REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Die ersten deutschsprachigen Übersetzungen von Deweys Dezimalklassifikation in Österreich-Ungarn

Die Centenarfeiern zur Entwicklung der Dezimalklassifikation und düstere Prophezeiungen über ihr allfälliges Ende geben Gelegenheit, daran zu erinnern, wie die Dezimalklassifikation eigentlich in den deutschen Sprachraum eingeführt worden ist.

In Europa wurde die Dezimalklassifikation erstmalig auf der 1. Internationalen Bibliographischen Konferenz in Brüssel im Jahre 1895 einem größeren Kreis bekanntgemacht. Die deutschsprachigen Teilnehmer an dieser Versammlung verfaßten die ersten Berichte über die Deweysche Dezimalklassifikation und brachten die ersten Übersetzungen der "Tafeln" ins Deutsche.

Der erste Bericht stammt vom 31. August 1895 aus Budapest und erschien unter dem Titel „Mandello Karl: Dezimalklassifikation von Bibliotheken". Der Bericht wurde im 2. Jg. der politisch-literarischen Halbmonatsschrift „West-östliche Rundschau", die in Leipzig und Budapest unter der Redaktion von B. Vikar erschien, auf den Seiten 402–405 publiziert. Rechtsanwalt Dr. Karl Mandello gehörte dem Hauptstädte-Municipalausschuß von Budapest als gewähltes Mitglied aus den 1200 Höchstbesteuerten an. In seiner Vorschau auf die Internationale Bibliographische Konferenz, die dann am 2. September 1895 zusammentrat, gibt er einen ersten Überblick über das Deweysche System, das zwar schon seit 18 Jahren in den Vereinigten Staaten bestand und von ca. 100 Bibliotheken angewandt wurde, in Europa jedoch noch kaum bekannt war.

Die zweite umfassendere deutsche Einführung in das Deweysche Klassifikationssystem wurde ebenfalls von einem Österreicher geliefert. Karl Junker (10.8.1867–29.3.1928) brachte in seiner kleinen Broschüre „Allgemeines biographisches Repertorium und die erste Bibliographische Conferenz in Brüssel 1895".– Wien: Alfred Hölder 1896 (Publication de l'Institut International de Bibliographie) auf 22 Seiten eine Einführung in die Geheimnisse der Deweyschen Klassifikation und in einem Anhang die erstmalige Übersetzung aller Hauptabteilungen ins Deutsche. Bereits ein Jahr später legte derselbe Verfasser das Werk „Die Decimalclassifikation – gekürzte allgemeine Tafeln. Deutsche Ausgabe." Wien: Alfred Hölder 1897 (Office International de Bibliographie à Bruxelles. Publication No. 14) vor.

Neben einer aus dem vorher zitierten Werk erweiterten Einleitung brachte er nicht nur eine Übersetzung des systematischen Teiles der Tafeln, sondern erstmalig dazu einen alphabetischen Index. Dieses Werk erschien, wie aus den Titelangaben ersichtlich, als offizielle Publikation des Internationalen Büros für Bibliographie, dem Vorläufer der heutigen „Fédération Internationale de Documentation (FID)". Junker veranlaßte auch alserster Redakteur der wöchentlichen Publikation „Österreichische Bibliographie. Hrsg. vom Verein der Österr.-ungar. Buchhändler" (Jg. 1 [1899]–3 [1901]. Wien 1899–1903) die Beisetzung der Notation nach der Dezimalklassifikation bei allen Titelaufnahmen dieser Nationalbibliographien. Dabei führt er auf S. IX des 1. Heftes dieser Bibliographie an: „Hinsichtlich des Classificationssystems musste schon mit Rücksicht auf die Resolution des Jahres 1897 das Decimalsystem gewählt werden. Oesterreich ist hierin dem Beispiele Amerikas und Belgiens gefolgt und wird dies mit Rücksicht auf die täglich wachsende Verbreitung dieses Systems, das gerade für einen polyglotten Staat die grössten Vortheile besitzt, gewiss nicht zu bereuen haben. Für die äussere Ausstattung der Bibliographie wurden sämmtliche bestehende derartige Publicationen verglichen. Die Anlage entspricht so ziemlich jener der Bibliographie de Belgique;" Auf den folgenden Seiten X–XIV folgt eine Erläuterung der Dezimalklassifikation nebst Angaben von Hauptabteilungen, wichtigen Abteilungen und wichtigen geographischen Indices in 3 Abteilungen. In diesem Zusammenhang erscheint es noch interessant, darauf hinzuweisen, daß die kaiserliche Akademie der Wissenschaften zu Wien sich schon frühzeitig mit der Dezimalklassifikation auseinandersetzte.

