
INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION

**A Journal Devoted to Concept Theory, Organization of Knowledge
and Data, and to Systematic Terminology**

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**Editors**

Dr. phil. Ingetraut Dahlberg, D-6000 Frankfurt 50, Woogstr. 36a, FRG

Prof. Dr. med. Dr. phil. Alwin Diemer, Philosophisches Institut der Universität Düsseldorf, D-4000 Düsseldorf 1, Universitätsstr. 1, FRG

Prof. Jean M. Perreault, University Library, University of Alabama, P. O. B. 2600 Huntsville, Alabama 35807, USA

Prof. Arashanipalai Neelameghan, Documentation Research and Training Centre (DRTC) 31, Church Street, Bangalore-560001, India

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Authors of this issue:

Prof. Dr. H. H. Bock, Institut für Statistik und Wirtschaftsmathematik der RWTH Aachen, Pontstr. 51, Postfach 112, D-5100 Aachen

Mr. W. Dahlberg, Woogstr. 36a, D-6000 Frankfurt 50

Mr. A. J. Dickson, Ealing College of Higher Education, St. Mary's Road Ealing, London W5 5RF, England

Dr. R. Fugmann, Hoechst AG, Wiss. Dok., Postfach 80 03 20, D-623 Frankfurt 80

Mr. M. A. Gopinath, DRTC, 31, Church Street, Bangalore 560001, India

Dr. W. Heydrich, Fakultät für Linguistik und Literaturwissenschaft, Universität Bielefeld, D-4800 Bielefeld

Mr. A. J. N. Judge, Assist. Gen. Sec., Union of Intern. Assoc., 1, rue aux Laines, B-1000 Bruxelles

Prof. Dr. F. W. Riggs, Department of Political Science, University of Hawaii, 2424 Maile Way, Honolulu, Hawaii, 96822, USA

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Dahlberg, W.: Towards a geometry of basic concepts. In: Intern. Classificat. 6(1979) No. 2, p. 73–84, 12 refs.

The essential pillars of man's thinking and knowing are the basic concepts which structure all his knowledge so far attained and his future knowledge. It is, however, only with great difficulty that these basic concepts can be made accessible for everyone through conceptual clarification, definition and classification. Here, geometrical forms and shapes are used as instruments for a proper representation of interrelationships of such concepts. This approach is supported by a fourfold way of reasoning concerning (1) basic questions of structuralization, (2) the problem of definition and defining, (3) the question of cognition and the standpoints of attaining cognitive knowledge and (4) the problem of classification of such concepts. The figures, tables and charts added display the methods applied as well as the concepts clarified in this way. The Epilog summarizes the four approaches and shows their practical implications. I.C.

Fugmann, R., Winter, J. H.: Reverse retrieval: Toward analogy inferences by mechanized classification. Treatise VII on Retrieval System Theory. In: Intern. Classificat. 6 (1979) No. 2, p. 85–91, 5 refs.

Whether or not an object of interest is an element of a class of objects on which important statements have already been made in the literature, can be recognized mechanically by the technique of "reverse retrieval". Thus, by way of analogy inference, statements on the object of interest can be reliably suggested by this technique and submitted for validity scrutiny. Reverse retrieval is an area of information supply which exhibits, as it were, mirror symmetry to the conventional retrieval technique and thus appears as its logical complement. In particular, the former promises to open up the book stocks of libraries just as effectively as conventional retrieval does in the case of data banks. On closer inspection, creative reflection would often turn out to be a variant of analogy inference and could thus be effectively supported by the reverse retrieval technique. (Authors)

Judge, A. J. N.: Representation, comprehension and communication of sets: the role of number III (Sect. 9–11 and Annexes) In: Intern. Classificat 6 (1979) No. 2, p. 92–103, 142 refs.

Examines the cognitive and other factors which tend in practice to limit the number of elements distinguished in a set, particularly for sets fundamental to social science and policy formation, such as: human needs, values, principles, problems. It is argued that the number of elements so distinguished influences significantly both the relationships perceived between the elements and the qualitative characteristics manifested by them, irrespective of the content of the set. Such effects are important in the case of the more abstract sets for which the ambiguity of verbal descriptors creates considerable problems of comprehension and communication, especially when the set of elements is used as the basis for the elaboration of a group of cooperating institutions. The representation of such sets in traditional symbol systems and in modern 2 and 3-dimensional forms, is reviewed both as a source of constraints on set formulation and comprehension of the more complex sets through which the problems of society can be better contained. (Author)

Part 1 in Intern. Classificat. 5 (1978) No. 3, p. 126–133; Part II in 6(1979) No. 1, p. 15–25.

Römer, G.: Classification teaching for students of librarianship. Reflections and proposals.

In: Intern. Classificat. 6 (1979) No. 2, p. 104–108

As a contribution towards an improved teaching of classification knowledge in German library schools some seven problem areas are outlined among which the lacking clarity as to the teaching objectives, the training deficits of teachers, their isolation and the lack of teaching aids. Against these, some seven proposals for improvement are submitted. In the annex a list of topics concerning the teaching of classification and subject indexing at the Library School of Baden-Württemberg, Stuttgart are given. I.C.

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Have you ever heard of Johann Beckmann?

If not: Professor of economics at the University of Göttingen (born 1739, died 1811). Beckmann coined the term "technology" and is considered its founder. Not standing still Beckmann also considered the results of technology: the commodities, the goods. Thus Beckmann is also one of the founders of Commodity Science, „Warenkunde“ (Italian = merceologia, Polish = towaroznawstwo, Russian = towarowedenie, Chinese and Japanese = 商品学 as examples). At the same time Beckmann was one of the forerunners in agricultural science. Recent reprints and new translations of his works demonstrate their lasting validity.

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