

## Strategies for Model Oriented Information Organization

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We have proposed and begun to explore the development of “community models” as a basis for organizing information about communities in digital libraries. In one project, we developed a prototype interactive directory of the entities in a community. In a second project, we explored using the object-oriented language Java for describing processes associated with communities. In this paper, we consider a variety of approaches and issues which arose in the previous work. For instance, we consider how information resources such as newspaper articles from which historical descriptions are obtained should be represented in the model. A key insight of the continuum approach in archival science is to include repositories as part of the community. By the same logic, we propose that historical newspapers can inform the models and also be represented in them. We also consider other object-oriented languages such as Slate as alternatives to Java for representing community events and processes. Finally, we discuss broader issues such as grounding the models in social science theories.