Auf den Seiten 203 und folgende des „Almanachs der kaiserlichen Akademie der Wissenschaften. Jg. 47 (1897) wird unter den Verhandlungen des Verbandes wissenschaftlicher Körperschaften im Jahre 1896/97 der „Bericht der Delegierten der kaiserlichen Akademie (zugleich Vertreter des k.k. Unterrichtsministeriums) über die Beschlüsse, welche von der im Juli 1896 bei der Royal Society in London stattgefundenen „International Catalogue Conference" gefaßt worden sind", in gedruckter Form vorgelegt. Die Verfasser des Berichtes waren der Professor der Astronomie und damalige Direktor der Universitäts-Sternwarte, Dr. Edmund Weiss (26.8.1837–21.6.1917) und Hofrat, Professor der Philosophie Dr. Ernst Mach (18.2.1838–19.2.1916), beides wirkliche Mitglieder der mathematisch-naturwissenschaftlichen Klasse der Akademie. In dem Bericht wird auf die erregten Debatten im Zusammenhang mit der Beratung der Fassung der Resolution 28 von besagter internationaler Katalogskonferenz verwiesen, da die Royal Society in dem Einladungsschreiben die Einführung der Dezimalklassifikation von Dewey für den geplanten Internationalen Katalog der wissenschaftlichen Veröffentlichungen vorgesehen hätte. Das Deweysche System fand bei der Konferenz zahlreiche Gegner, und es wurde schließlich beschlossen, auf einer neu einzuberufenden Katalogskonferenz das eingehende Studium des genannten Systems in Aussicht zu nehmen.

In ihrer Stellungnahme stellten die beiden Berichterstatter fest, daß man dem Deweyschen System gegenüber nicht ungerecht sein dürfe und man zwischen einem System für eine übersichtliche bibliographische Registrierung und einem logischen System der Wissenschaften scharf unterscheiden müsse.

Dieser vor acht Jahrzehnten gemachten Feststellung ist angesichts der nun wieder aufgeflammten Debatten über Wert und Unwert der Dezimalklassifikation als solche noch immer nichts mehr dazuzufügen, sie spricht für sich selbst.

Gerhard Silvestri

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Brazilian Conference on Bibliographic Classification

The Brazilian Conference on Bibliographic Classification was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 12th to 17th September 1976, in commemoration of the Dewey Centenary in the premises of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro.

The Honorary Chairman of the Conference was Mr. J. A. Vencovsky, director of the Brazilian Institute of Information on Science and Technology. Mr. A. C. Dias, President of the Library Association of Rio de Janeiro and Mr. A. T. Campos, Chairman of the UDC Brazilian Commission, were the conference coordinators. The Chairman of the Organizing Committee was Mrs. M. B. Pontes de Carvalho and the Executive Secretary was Mrs. R. M. Soares de Oliveira.

The aim of this conference was to bring together librarians and other specialists to discuss problems related to Classification (theory and applications).

The official program of the Conference included information on panels (annex No.1) lectures (annex no.2) and special meetings (annex no.3).

