

tion scientists that had, for this special occasion, the presence of Ingetraut Dahlberg, representing the International Society for Knowledge Organization, who gave the opening paper on *Current Trends in Knowledge Organization*.

The papers included in the book under review dealt with the general topic of the meeting. The review follows the structure of the conference.

The subject of the first session was *Theoretical approaches and perspectives for knowledge organization*, papers dealt with conceptual structures, terminology, scientific paradigms for information retrieval and knowledge organization in special settings. The six interesting papers presented in this session allowed the attendants to learn about other colleagues' basic research lines and their field-theoretical framework.

Teaching knowledge organization was the topic of the second session. Eleven papers were presented, many of them referred to the teaching of indexing languages in general and the UDC in particular. These contributions were of special interest for the attendants who worked at universities, because different methods of teaching the same subject were discussed. Some of the proposed methods were actually used in schools of librarianship and information science in Spain, and, in some cases, an evaluation of them had been undertaken, thus the effectiveness of the methods could also be examined. This session gave also the opportunity of discussing the curricula of different Spanish universities with respect to this subject. Since most of the faculties and schools of librarianship and information science in Spain are quite young - on the average only ten years - teaching methodology and curriculum development are important issues.

Applied research was the topic of the third and last session. In five papers the results of actual research projects taking place in different Spanish institutions were presented and discussed. Topics covered were of a wide range: computer-assisted document generation, indexing terms as indicators of scientific knowledge, occurrences of indexing terms in the ISOC bibliographical data base, bibliographic arrangement and ordering systems, construction of indexing languages for small and medium educational centers and planning of information systems for museums.

The closing talk was given by José M. Izquierdo on the topic *Conceptual structures for documentary representation*. The book includes also a presentation to the conference proceedings by Emilia Curras.

Although not contained in the book, a remarkable event at the end of the conference was the creation of the Spanish Chapter of ISKO. Taken as a whole, there is no doubt that the ISKO-España meeting was a great success, regarding the fact that for the first time the interested colleagues could get together from all over Spain and regarding also the valuable papers presented as shown in the proceedings volume. Since its creation, the ISKO-España chapter has become a very active body. Members of the executive body were elected later on with *Emilia Curras* as president, *Javier García Marco* as Vicepresident, *Miguel Angel Estéban* as Treasurer, *Rosa San Segundo* as Secretary, and *Constanza Espelt*, *Pilar Ortega*, *José M. Izquierdo*, *M. José López-Huertas*, *Adelaida Román* and *José Luis Udriondo* as board members.

One of its main tasks will be to continue to organize conferences of the kind of the Madrid meeting. As a result, the second ISKO meeting, organized by the Spanish chapter, had already taken place in Madrid on Nov. 16-17, 1995.

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HUSAIN, Shabahat: Library Classification: Facets and Analysis. New Delhi: Tata McGraw-Hill 1993. 367p. ISBN 0-07-4601149-0

Shabahat Husain is an experienced teacher in many fields, known for his writings on classification and broader areas of knowledge organization. He claims to have written this book in reaction to having not found „even one textbook which covered the subject adequately“ (Preface). He is mostly correct as far as Western books are concerned for Indian course contents, though „at home“ one finds Krishan Kumar's encyclopaedic textbook on classification (1), although now a bit dated. Consequently his aim was to write a comprehensive text especially for Indian students.

Indeed it is an A/Z textbook touching upon every facet of classification (cf. the subtitle of the book), be it basic or advanced. Indian library classification syllabi are still heavily dominated by Ranganathan, both in concept and in terminology, so most of this book has also a deliberate bias towards Ranganathan's theories and no wonder, Ranganathan has been quoted verbatim especially from his *Prolegomena* (1967). The debt to Ranganathan has been duly acknowledged in the Preface and in the references.

There are sixteen chapters in all with some chapters having (chapter size and format) sections. The book is initially structured to Ranganathan's planes of work, viz. Idea plane, Verbal plane, and Notational plane - but this plan is now becoming difficult to sustain. Chapter 13 "Species of classification schemes" could have been better placed after chapter 4, "Development of a theory of classification".

A (chapter length) section each has been devoted to discussion of the DDC, the UDC, and the CC, but the Bliss Classification, ed.2 and the Library of Congress Classification are visibly absent. The chapter on designing depth schedules is too brief and without examples. The book closes appropriately with a chapter on recent trends in library classification which mostly emphasizes the work of the British Classification Research Group in the field of thesaurus construction, the Broad System of Ordering, and the role of classification in OPACs. There is nothing, however, on the use of classification principles in vocabulary control, otherwise there is hardly any topic which has not been touched.

The author has successfully endeavored to encapsulate all the riches in a small volume so much so that at times one is left gasping for details. On the other hand, at places the book touches the research level — Chapter 8.2 Capacity of a notational system, and Chapter 10 Growing universe of subjects, have already been published in international journals of repute.

