**Bar-Ilan, J., & Belous, Y. (2007). Children as architects of Web directories: An exploratory study. *Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology*, 58(6), 895-907.**

Keywords: Web directories, information retrieval, web search tools, consensus

structure, web design

 Contemporary web-searching keyword tools do not reliably help children with web-searches. Whether it is children’s lack of vocabulary skills or separation from the design process, children have difficulties using keyword search engines. Bar-Ilan and Belous (2007) believe that children have a better search experience when they have menus, categories and hierarchies of information.

 The purpose of this study was to investigate ways in which children categorize

information. Bar-Ilan and Belous (2007) used a categorizing activity for 48 children that

involved separating subject cards into subject groups. The categories of information

focused on leisure and entertainment topics that were familiar to the Israeli children.

 Of greatest potential interest in this article were Web directories as an information retrieval method and the creation of hierarchical structures. Web directories provide children with a graphic organizer that is an alternative to keyword searching. The

children in this study accurately categorized topics into groups similar to those of Web

directories.

 By using the sorting method in creating their hierarchical structures, the children readily eliminated cards that did not pertain to their groups and “consensus structure.’” The children used envelopes to classify their categories into sub-groups, groups and top-

level groups. Although there were problems with concentration and impatience, the

children succeeded in organizing their information effectively (Bar-Ilan & Belous, 2007).

 Future research should examine other studies that have worked with children in

classifying and sorting information for Web directories. Studies should also be conducted

on the effects of children’s inputs into search engines and other juvenile computer

applications. These studies will provide program developers and designers with a true

representation of the interests and ability levels of young computer users for future

search engine design.