We had 620 Brazilian participants and some foreign specialists from:

Germany – Dr. I. Dahlberg
Argentine – Prof. Angel Fernandez and Prof. Emma Linares
USA – Prof. Victor Rozemberg
Chile – Mrs. Lila Cerda
Japan – Mr. Y. Nakamura
Uruguay – Mrs. Marta Trigo and Ermelinda Acerenza
Porto Rico – Mr. Donald Lehnus.

During the Conference we launched the UDC Medium Edition in Portuguese (FID 541) in commemoration of the Dewey Centenary.

The Secretariat of the Organizing Committee will publish the proceedings of the Conference, including the papers presented, resolutions, list of participants etc.

ANNEX 1: PANELS

13 September: *Panel on Classification Systems*

Coordinator: Mr. Abner Lellis Correa Vicentini, EMBRATER/SNIR and IBICT/CDU Commission.
Speakers:
Mr. João Laurentino de Souza, Documentation Service of Presidency of the Republic – *The Library of Congress Classification.*
Mrs. Noemia Lentino, 1st Vice-President of the UDC Brazilian Commission – *Dewey 1896–1976, 1st–18th Edition.*
Prof. Donald Lehnus, Graduate School of Library Science of Puerto Rico; Representative of Forest Press – *The evolution of the internationalization of the Dewey Decimal Classification.*
Miss Cordelia R. Cavalcanti, Director of the Documentation and Information Centre of the House of Deputies – *Panoramic review of classification systems.*

14 September: *Panel on indexing languages*

Coordinator: Mr. A. A. Briquet de Lemos, Department of Librarianship, University of Brasilia.
Speakers:
Prof. U. G. Baranow, Literature Department, University of Brasilia – *Linguistic aspects of indexing languages.*
Dr. J. Robredo and Mrs. Y. Chastinet, Projeto PNUD/FAO/BRA/72/02 – *Classification versus thesaurus: a practical example of application in the area of agriculture.*
Dr. I. Dahlberg, Editor of International Classification – *The future of indexing languages.*
Mr. Angel Fernandez, Director of the Central Library of the School of Agronomy, University of Buenos Aires – *Standards for geographic extensions according to recent UDC general rules.*

15 September: *Panel on history and philosophy of Classification*

Coordinator: Prof. A. T. Campos, President of the Brazilian UDC Commission.
Speakers:
Mrs. Heloisa Schreiner, Director of the Central Library Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul – *Historical considerations about classification.*
Mrs. Evangelina de Azevedo Veiga, School of Communication and Librarianship, Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul – *Theory of UDC.*
Mrs. Malvina Vianna Rosa, Head Librarian, School of Dentistry, Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul – *Faceted classification: history and philosophy.*
Miss Cordelia R. Cavalcanti, Director of the Documentation and Information Centre of the House of Deputies – *Bibliographic classification as an instrument for information retrieval.*

16 September: *Panel on teaching of Classification*

Coordinator: Mrs. Jandira B. Assunção, Director of the School of Librarianship, Federal University of Minas Gerais.
Speakers:
Mrs. A. H. Botelho Mesquita, School of Librarianship, Federal University of Minas Gerais – *Present position of classification teaching.*
Mrs. M. Leticia A. Lima and Mr. Nilton Ferreira de Mello, Department of Librarianship, Federal University of Pernambuco – *Programs of teaching of classification: theory and philosophy.*
Mrs. M. Lourdes Tavares, Department of Librarianship, Federal University of Paraná – *The study of classification programs; theory and philosophy.*
Mrs. J. M. Kramer, Federal University of Minas Gerais – *The subject knowledge; a need to classify correctly specialization.*
Mrs. Marysia M. Fiuza, Federal University of Minas Gerais – *Classification, indexing and cataloguing, an integrated teaching.*

17 September: *Panel on automation: Research and updating*

Coordinator: Mrs. Elvia A. Oliveira, IBICT
Speakers:
Mr. Y. Nakamura, Member of FID/CCC – *Automatic production of index from schedule; the case of UDC.*
Mr. Gentil Noronha, Brazilian Press Association – *New historical tasks of documentation.*
Mrs. Angela C. A. Neves, Ministery of the Interior – *UDC application in a documentary network.*
Mrs. Lourdes M. Siqueira and librarians of the Technological Institute of Aeronautics. – *UDC and the computer.*

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ANNEX 2: LECTURES

Classification Theory, Dr. Ingetraut Dahlberg, Editor of International Classification.

