Assignment 1: Xinformatics (Spring 2013) (15% written and 5% for presentation)  
Due: TUESDAY February 26, 2013 (by 12pm ET) for written  
Submission method: written document and presentation (after you present it) by email to pfox@cs.rpi.edu and Karthik abimag@rpi.edu.  
Please use the following file naming for electronic submission: Xinformatics2013_A1_YOURFIRSTNAME_YOURLASTNAME.xxx  
Late submission policy: first time with valid reason – no penalty, otherwise 20% of score deducted each late day  
Note - Office hours: Monday 3-4, Winslow 2120  

Note: Your report for this assignment should be the result of your own individual work. Take care to avoid plagiarism (“copying”), and include references to all web resources, texts, and class presentations. You may discuss the problems with other students, but do not take written notes during these discussions, and do not share your written solutions.  

General assignment: Analysis of cognitive, collection and social/cultural aspects of information systems in signs - discussed and decomposed. The weighting score for each question is included below. Please use the question numbering (1-3) below for your written responses for this assignment.  

1. Choose a signage ‘system’ (6%)  
   a. Pick an analog or digital information system that utilizes ‘signs’ (icons, indices, symbols). It can be one you like or dislike. Write min. 1-2 sentences on why you made your choice. Graduate question (6400-level): estimate the uncertainty in the information content. All: include a graphic of your chosen information system. (1%)  
   b. Describe signs in the system you chose and why it is a “system” and use the Class 2 system “properties, attributes and leverage points” to frame your description. Write min. 2-3 sentences per sign. (3%)  
   c. Document how you classified the signs according to categories defined in class, e.g. what is the signifier and what is signified. Min. 1 sentence per sign component. (2%)  

2. For your chosen signage system what library, cognitive and/ or social science principles have been applied in their development? What, if any, attention is given to syntax, semantics, and pragmatics; describe them - min. 3-4 sentences (5%)  

3. Perform your own information modeling exercise of the chosen system, what are the objects, relations, etc. and how did they match or not match the system you examined? Min. 3-4 sentences. Submit a diagram of the conceptual information model that you developed. (4%)  
   Graduate question (6400-level): Submit a logical information model.  

4. Present the material in Q 1-3 and discuss the relevant informatics considerations - 5 mins (~3-5 slides) including time for a few questions (5%).