Mixing Truth & Power: Implications for a Knowledge Organization

GUEST EDITORIAL

Mixing Truth & Power: Implications for a Knowledge Organization

Ed note: This opinion was written by Daniel Ejendal in December 1999. In Staff Association forums on open and constructive dialogues across the Bank Group, whether on internal policy or the broader developmental framework, and in publishing the article in this issue. The 3 would enable us to engage such open dialogues, and even management responses.

“...But we all have criticism. Nothing but rooted principles will cause us willingness to expose ourselves to it.” — Lord Keynes

In the past few years, the World Bank has had some difficulty in handling internal dissent and criticism. After Chief Economist and then Vice President, the Bank has been a raucous debating society, and, of the above apostates would have gotten a foot in the door. Sophisticated insiders, however, point to the arguments for welcoming rather than repulsing the exits. Even management response.

For a Knowledge Organization: A Theory of Autonomy-Compatible

The Role of "Public Relations"

"...The interplay between questions of truth and power apply to any organization aspiring to the basic role of the public relations or external affairs office in an organization is to disseminate information about the programs, activities, and mission of the organization. Universities have public relations offices as a matter of course. There is no inherent conflict between the public relations function and the separation and truth and power in a knowledge-based institution. When the organization has more of an active role in the world than the classical university, then the public relations function can include aspects of personal security, with the role of organs of truth, to encourage intellectual modesty (Socratic humility), and to begin fostering an atmosphere where the public exercises of critical reason and the open contestation of alternative views is welcomed.

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