A Comparative Study of the Editions of the Dewey Decimal Classification. Mrs. Marilia J. A. Gardini, Federal University of Minas Gerais.

The Bibliographic Classification and the Development of the Science and Technology, Mrs. Lourdes Mesquita Siqueira, Head Librarian of the Central Library of the CTA.

Apogee and Decline of Bibliographic Classifications, Mr. Edson Nery da Fonseca, School of Applied Social Studies, University of Brasilia.

Melvil Dewey, his life, his work, Mrs. Zenobia P. S. Moraes Bastos, Institute of Geology of São Paulo.

Classification – a fundamental process of the human nature, Mrs. Rosali P. Fernandez, Latin American Centre for Physics.

On Difficulties formed in the Application of UDC in Brazilian Penal Law, Mrs. Marieta Pestana Novack, Library of Criminal Tribunal of the State of São Paulo.

Elaboration of an experimental thesaurus for the iron and steel industry, Mrs. G. M. Coelho, C. M. Luz Machado and E. K. Schmidt, Brazilian Institute of Siderurgy.

The Importance of a Standard and Specific Medical Terminology, Miss Ireda C. S. Silva, Laura L. Oliveira and N. G. Barrantes Serrano, Post-Graduate Course of IBICT.

Origins and Development of Subject in Classification, Mrs. Dora Regina Sebein, Agronomic Institute of Paranã.

The Classification and Cultural Training of the Student of Librarianship, Mrs. M. C. Girão Perolla, School of Librarianship and Documentation São Carlos.

Methodology and Teaching Techniques of Dewey Decimal Classification, Mrs. Rosina Alice Pruetz Pazin, Federal University of Paranã.

Comparative Study of the Editions of Dewey Decimal Classification, Mrs. Marilia J. A. Gardini, Federal University of Minas Gerais.

Codes for Brazilian Rivers, Mrs. M. Carmo de Almeida et alii, Documentation Center of Eletrobrãs.

Classification for Brazilian Public Administration, Mrs. Lêa A. Chaves, Library of Treasury Department.

Brazilian Activities related to ISDS, Mr. Philippe Damian, IBICT.

Scientific bases of Information Science, Prof. Victor Rozemberg, California University, USA.

Attempt to establish a classification system for subjects related to underground transport, Mrs. Alice C. Guarnieri, Library of Electrotechnic Institute, University of São Paulo.

ANNEX 3: SPECIAL MEETINGS

4th National Meeting of Classification Teachers and Specialists Brazilian Association of Librarianship and Documentation Schools.

Meeting of the Brazilian Classification Research Group

33th Meeting of the Brazilian UDC Commission

12th Meeting of the Brazilian Union Catalogue Commission

Meeting of the Regional Council for Librarianship, 7th Region

5th Meeting of the Brazilian Law Documentation of Brazilian Federation of Association of Librarians

Meeting on Post-Graduation in Documentation and Information Science. R. M. Soares de Oliveira

Kolloquium "Semstruktur", Mainz/Frankfurt, 21.9.1976

1. Purpose

The one-day colloquium served for a first public presentation and discussion as well as the assessment by experts of the project "Semestructure–Investigation of the Semantic Structure of Natural Languages by Means of EDP", which has been promoted since 1975 by DFG (German Research Association) funds. The project is being conducted at the Institute for Comparative Linguistics of Mainz, Germany, University by (currently) two specialists under the direction of Prof. Wahrig, the author of the "Deutsches Wörterbuch" (German Dictionary). It is being supported by the Department of Informatics of the Darmstadt Technical University and by the Center for Machine Documentation (ZMD) Frankfurt. The evaluating experts present at the colloquium were Professors Henne, Coseriu, and Grosse. Some 15 scientists and experts invited by Mr. Wahrig joined in the discussions.

