WAND Taxonomy Library Portal for SharePoint

Boutique Investment Firm

Detailed Testimonial

Q: What business problem were you trying to solve when you first started exploring the taxonomy capabilities of SharePoint?

We needed a more efficient method to manage documents and team collaboration. Our organization has been using folders, and nested folders, for years. The system was bloated, unmanageable, and training new employees to navigate it difficult.

Q: What factors influenced your decision to purchase access to the WAND Taxonomy Library Portal for use in SharePoint?

Speed to implementation and a complete, well organized list of metadata. This is our first endeavor into the metadata world and taking the time to review our documents for relative taxonomy and organize them into term sets seemed unrealistic. Besides, how complete would our final results have been?

As I've browsed through the WAND list of term sets and metadata I've realized we are missing a few company document types.

Q: Describe the process of downloading taxonomies from the WAND Taxonomy Library Portal and importing the content into SharePoint. Did you run into any problems and, if so, how did you overcome those?

The process was straight forward and we didn't experience any issues. I had one question about the second file of synonyms they provide and received an answer within an hour. The tech support has been very good.

Q: How much time did the WAND Taxonomy Library Portal save you in developing a taxonomy to import into SharePoint?

A lot. I am not sure how much time it has saved but, if I had to guess, it would be several hundred hours. It is not merely a time issue. Another value metric to consider is "How complete would our taxonomy have been without WAND"? I do not believe we could have achieved such a robust and complete taxonomy in a year, if ever, without WAND.

Q: How much time was spent customizing the taxonomies you downloaded from the WAND Taxonomy Library Portal?

Two days and most of that was spent scanning the sheer volume of WAND taxonomy. We made a few tweaks to the verbiage and added synonyms. It was quite painless.

Q: Do you have any other comments about your experience with WAND or why you chose to work with WAND for your taxonomy project?

WAND only works with taxonomy and has been doing so since the 80's. What are the odds we could have created a complete list efficiently, or at all? Why try to recreate the wheel?

Also, for newbies (like myself), I would highly recommend four of WAND's training videos on YouTube. The first one is Managed Metadata 101 Taxonomy and Tagging in SharePoint. The original 101, updated 101, 102, and 103. The first one in the series explains working with metadata in SharePoint and is about as good as any video I have seen on the subject. After watching the video, I contacted WAND.