

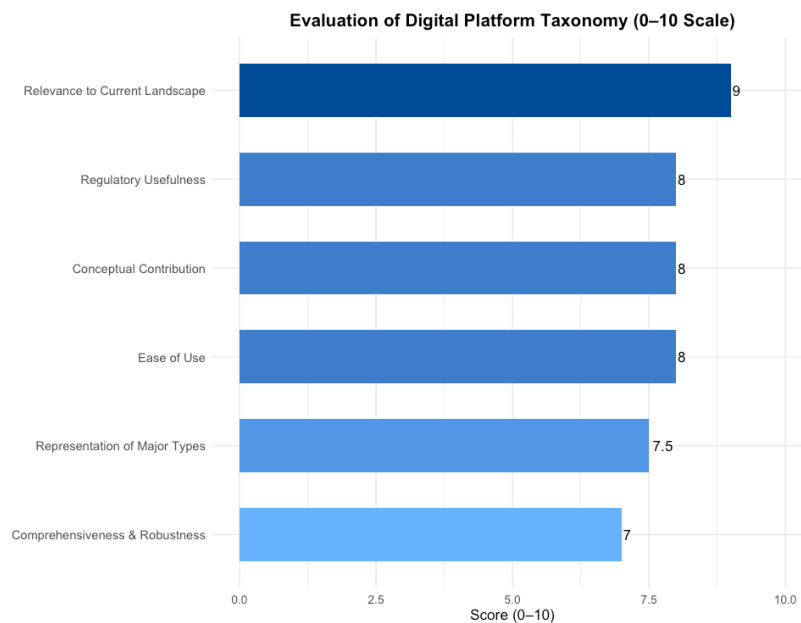
Taxonomy validation

To evaluate the validity and practical relevance of the proposed taxonomy, an expert assessment was conducted. Expert evaluation is a well-established approach for validating taxonomies and conceptual frameworks, as it enables the systematic examination of their completeness, usefulness, and applicability based on informed professional judgment (Kundisch et al., 2021). Seven domain experts participated in the evaluation: four distinguished information systems scholars specializing in digital platforms and three experts in digital law. This balanced composition ensured the integration of both theoretical and regulatory perspectives. Each expert assessed the taxonomy's comprehensiveness, ease of use, relevance, and applicability using a structured questionnaire. Quantitative ratings were collected on a 0–10 scale, where 0 indicated strong disagreement and 10 indicated strong agreement. In addition, the questionnaire included an open-ended item inviting qualitative feedback on potential refinements. This mixed-method evaluation provided both measurable evidence of the taxonomy's robustness and rich expert insights to enhance its conceptual and practical value.

List of questions asked to experts:

1. To what extent do you agree that the categorization dimensions in the taxonomy are comprehensive and robust? (Please rate on a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 indicates that the taxonomy is not comprehensive, and 10 indicates that the taxonomy is fully comprehensive and robust.)
2. How easy is the taxonomy to use for classifying digital platforms?
3. To what extent do you find the categorization dimensions relevant to the current landscape of digital platforms?
4. How relevant and well-represented are the major types within each dimension in the real world?
5. To what extent does the taxonomy contribute to enhancing the conceptualization of digital platforms?
6. To what extent can the taxonomy be used by regulators to target specific platforms?

Results¹:



¹ Average score before addressing expert's comments

7. Do you have any additional comments or suggestions for improving the taxonomy?

Comment 1.

I struggle to classify social media platforms as transaction platforms, see also Schreieck, M., Ondrus, J., Wiesche, M., & Kremer, H. (2024). A typology of multi-platform integration strategies. *Information Systems Journal*, 34(3), 828-853.

Comment 2.

Apple iOS and Google Android are partially open

Comment 3.

Too many dimensions, consider adding a third level by aggregating the categories (for instance through the theoretical perspective: economics, strategy, engineering, etc.).

Comment 4.

Wikipedia would be two-sided for me (contributors, readers).

Comment 5.

Under targeted audience C2B platforms are missing

Comment 6.

Artificial intelligence can also be a foundation technology

Comment 7.

You can include "data type" as a dimension for categorizing digital platforms

Comment 8.

I miss data network effects (Gregory et al. 2021)