2. Data basis

The data background of the project is as follows: From his "Deutsches Wörterbuch" (2nd ed. 1975) Wahrig extracted a 16.000-entry basic vocabulary which will appear in 1977 as a dtv-paperback and which will be in the nature of a German "Advanced Learner's Dictionary", just like the "Deutsches Wörterbuch" is patterned after the "Oxford Concise". The 16.000 dictionary entries have been stored in a data bank. "Basic vocabulary", as Wahrig understands the term, has nothing to do with statistically ascertained frequencies (cf. in this connection also Keil (1972); the decisive criteria are rather of a pragmatic-stylistic nature, constituting so-called "lexicographic units with a purely descriptive function" (Bühler).

3. First stage objectives

a) Machine checking of all references for completeness. Example: the entry "Velo siehe (= see) Fahrrad" requires the complement "Fahrrad, Syn. Velo (schweiz.)"

b) Checking whether the explanations of the meaning of the entries (in the form of abridged definitions) are consistent throughout, i.e. whether the words used in the definiens are always employed in the same sense as in the definiendum (semantic matching).

Example: if the entry "Aas" is explained as follows:

Aas = df verwesende Tierleiche (decomposing animal corpse)

a check is made whether the words

verwesen (decompose), Tier (animal), Leiche (corpse)

are found among the entries of the dictionary and are

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defined so clearly as to be suited to serve as constituents of the meaning (definition) of "Aas".

c) Demonstration of the linguistic theory according to which definitions (explanations) of words form an integrated hierarchical structure whose ultimate units are general concepts not requiring definition (so-called semantic universals), i.e. peaks of a communicative network which can only be explained in terms of each other. Examples of such distinctive, minimum semantic units (called 'Seme" (semes) by Wahrig) are e.g.: space, time, direction, beginning, end, dimension, essence, absolute, free, unconnected, unit).

d) Proving, in addition, that the nucleus of this network is formed by a system of concepts which is basic to several languages with similar or related "Weltbilder" (Weisgerber), i.e. ideas of the universe.

4. Second stage objectives

a) Development of a meta-language (formal structure) for describing lexicographic units. Since the units concerned are basic vocabulary units, it is hoped that universal validity will be achieved. The relationships between these units and their methodical-theoretical status are presented in Dahlberg (1976). (Proposals for a redrafting of DIN Standard 2330).

b) Useful insights for language didactics research to the extent that it will prove possible to ascertain the "semes" and their fundamental structure. These insights could then furnish a basis for language teaching (see also Keil (1972)).

c) To obtain insights for a free users' language for data bank systems.

5. The Colloquium

The discussion proceeded from the very beginning along such general-theoretical-scientific lines that your reporter was obliged, at the end of the meeting, to extract any concrete, factual and interesting information available from Prof. Wahrig and his co-workers by directly questioning them. The concepts "semantic universalia", "semes" (or "sememes" or "semantemes"), and "basic vocabulary", controversial as they are in general linguistics, were discussed so thoroughly by the representatives of various schools of thought that hardly any time remained for concrete matters, which however did not affect the pragmatist Wahrig. Those participants at the colloquium on whom the battle for concepts was largely lost were compensated by the practical demonstration in the afternoon of 21.9.1976 at the four terminals of the ZMD in Frankfurt.

The data processing system used, which in this case is a *truly* linguistic one (using programs prepared by Mainz University, the Darmstadt Technical University, and the data bank system STAIRS of the ZMD), is not only geared to the objectives mentioned in the above but also ensures that the marked data constituted by the dictionary entries (1) are available in numerous arrangements, ordered (combined) according to a wide variety of categories, and (2) can be immediately fed into a photocomposition-machine for easy and convenient printout. The material has been processed to very great detail, so that, whether on a screen or by some other form of output, the following information (as categories) was displayed (for demonstration purposes):

- Words starting with the written syllable "an"... In general: all written syllables.
- Words (e.g. Poetik) in which the combination OE is pronounced as two vowels rather than as the diphtong Ö.
- Verbs of irregular conjugation
- reflexive verbs
- transitive verbs, used reflexively
- figurative use, antiquated use
- technical use
- geographic dissemination
- references from abbreviations to complete forms, etc., etc.

