Reports and Communications

Conceptual Retrieval and the Future Thesaurus

This was the topic of a special session during the Annual Conference of the German Documentation Society (DGD) at Trier, Sept.29, 1994 organized by the DGD-Committee "Knowledge Processing" (KWV) together with the Committee on Thesaurus Research (KTF), ISKO, and the Working Group on Information Systems of the Society for Classification (AG-IS/GfKl). *Brigitte Endres-Niggemeyer* chaired this special session with the following presentations (all in German): *G. Rahmstorf*: The approach to semantic retrieval. -*H. Lein, G.Rahmstorf*: Aspects of realization of semantic retrieval. -*G. Binder, H.-P. Ohly*: Semantic retrieval with social science documents. First experiences with RELATIO/IR. -*M. Herfurth*: Subject-oriented and documentation language-oriented presuppositions for a conceptual retrieval in the social sciences. - *W. Schmitz-Esser:* A thesaurus as part of a terminological dictionary. -*D. Fischer, L. Rostek:* A generic, object-oriented and executable model of concept-oriented terminological dictionaries and thesauri. - *J. Krause:* The WOB-Modell - software-ergonomics in WING. - The session concluded with a workshop directed also by *B. Endres-Niggemeyer* on an "Idea sketch of a configurable electronic thesaurus for the social sciences". The workshop was intended to conceptualize a thesaurus for the retrieval environments of the future using the social sciences as an example. Such a thesaurus would be characterized by full text storage, graphical interface and information networks. Participants were invited to contribute. As it happened that *Dagobert Soergel* from the University of Maryland attended this meating unexpectedly, he was asked to present his "AOD - Alcohol and Other Drugs" Thesaurus (see also the book review of this thesaurus in KO 94-3). A very vivid discussion followed when Soergel presented his proposals for a future thesaurus policy, consisting of the following 7 points:

1. Decision about the design
2. Computerization
3. Catalogue of functions
4. Open scheme
5. Integration into database
6. Overview
7. No standardization - as this would mean the fixation of the opinion of those who made the standard.

The proceedings volume of the conference is available from the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Dokumentation e.V., Ostbahnhofstr. 13, D-60314 Frankfurt. ISBN 3-925474-26-9.

INSPEC's New 1995 Thesaurus and Classification Reflect Merger of INSPEC and PHYS Databases

London: IEE/INSPEC announces the Thesaurus 1995 and Classification 1995 offering more comprehensive coverage than previous editions resulting from the merger of the INSPEC and PHYS databases. This merger reflects a joint cooperative venture between the Institution of Electrical Engineers (IEE) and the Fachinformationszentrum Karlsruhe (FIZ Karlsruhe).

Both the INSPEC Thesaurus 1995 and the INSPEC Classification 1995 are available effective January 1995.

The comprehensive revision of the 1995 Thesaurus combines the controlled indexing systems of both the INSPEC and PHYS files and incorporates new developments in terminology. For more information contact: IEE Marketing Dept., Michael Faraday House, Six Hills Way, Stevenage, Herts., SG1 2AY, U.K.

The Added Value of Information

The 4th International Symposium for Information Science was held at Graz, Austria, Nov.2-4, 1994 and the above given topic was meant to promote the professionalization of information work. More than 80 contributions from colleagues in 10 countries were received, however, only a very few of these would fall into the realm of interest of this journal. They are: *H. Zimmermann:* On the structure and use of classifications in libraries. -*R. Härtel, P.Lauppert, P. Luttenberger:* Administration of informational added value in establishing indexes to historic editions. -*G. Wersig:* Knowledge communication and complexity reduction. -*T.Führing, K.Jacoby, R. Michells, J.Panyr:* Context-gestalt formation: a metaphor for the visualization of and interaction with complex knowledge bases. -*H. Billing, H.-J. Herrmann:* Promotional conceptions to solve the language problems of the European information market.

(All papers were in German). For further information turn to: Prof. Dr. Wolf Rauch, Institut für Informationswissenschaft, Karl-Franzens-Universität Graz, Strassoldogasse 10, A-8010 Graz, Austria.

Applied Terminology Operating Group

In November 1993 the Groupement Opérationnel de Terminologie Appliquée (GOTA) was founded under the French law. The language industry and the world-wide spread of economic, scientific and technical relationships require that a diverse terminology of excellent quality be provided. In this perspective, GOTA has oriented its activity mainly toward the field of terminology and its industrial applications, with the aim of facilitating multilingual practice. GOTA's aim is to encourage exchange and cooperation both at the national and international levels, in order to accelerate access to reliable information. Such a mission implies that all the parties (companies and public bodies) concerned with terminology problems should participate in the creation, management, circulation, etc. of terminology.

Aims: To unite competent skills and efforts in the field of terminological information so as to create a common awareness to identify strong points, weak points, individual terminology requirements and priority lines of action; To constitute a "Coordinated development group" (Terminology exchange); and to be a privileged party in discussions with French governmental authorities and international bodies.

