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DSIA Research Initiative
Information Architecture Common Set v.1.0
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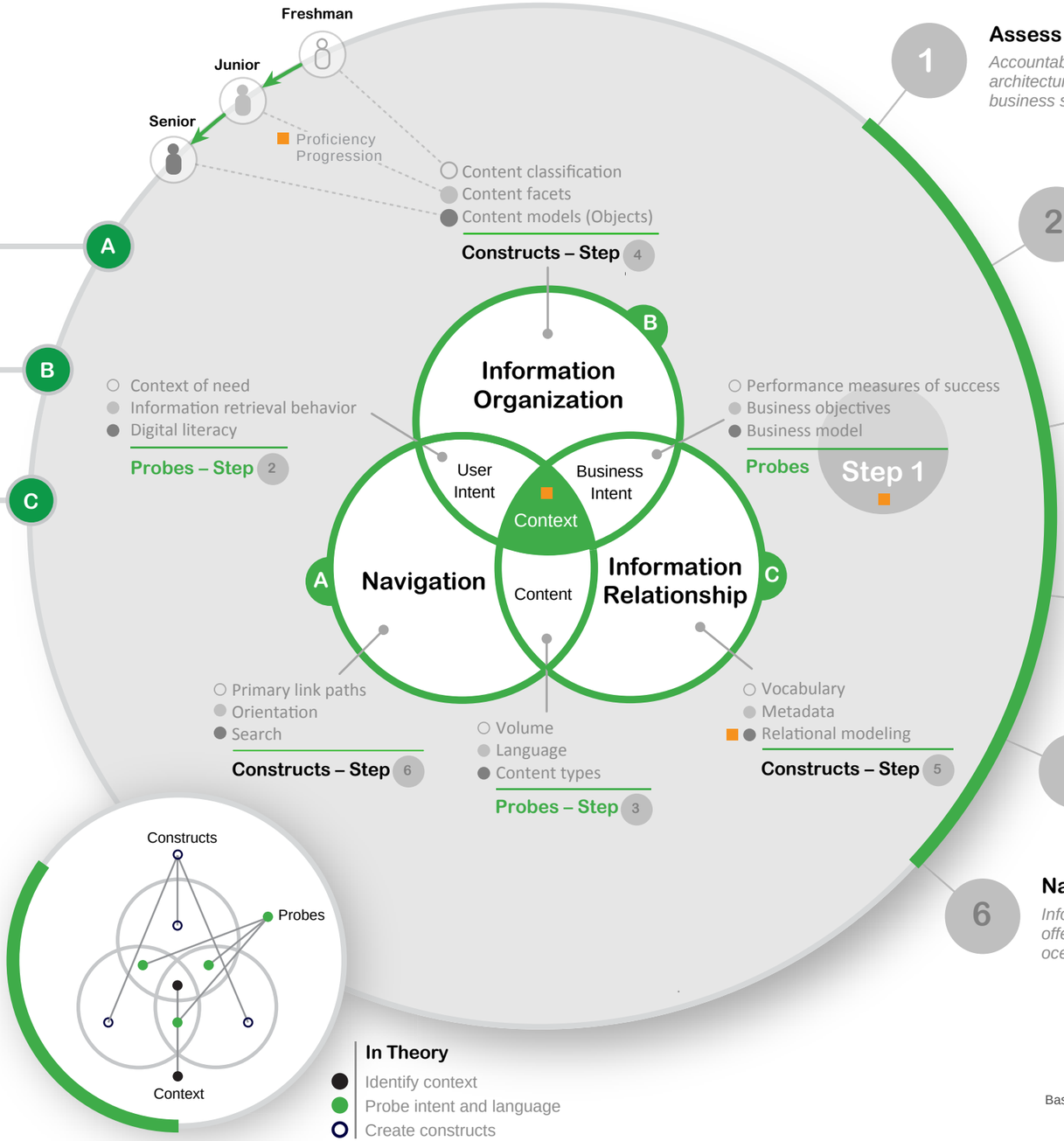
Information Architecture : Common Set

- **Information Architecture**
- Navigation
- Information Organization
- Information Relationship
- IA Management
- IA Strategy
- Research / Analytics



In Theory
- Identify context
- Probe intent and language
- Create constructs

1 **Assess Business Intent**
Accountable information architecture requires accountable business strategy

2 **Assess User Intent**
A site that understands nothing about its users will have users that understand nothing about the site

3 **Assess Content**
If there is no meaning to your content, it will mean nothing to your users

4 **Organize Information**
Failure to organize is to organize for failure.

5 **Relate Information**
Information is meant to be used. Make it usable.

6 **Navigate**
Information architecture must offer a constant beacon in an ocean of information.

Based on an asynchronous information architecture

Official DSIA Definition of Information Architecture (Work Product)

The assumptions and governing constructs for assigning properties and attributes to information and the endowment and evolution of information relationships over time within a given domain; a governing model for information behavior

This illustration depicts what DSIA Research Initiative refers to as a *common set* of *probes* and *constructs* that shape the basic considerations for planning site information architecture.

This common set for information architecture represents the unique scope of information architecture-based interests in context to the various *practice verticals* of user experience design [1]. Probes and constructs can be used as IA heuristics and are compatible with the DSIA Boolean IA Maturity Assessment method. [2]

Context
Context drives *intent* and *content* and sets the scope for language and human/agent behavior. This is central to creating an information architecture.

Steps
An information architecture can be derived in varying sequences. The steps suggested in this illustration reflect an order that has tested well in practice and correlate to theoretical modeling. Ultimately, the order is less important than probing successfully and creating the constructs as they suite the circumstance.

Relational modeling
Relational modeling represents the most complex set of tasks in IA development. This can include thesaurus development, domain modeling and other approaches to knowledge representation, meaning and adaptive and extensible informational behavior.

Proficiency Progression
While each set of probes and constructs are shown containing three areas of interest, others exist. The ones shown have been arranged to demonstrate a range of skills acquired by a practitioner over time.

References
[1] Davis, Nathaniel, *DSIA UX Design Practice Vertical*, December, 2011, DSIA Portal of Information Architecture.
[2] Davis, Nathaniel, *DSIA Boolean IA Maturity Assessment*, March 2012, DSIA Portal of Information Architecture.

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The DSIA Research Initiative is a private think tank dedicated to advancing a formalized discipline of information architecture based on theory, research and practice.