The various categories can also be combined. Some 25 categories (including a few quasi-categories) are distinguished. Input involves a great deal of work, but there is an adequate force of intelligent student personnel available.

6. Summing-up

Whether the material permits of proving the existence of semantic universalia and their structure, or whether a relational network or an underlying meta-language can be proven, are matters which this reporter is not competent to judge. There is no doubt, however (and this is the immediate objective) that the system already in existence (a data bank par excellence) is an outstanding tool for streamlining a dictionary, for making it inherently consistent and to bring it under control—a possibility which other agencies dare only dream about so far.

H. J. Schuck

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International PRECIS Workshop in Maryland

An International PRECIS Workshop was held in October 1976 at the College of Library and Information Services of the University of Maryland in College Park, Maryland. The event was international in more than one respect: the lecturers and instructors came from England, Denmark, Canada and the U.S.; it was attended by more than 100 participants from all parts of the United States and Canada, representing a cross-section of librarians, indexers, information specialists and teachers of library and information science; and, most important, it

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became evident that PRECIS, though originally designed for subject indexing in English only, has the potential to be applicable to any language, thus perhaps becoming the first verbal indexing language with translingual properties.

Derek Austin, the principal inventor and developer of the system, gave a lucid introduction to the principles of PRECIS, its semantics and syntax, and its management aspects. Jutta Sørensen, a Danish librarian and linguist, explored the inter-lingual and translingual aspects of PRECIS, drawing on the insights of modern linguistics, especially the theory of "deep cases" which seems to be at the root of the ability of PRECIS to adapt itself to languages other than English, including highly inflected or agglutinative ones. Research on these topics is presently being conducted in the U.K. and Denmark, sponsored by the British Library.

Several other researchers reported on comparative studies of PRECIS that were conducted to elicit factual support for the claim that it is indeed a system that is qualitatively better than conventional subject headings or mechanically derived KWIC indexing, by providing not only more but better structured index entries that use natural language and show even the most complex subjects of books or other documents in their full scope and context. *Phyllis A. Richmond* (Case Western Reserve University) presented such a study, based on a comparison of PRECIS with Library of Congress (LC) subject headings, while *Ann Schabas* (University of Toronto) investigated the suitability of PRECIS for SDI purposes, and *Valentina de Bruin* (also from the University of Toronto) reported on a comparative study of PRECIS applied to the medical field (so far only in a pilot project).

Other speakers reported on practical applications of the system: *Audrey Taylor* (Aurora High School, Aurora, Ontario) had used PRECIS manually (that is, without a computer) in a high school library; *Derek Robinson* (College Bibliocentre) showed how the system had been used in indexing nonbook media; and *Mary Dykstra* (Dalhousie University) related the experiences of using PRECIS in the indexing of films for the National Film Board of Canada.

In between those papers and reports which were discussed at length from the floor, there were several practical exercises in string construction and thesaurus building which gave all participants an opportunity to get first-hand experience with the system. One of the inherent problems brought to light during these exercises was the fact that the differences in the usage of English on both sides of the Atlantic (and to some extent the differences between U.S. and Canadian usage) pose certain problems which will have to be overcome before an exchange of PRECIS strings among English-speaking countries can be undertaken on a large scale. The problem is largely of a socio-linguistic nature and will probably have to be solved along the lines that will govern the application of PRECIS to languages other than English.