To be more specific: The purpose of this association, in a multilingual context and with a permanent concern for quality

https://doi.org/10.5771/0943-7444-1994-4-227 https://www.inlibra.com/de/page/agb - Open Access - (cc) BY

is: To identify available resources, and to promote harmonization of the vocabularies and compatibility of the methods used by the various companies and bodies so as to avoid costly redundancy and encourage the enhancement of terminological databases, while preserving individual interests, confidentiality of information and intellectual property rights of all its members.
More about the activities, Subject Fields, Target groups, and Members can be found in the Infoterm Newsletter No.73, 1994, p.5-6 and from the Head Office of GOTA , 9, Ave. Foch, F-92380 Garches, France. GOTA's President is Mr. O. Lavroff, its General Secretary: Ms. J. Burah.

Russian Terminology Society (RossTerm) founded

RossTerm was founded officially in Moscow on 25 Jan. 1994. The statutes were adopted and both the President and members of the Scientific Council were elected.
RossTerm is an independent association composed of scientists and practitioners active in the field of terminology in some 45 regional subdivisions in Russia. Its main tasks are: Coordination of research activities in the theory of terminology and LSP-teaching and training. Preparation of vocubularies and relevant documents designed for subject-oriented LSP-training. Organization of scientific congresses and seminars. Publication of scientific papers in the RossTerm journal entitled "*Terminology Research*" and "*Russian Philological News*".
The scientific activities of RossTerm will cover: The theory and history of terminology, theoretical and practical terminography, problems of the theory of lexicography, philological aspects of terminology, problems in application fields in the sciences and humanities, problems of scientific-technical translations, MT and terminological data banks.
At present a curriculum is being prepared for specialization in the field of terminology at the "Russian Terminological Lotte-University", named after the late most outstanding Russian terminologist.
For further information write to: RossTerm, 119899 Moscow, B-234, MGU, 1-vis Kor.

(From Infoterm Newsletter No.73, 1994, p.11)

German Institute for Terminology (DIT) founded

The constituting meeting of a Deutsches Institut für Terminologie took place in Eschborn near Frankfurt on Sept.30, 1994 after a preparatory work of two years of an expert group of the Deutsche Terminologietag (DTT) e.V.
Recent drastic developments have had their impact also on the field of terminology and are still at work, just to mention:

- an exponential growth of concepts and terms related to new technologies and sciences,
- the necessity to be able to utilize concepts and terms in other languages in order to facilitate a most effective knowledge transfer within international economics and research,
- consideration also of the "smaller" languages and cultural groups, as well as
- utilization of the distribution and application possibilities offered by computer science and telecommunication.

In order to meet such a multitude of developments on the one hand and to use them on the other hand, a new approach is necessary which should promote and improve quality and quantity of terminology work and exchange. A "Centre of Excellence" is demanded therefore, i.e. an independent place for terminology work which will have a coordinating, catalyzing and promoting effect. The realization of such a center in Germany has been recognized as the essential task of the DIT.
More concretely: The DIT is meant to take care of the establishment of information- and broker-services around terminology and terminology work as well as of the placement and carrying out of project- and research work.
Thus the mission of the DIT can be broken down into three key areas: Brokerage and interchange services, Consultancy and other services, Support measures (research, public relations, etc.)
The *Brokerage and Interchange Services* will consist of: Information services (creation of a Terminology Source Database with information on quality, update status, format, access facilities, etc.); a market analysis (to establish terminology requirements on behalf of commerce and industry, science and political agencies); a brokerage function for suppliers and users of terminology (terminology resources, interface development); and support for computer-aided terminology work for language, data and image processing.
The *Consultancy and Other Services* comprise: Terminology consultancy for all public and private sector inquiries (incl.SMEs), Basic and advanced training in terminology work (e.g. for translators, technical writers, media professions, and experts in other fields); Terminology queries for customers; Conversion of existing terminology resources into interchange formats; Terminology processing for customers; Brokerage function for additional services (e.g. editing, publication).
Supporting Measures means: Quality assurance and management ("seal of approval") (Creation and dissemination of methods for and application of procedures for quality management); Promotion of and support for international and national cooperation; Public relations and marketing for terminology and DIT; Research projects (university links).
The Structure of the DIT includes: A "Center of Excellence" for terminology; University links(s) (use of infrastructure, research projects, etc.); Small office handling marketing/PR/administration; Electronic data interchange (database(s) and network); Links with other "Centers/Networks of Excellence" (e.g. research institutions, professional associations); and Self-financing in the long term (by subscriptions, utilization fees, donation, grants, etc.)
For further information please turn to the president of the DIT i.G., Ms. Deborah Fry, Office c/o Robin Bonthrone, Rochusplatz 10, D-55252 Mainz-Kastel. Tel.: 06134-222504, Fax: 06134-22860.

(From DIT PR material, translated partly by I.D.)

https://doi.org/10.5771/0943-7444-1994-4-227 https://www.inlibra.com/de/page/agb - Open Access - (cc) BY