

# Knowledge Organization

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Devoted to Concept Theory,  
Classification, Indexing, and  
Knowledge Representation



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# KNOWLEDGE ORGANIZATION

# KO

Official Quarterly Journal of the International Society for Knowledge Organization ISSN 0943 - 7444  
International Journal devoted to Concept Theory, Classification, Indexing and Knowledge Representation

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## Contents page

Beghtol, Clare (1997). **Stories: Applications of narrative discourse analysis to issues in information storage and retrieval.**

*Knowledge Organization*, 24(2), 64-71. 40 refs.

The arts, humanities, and social sciences commonly borrow concepts and methods from the sciences, but interdisciplinary borrowing seldom occurs in the opposite direction. Research on narrative discourse is relevant to problems of documentary storage and retrieval, for the arts and humanities in particular, but also for other broad areas of knowledge. This paper views the potential application of narrative discourse analysis to information storage and retrieval problems from two perspectives: 1) analysis and comparison of narrative documents in all disciplines may be simplified if fundamental categories that occur in narrative documents can be isolated; and 2) the possibility of subdividing the world of knowledge initially into narrative and non-narrative documents is explored with particular attention to Werlich's work on text types. (Author)

Hudon, Michèle (1997). **Multilingual thesaurus construction : Integrating the views of different cultures in one gateway to knowledge and concepts.**

*Knowledge Organization*, 24(2), 84-91. 11 refs.

General linguistic and specific semantic problems arising in multilingual thesaurus construction are well defined in the various textbooks and in the guidelines covering this area. Much details are provided on the "conceptual equivalence" issue, and various ways of dealing with conceptual divergence are described. But when discussing semantic solutions, display options, management issues, or use of technology, specialists and guidelines seldom, if ever, go as far as commenting on whether or not a particular option is truly respectful of a language and its speakers. This paper, based on the premise that in a multilingual thesaurus all languages are equal, reviews the options and solutions offered by the guidelines to the developer of specialized thesauri. It also introduces other problems of a sociocultural, and even of a truly political nature, a prominent feature in the daily life of the thesaurus designer with which the theory and the guidelines do not deal very well. (Author)

Green, Rebecca (1997). **The role of relational structures in indexing for the humanities.**

*Knowledge Organization*, 24(2), 72-83. 28 refs.

The paper is divided into three parts. The first develops a framework for evaluating the indexing needs of the humanities with reference to four sets of contrasts: user (need)-oriented vs. document-oriented indexing; subject indexing vs. attribute indexing, scientific writing vs. humanistic writing; and topical relevance vs. logical relevance vs. evidential relevance vs. aesthetic relevance. The indexing needs of the humanities range broadly across these contrasts. The second part establishes the centrality of relationships to the communication of indexable matter and examines the advantages and disadvantages of means used for their expression in both natural languages and index languages. The use of a relational structure, such as a frame, is shown to represent perhaps the best available option. The last part illustrates where the use of relational structures in humanities indexing would help meet some of the needs previously identified. Although not a panacea, the adoption of frame-based indexing in the humanities might substantially improve the retrieval of its literature. (Author)

Burger, Henry G. (1997). **Kuhnian discovery: Its way-stations and choke-points.**

*Knowledge Organization*, 24(2), 92-103, 55 refs.

Thomas Kuhn differentiated normal scientific progression from the replacement of basic assumptions by a novel paradigm. With his recent death, it is time to sequence the innovation cycle, some of whose parts he had detailed. A Kuhnian discovery faces battle before it is can even be tried and evaluated. We enumerate over two dozen "way-stations," or phases, many heretofore vaguely differentiated in half a dozen academic disciplines. Each phase is illustrated with a vignette. Within that cycle, the mental awareness that one has found an anomaly is a distinct advantage, for which we propose the name of neocognition. Certain phases are especially vulnerable dead ends, choke-points, of the entire sequence. Particularly so are the 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> periods – the cultural reactions based on the perceived immediacy of benefit. Any requirement to obtain commercial support at this pre-development stage prevents the emergence of even farsighted latent support that could hurdle the remaining steps. The eventual acceptance of any Kuhnism activates forces that will likely evolve its own era of scientific / political correctness. – From a score of thumbnail histories, it becomes obvious that research organizations may accelerate basic discovery by pre-constituency dissemination. (Author)