The question arising from the introduction of PRECIS into North American indexing practices were investigated in a summarizing paper by *C. Donald Cook* (University of Toronto) who, while not minimizing the problems of an administrative and financial nature, was hopeful that PRECIS could ultimately be offered at least as an alternative to the traditional (and sometimes woefully inadequate) LC subject headings. It was the consensus of the workshop participants that the next step towards the introduction and use of PRECIS in American indexing would have to be actual training of indexers in seminars similar to those that are being held regularly at the British Library in London. The first of these North American PRECIS seminars will be held in Summer 1977 at *Dalhousie University* in Halifax, Nova Scotia, to be followed by others in various parts of the United States.

This workshop will thus perhaps be the starting point for the introduction of a modern indexing system to the U.S., to supplement or perhaps even in time replace those subject retrieval tools that have served the English-speaking world for more than a century but are now largely outdated and incapable of displaying and retrieving complex information as presented in contemporary documents.

The Proceedings of the PRECIS Workshop, containing the full text of all papers and many worked examples of PRECIS strings for actual books and other documents will be published in 1977 by the H. W. Wilson Company in New York.

Hans H. Wellisch

FID/CCC Classification Symposium

In commemoration of the Dewey Decimal Centenary the Central Classification Committee (CCC) of the FID sponsored and organized a Symposium entitled "General Classification Systems in a Changing World" at the Editiones Mundaneum, Brussels, Nov. 25–26, 1976. The interest shown was considerable: 52 participants from 18 countries were present.

Mr. *G. Lorphèvre*, FID/CCC Chairman, master and resident of the famous Mundaneum, who had himself worked together with Mssrs. Otlet and La Fontaine in his earlier years, opened the Symposium and chaired the Sessions. The FID President, Prof. Dr. *H. Arntz* delivered the opening speech and expressed his admiration for the work of Melvil Dewey.

In keeping with the general topic of the symposium, the majority of the papers presented were concerned with the history, present status and application of the DDC and the UDC. The following are given as examples: *R. B. Sealock*, Executive Director, Forest Press (USA): "International responsibilities of the Dewey DC"; *B. A. Custer*, Editor, Dewey DC (USA): "The responsiveness of recent editions of the Dewey DC to the needs of its users"; *L. V. Lobova* (USSR): "Central classification by means of the UDC of scientific and technical information in the USSR"; *J. H. de Wijn* (Netherlands): "One century of Decimal classification"; *L. Kofnovec* (Czechoslovakia): "Problems of universal classifications. A comparative study of the UDC and the Soviet Library-Bibliographic Classification (LBC)"; *J. Toman* (Czechoslovakia): "BSO –retrospective view"; *D. M. Mekhtiev* (USSR): "Use of UDC in automated diversified systems of information service"; *B. Barnholdt* (Denmark): "ALIS – Automated Library Information System of the Danish Technical Library with UDC retrieval facilities.–

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A. Wittmann (Germany) presented "The International Patent Classification and its worldwide application" as an example of another system of worldwide use and *E. Öhman* (Sweden), the senior of this conference, his most interesting remarks on "Alphabetic indexes to Chinese classification systems". Besides these, a number of papers dealt with questions relating to classification theory, such as, for example, *I. Dahlberg* (Germany): "Dewey's decimalism and the value of adequate concept notations for science organization and communication"; *S. Sirajul Husain* (India): "Systems approach to classification"; *B. R. Praal* (Netherlands): "Need, functions and foundations of a present-day general classification", and *A. Sandison* (U.K.): "The special needs of a classification for books and journals". I. Dahlberg's paper could also be classified into a thematical group entitled: "The Future of the UDC", since her two-dimensional display of a new general system with decimal notation might well be considered a basis for a new future outline of the UDC. *M. Rigby's* (USA) "A century of mutation of the Decimal Classification", with a report on earlier and possible new changes concluded with 10 principles for the further development of the UDC. The Symposium ended with very practical proposals for a possible "Future development of the UDC" (or a universal centesimal classification?) by *A. F. Schmidt* (Germany).

