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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