

IC

CLASSIFICATION

INTERNATIONAL

Devoted to Concept Theory
Systematic Terminology &
Organization of Knowledge

Contents

Compatibility of Retrieval Languages

Conceptual Compatibility of Ordering Systems

Topic Relevance and Retrieval Effectiveness

A Cluster Analysis Method for Objects Charac-
terized by Ordinal and Mixed Variables

The Idea of A COCTA-Glossary: The Pilot
Project on Ethnicity

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INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION

Devoted to Concept Theory, Systematic Terminology and Organization of Knowledge

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I.C. Vol. 10 (1983) No. 1

Svenonius, E.: Compatibility of retrieval languages. Introduction to a Forum.

In: *Int. Classif.* 10 (1983) No. 1, p. 2–4, 19 refs.

The article, meant to serve as the introduction to the papers presented at a conference on the topic of compatibility between indexing and retrieval languages held at Columbus, Ohio, Oct. 17, 1982, is the proposal that led to the mounting of the conference. It identifies the question to be addressed at the conference, gives a brief overview of compatibility efforts and highlights present concerns. (Author)

Dahlberg, I.: Conceptual compatibility of ordering systems

In: *Int. Classif.* 10(1983)No.1, p. 5–8, 16 refs.

In an earlier article (of 1981) general guidelines for the establishment of compatibility were offered. The present article attempts to treat more deeply the section concerning the conceptual work in the recognition and establishment of compatibility between all kinds of ordering systems (as e.g. classification systems and thesauri). It takes into account also the new developments of the last two years toward thesaurus integration and integration computerization.

The great advantages of the conceptual approach for a better understanding and correlation of ordering systems are outlined as well as implications for language translation and recognition of new concepts as a professional challenge of any scientific community. (Author)

DeHart, F.E.: Topic relevance and retrieval effectiveness.

In: *Int. Classif.* 10 (1983) No. 1, p.9–14, 6 figs., 5 refs.

A report of a case study which attempted to obtain further insight into topic relevance, as distinguished from relevance to a user's need. Utilizing one search topic and two groups of searches, the experiment aimed to determine whether statistically significant differences existed in the proportion of matches against fifty articles on the topic and present in three information sources. Each group had a different set of strategies and used specified combinations of search techniques and fields of the basic index. This report emphasizes the first group of searches which included the manual as well as the computer mode. Reasons behind retrieval performance are analyzed for the resultant eleven statistically significant differences. Approaches to the topic are examined with respect to descriptors available in the thesauri, descriptors assigned to the records, and descriptors used in the search strategies. Topic relevance may be a more serious problem in retrieval effectiveness than suspected. (Author)

Vogel, F.: Ein Verfahren zur Klassifikation von Merkmalsträgern anhand komparativer und gemischter Merkmale. (A cluster analysis method for objects characterized by ordinal and mixed variables)

In: *Int. Classif.* 10 (1983) No. 1, p. 15–18, 3 refs.

A new method of cluster analysis for objects characterized by ordinal-scaled and mixed variables is described, that is a partitioning method with an iterative relocation procedure. The search for objects which should be reallocated to another cluster is based on a clustering criterion defined for nominal-scaled and/or ordinal-scaled variables. This clustering criterion possesses properties comparable to the trace (*W*) criterion for metric variables. Starting point of the discussion and methodical foundation are measures for dispersion for nominal and ordinal variables with desirable properties. Thereafter the partitioning methods for ordinal, for nominal and for ordinal and nominal variables are discussed. In order to include metric variables it is necessary to transform these variables into ordinal variables. By this transformation only the "distance-information" of metric variables is lost, the "order-information" is preserved to an extent which is controllable by the user. (Author)

Riggs, F.W.: The idea of a COCTA-Glossary: The pilot project on 'ethnicity'.

