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SPECULATIONS IN DOCUMENTATION

The rhizome and the tree; changing metaphors for information organisation

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Abstract

Purpose

Reviews Deleuze and Guttari's concept of the rhizome as a model for information organisation.

Methodology

Critical review of selected literature

Findings

The rhizome concept is a promising model for understanding hyperlinked information services. It may be of practical value, particularly if it can be integrated with more traditional forms of information organisation. More research, conceptual and practical, is needed before this can be achieved.

Research limitations

The literature review is not comprehensive, and the conclusions are open-ended.

Originality/value

This is the only paper to review the rhizome concept in this way.

Keywords

Classification; information organisation; world wide web; philosophy

Paper type

Conceptual paper