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## KNOWLEDGE ORGANIZATION

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## Instructions for Authors

*Manuscripts* should be submitted in English only to the editor-in-chief in two double-spaced copies and should be accompanied by an indicative abstract of 100 to 200 words. After manuscripts are accepted for publication in *Knowledge Organization*, they must be provided on a 3.5" diskette encoded in Word, WordPerfect, or ASCII text. Our preference is Word 6.0 (or later). Diskettes should not be sent until requested by the editor.

*Criteria for acceptance* will be appropriateness to the field of the journal (see Scope and Aims), taking into account the merit of the contents and presentation. The manuscript should be concise and should conform to professional standards of English usage and grammar. Manuscripts are received with the understanding that they have not been previously published, are not being submitted for publication elsewhere, and that if the work received official sponsorship, it has been duly released for publication. Submissions are refereed, and authors will usually be notified within 6 to 10 weeks. Unless specifically requested, manuscripts and illustrations will not be returned.

The text should be structured by numbered subheadings. It should contain (a) an *Introduction*, giving an overview and stating the purpose, (b) a *main body*, describing in sufficient detail the materials or methods used and the results or systems developed, and (c) a *conclusion* or *summary*.

*Reference citations within the text* should have the following form: (author, year). For example, (Jones, 1990). Specific page numbers are optional e.g. (Jones, 1990, p.100). A citation with two authors would read (Jones & Smith, 1990); three or more authors would be: (Jones et al., 1990). When the author is mentioned in the text, only the date and optional page number should appear in parenthesis – e.g. According to Jones (1990), ...

*References* should be listed alphabetically by author at the end of the article. Journal names should not be abbreviated. Multiple citations by the same author should be listed chronologically and should each spell out the author's name. Articles appearing in the same year should have the

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Examples:

Dahlberg, I. (1978). A referent-oriented, analytical concept theory for INTERCONCEPT. *International Classification*, 5(3). 142-151.

Graesser, A., Person, N. & Huber, J. (1992). Mechanisms that generate questions. In T. W. Lauer, E. Peacock, & A. C. Graesser (Eds.). *Questions and Information Systems*. Hillsdale, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates. 167-187.

Sager, J. C. (1990). *A Practical Course in Terminology Processing*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

Sukiasyan, E. R. (1996). Change as a problem of classification system development. In R. Green (Ed.). *Knowledge Organization and Change: Proceedings of the 4<sup>th</sup> International ISKO Conference*. Frankfurt: Indeks Verlag. 119-122.

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## 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 products and commodity science  
 terminology, lexicography and linguistics

Beginning 1974, KNOWLEDGE ORGANIZATION (formerly 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 survey, 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 analysis and reduction)
- (2) describing practical operations connected with indexing/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.

## Aims

Thus, KNOWLEDGE ORGANIZATION 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.

KNOWLEDGE ORGANIZATION publishes original articles, reports on conferences and similar communications, the Newsletters of the International Society for Knowledge Organization (ISKO News) and the Committee on Classification Research of the International Federation for Information and Documentation (FID/CR News) as well as book reviews, letters to the editor, and an extensive annotated bibliography of recent classification and indexing literature, covering some 500 items in each issue.

KNOWLEDGE ORGANIZATION 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.

KNOWLEDGE ORGANIZATION 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 it was published by K.G. Saur Verlag, München. Back issues of 1978-1992 are available from ERGON-Verlag, too. (The 14 volumes of 1978-1992 are offered now at the highly reduced price of DM 200,-)

As of 1989, KNOWLEDGE ORGANIZATION has become the official organ of the INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KNOWLEDGE ORGANIZATION (ISKO) and is included for every ISKO-member, personal or institutional in the membership fee (US \$ 50/US \$ 100).

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