In: *Int. Classif.* 10 (1983) No. 1, p. 19–23

In order to overcome the difficulties of social science terminology and to create a tool for conceptual and terminological cooperation in this field, a new methodology for the introduction and identification of social science concepts has been introduced, called the "ana-semantic" approach. A COCTA-glossary is one that uses this approach. Its name is derived from the COCTA Committee (the Committee on Conceptual and Terminological Analysis in the Social Sciences) which recommends this approach. The present article outlines in short its main features and explains how to establish such a COCTA-glossary using examples from the field of 'ethnicity'. (I.C.)

INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION



SCOPE

The more scientific data are generated in the impetuous present times, the more ordering energy needs to be expended to control these data in a retrievable fashion. With the abundance of knowledge now available the questions of new solutions to the ordering problem and thus of improved classification systems, methods and procedures have acquired unforeseen significance; for many years now they have been in the focus of interest of information scientists the world over.

Until recently, the special literature relevant to classification was published in piecemeal fashion, scattered over the numerous technical journals serving the experts of the various fields, such as

philosophy and science of science
science policy and science organization
mathematics, statistics, and computer science
library and information science
archivistics and museology
journalism and communication science
industrial and commodity classification
terminology, lexicography, linguistics

Beginning 1974 INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION has been serving as a common platform for the discussion of both theoretical background questions and practical application problems in many areas of concern. In each issue experts from many countries comment on questions of an adequate structuring and construction of ordering systems and on the problems of their use. In opening the information contents of new literature, of data collections and surveys, of tabular works and of other objects of scientific interest.

Their contributions have been concerned with

- (1) clarifying the theoretical foundations (general ordering theory, science-theoretical bases of classification, data analyses and reduction)
- (2) describing practical operations connected with numerical taxonomy/classification, as well as applications of classification systems and thesauri, manual and machine indexing
- (3) tracing the history of classification knowledge and methodology
- (4) discussing questions of education and training in classification
- (5) concerning themselves with the problems of terminology in general and with respect to special fields.

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The text of the papers should be structured by subheadings; it should contain (a) an introduction, stating the purpose, (b) a description of materials and methods in sufficient detail, (c) information on results or systems development and (d) a conclusion with a discussion and/or summarization.

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Additional notes should be indicated in the text by lifted single numbers (e.g. text¹) and equally collected with their texts at the end of the paper under the heading Notes.

AIMS

Thus, INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION is meant to be a programme for the improvement of classification methods and processes, a forum for discussion for all those interested in the organization of knowledge on a universal or a subject-field scale, using concept analytical and/or concept-synthetical approaches as well as numerical procedures, and comprising also the intellectual and automatic compilation and use of classification systems and thesauri in all fields of knowledge, with special attention being given to the problems of terminology.

INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION publishes original articles, reports on conferences and similar communications, the Newsletters of FID/CR (Committee on Classification Research), Infoterm and COCTA (Committee on Conceptual and Terminological Analysis), book reviews, letters to the editor and an extensive annotated bibliography of recent classification literature, covering between 300 to 400 items in each issue.

INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION should therefore be available at every university and research library of every country, at every information center, at colleges and schools of library and information science, in the hands of everybody interested in the fields mentioned above and thus also at every office for updating information on any topic related to the problems of order in our information-flooded times.

INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION was founded in 1973 by an international group of scholars with a consulting board of editors representing the world's regions, the special classification fields and the subject areas involved. From 1974-1980 I.C. was published by K.G.Saur Verlag, München. Back issues of 1974-1980 are now available from the new publisher.

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Examples:

Fugmann, R.: The glamour and the misery of the thesaurus approach. In: Int. Classif. 1(1974)No.2, p.76-86, 20 refs.

Sartori, G., Riggs, F.W., Teune, H.: Tower of Babel. On the definition and analysis of concepts in the social sciences. Pittsburgh, Pa.: Int. Studies Assoc. 1975. 107 p. = Int. Studies Occ. Paper No.6.

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