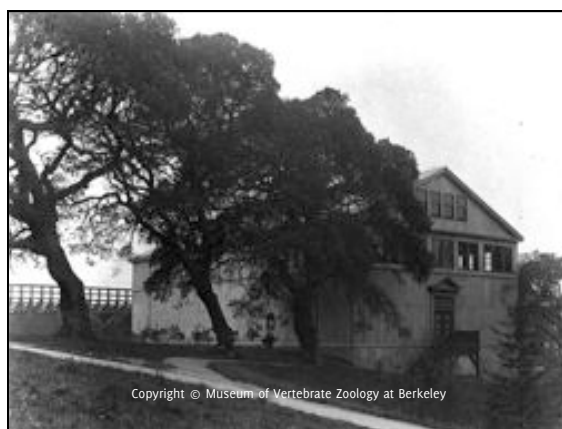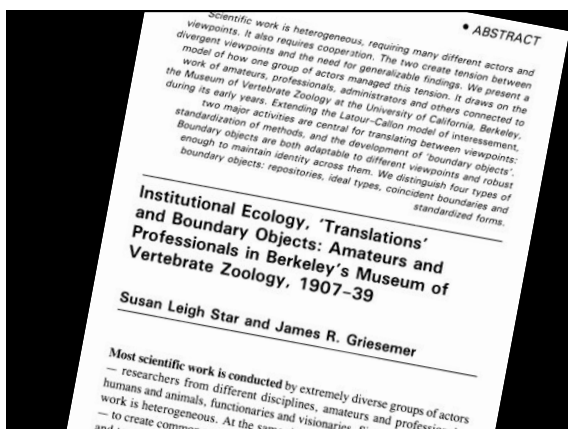Lynn Westbrook
Adam Worrall

Boundary objects are abstract or physical artefacts that reside in the interfaces between organisations or groups of people and have the capacity to bridge perceptual and practical differences among communities and facilitate cooperation by emerging mutual understanding.

Interpretive flexibility.

Informatic and work process needs and arrangements.

Ill-structured vs. more tailored uses of BOs.

- Activities
- Group affiliations
- Cancer
- Diagrams
- Technical standards
- Documents
- Databases
- Geographical information system

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Star, S. L. This is Not a Boundary Object: Reflections on the Origin of a Concept. *Science, Technology & Human Values*, **2010**, *35*, 601-617 .

"I have always refrained from normative statements about the true and proper meaning and use of boundary objects."

Star, S. L.
This is Not a Boundary Object: Reflections on the Origin of a Concept
Science, Technology & Human Values, **2010**, *35*, 601-617 .

Aims of this panel.

1) Overview of (and introduction to) the information science research informed by the theory of BOs.

2) Illustrate the variety of studies and contexts in which the notion of BOs can be found useful.

3) Push forward the state of the art of BO-oriented information science research.