The author's language is clear and lucid. To be helpful to the students, each chapter has been divided into small sections with feature headings. A small list of supplementary readings would have been in place. Nevertheless, it is a well presented book with quality production standards and has been very reasonably priced. Shahabat Husain leaves no option but to fully endorse John Feather that „Such an overview is welcome“!

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(1) Sati ja, M.P.: (Book review of) Kumar, Krishan: Theory of Classification. Delhi: Vikas 1991. Int.Classif. 18(1991)No.3, p.170-171

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THOMAS, Alan R. (Ed.): Classification: Options and Opportunities. New York, London: Haworth Press 1995. VII,242p. ISBN 1-560224-709-6

The book is a simultaneous publication of volume 19 Nr.3/4, 1995 issue of *Cataloging and Classification Quarterly* (Haworth Press, 1980-) edited by Dr. Ruth C. Carter. Alan R. Thomas, editor of the book as well as of the special issue, is a veteran writer on matters of classification. Including the editor's introduction, the book has 17 chapters divided into 5 large sections each devoted to a specific theme. In his introduction the editor describes the purpose and plan of the volume.

The first section „Basic design considerations“ has 5 chapters on theoretical principles and practical methods of designing classifications. Derek LANGRIDGE, in „Alternative starting points in classification“ repeats his thesis of division of knowledge by form followed by main classes. Alan R. THOMAS in „Blissfully brief“ critically draws the essence of H.E. Bliss' „Canons of Classification“. Bella HASS WEINBERG, in „Library classification and the IR Thesaurus“ makes a comparative study of the two while emphasizing the increasing role of the thesaurus in electronic libraries, although she thinks that classifications and thesauri are complimentary to one another. In the future they may merge to serve both, information retrieval and shelf arrangement purposes. Robert M. LOSEE, in „How to study classification systems and their appropriateness for individual institutions“ provides advice on selecting a particular system suitable for a given library and gives measures to evaluate a classification system. Edmund C. SHORT, „Knowledge and the educational purposes of higher education“ suggests implications for the design of a classification system to serve the need of curricula for four types of education, viz.: general, special, researchers' and teachers'.

Inescapably all classification systems are culturally coloured posing innumerable problems when used in different cultures. It is because all knowledge, both in contents and structure is social, so this structure, represented by classification, varies from culture to culture. A foremost example is the DDC having a WASPish (Western Anglo-Saxon Protestant) bias (1). So to make these western 'universal' classifi-

cations effective in other cultures, especially Asian and African, these systems have to be adapted and expanded with home-spun numbers to classify local subjects. Some classification systems officially permit this and provide guidance to classify local material with shorter class numbers; and some systems provide alternatives and options within the system - though local expansions are generally discouraged as unstandard practices. Such provisions are discussed by Lois Mai CHAN in the Library of Congress Classification who also discusses the question of using alternative class numbers given on the LC MARC record. In the next chapter, Joan S. MITCHELL (Editor, DDC) elaborates on this theory and provides details of all such options in the DDC. She concludes that although options have an important role to play, they should be used as the last resort.

Of the four chapters in the third section „Alternative Classification Systems“, one is on Mill's BC-2 by Alan R. THOMAS, and another is on the UDC by P. David STRACHAN and Frits M.S. OOMES, both from the UDC Consortium. Both chapters present a state-of-the-art of these two systems. Another chapter by Karen M. HSU is on local classifications; and another, strangely enough, is a reborn fixed location system started in the 1950's. It has been claimed that a fixed location system saves 35% of the shelf space. The study quotes that the classified arrangement incurs a loss of 20 to 50% of the shelf space (p.139). It also enumerates many other advantages of fixed location systems. But it is admitted that such a system is non-browsable and viable only for infrequently used collections. In the next chapter, Jacquelyn SAPIE describes the need and kinds of readers interest classification. Based on a survey it concludes that these user friendly schemes pose a challenge to general (discipline divided) classifications. These maximize the use of libraries and physically facilitate accessibility as witnessed by increased circulation statistics. To devise and implement such systems, we need to conduct user studies. Apart from aiding the users and saving their time it was found that such an arrangement helps the staff to edit library collections, as it provides a visual means to determine the size of various collections to identify the low use and surplus stock and areas for future stock provision (p. 151).

The fourth section „Combinations Platters and Reclassification“ has three chapters, „International use of multiple classificationschemes in US libraries“ by R. Conrad WINKE, explains the pros and cons of using more than one system of classification in a library. Classification policy must be subservient to library policy. So any classification system, either single-handedly or coupled with another rival system must provide a meaningful display and use of a library collection. For this purpose a library could employ two systems used simultaneously for different types of materials or for different disciplines; or it could switch to a new system from a given date while retaining the previous classification for the older collection. Some libraries arrange, say, government publications by the code numbers already assigned by the publication agency. Based upon interviews of librarians it is concluded that the use of multiple schemes is viable and routinely practiced in the United States as well as outside. A