In conjunction with the Symposium, Mr. Lorphèvre organized an exhibition at the Mundaneum showing the history of the UDC in books and photos. A catalogue of the exhibition was compiled and may be requested from Mr. Lorphèvre at 696 Chaussée de Louvain, 1030 Brussels, Belgium. The participants also appreciated the availability of all of the papers as well as the fine gift from Forest Press for one and all: a facsimile of the first edition of M. Dewey's Decimal Classification.

Götz Greiner

C.E.C. Workshop on "Qualitative Evaluation of Thesauri"

Within the framework of its action plan for the improvement of the transfer of information between the European languages the *Commission of the European Communities* in cooperation with the *Unesco* invited European thesaurus and classification experts to participate in a workshop on Jan. 13–14, 1977, to discuss and comment on the following topics:

(1) Study of essential characteristics and evaluation criteria of mono- and multilingual thesauri, on the basis of a report by G. Van Slype (Bureau M. Van Dijk, Brussels)
(2) Unesco Guidelines for Multilingual Thesauri
(3) Advisability of the creation of a permanent inventory of thesauri, accessible via EURONET
(4) Problems likely to require a research effort or a cooperative venture on the European level.

Mr. L. Rolling who welcomed the 48 participants from 14 countries, explained in his introductory address the interest of the communities in language questions and solutions to the language problems. Under the able chairmanship of Dr. *Ines Wesley-Tanaskovic* the four topics were discussed in detail. The recommendations made by the experts will be presented at the Third European Congress to be held at Luxemburg on May 3–6, 1977. In the following only a very short summary of the events of this meeting can be given.

(1) Mr. *Van Slype* presented the main features of his report (see also entry 2347 in "Classification Literature" of this issue) as well as the results of his empirical investigation of ten monolingual and ten multilingual thesauri. These were then considered point by point.

(2) The discussion of the *Unesco Guidelines for Multilingual Thesauri* (see also entry 2309 of "Classification Literature" of this issue) introduced by Mr. *W. Löhner*, was the first opportunity ever for a frank exchange of opinions of experts on work that has been going on for several years in closed circles. The members of the drafting committee present agreed to give due consideration to the comments and reconunendations made, as e.g.

- awarding of an equal status to all language versions of a multilingual thesaurus
- obtaining of expert advice on the standardization of presentation and on the
- use of grammatical, esp. syntactical devices for the expression of concepts or concept combinations as against precoordinate descriptors or the coining of new terms in cases of lacking equivalencies.

It was also pointed out that a systematic rather than alphabetical arrangement of the main part of a thesaurus would facilitate conceptual comparison and consequently would render the translation of terms much easier. In this regard expecially–and equally regarding their relational apparatus–the Guidelines in question were criticized as being dependent on the ISO/2788 *Guidelines for the Establishment and Development of Monolingual Thesauri*, which do not provide advice on methods for a systematic arrangement of the main part of a thesaurus. Thus the latter Guidelines would have to be revised first before they can furnish the necessary basis for the former ones.

(3) Concerning the third topic, *Mr. Rolling* underlined the need for a *permanent inventory of operational thesauri*, suited to reduce duplication of effort and to promote compatibility between thesauri. He suggested that the bibliographic data be supplemented by descriptive ones based on the work of Mr. Van Slype, and he recommended that the inventory be stored on magnetic tape to facilitate periodical updating and re-publishing and be eventually incorporated into referral centers such as Eusiref, Euronet's referral unit. At this point the forthcoming bibliography of the FID was mentioned, which comprises some 700 titles of thesauri and classification systems.

(4) As to the aspects of multilingualism still requiring *fundamental or applied research*, a number of suggestions were made, calling e.g. for

- methods for the achievement of compatibility between thesauri
- a round-up of problems encountered in the use of existing thesauri
- measurement of the performance of thesauri in indexing and retrieval
- an inventory and comparative evaluation of thesaurus management software packages
- analyses of concepts forming the elements of thesauri.

In summing up, it may be said that the discussions revealed some insight into the state of knowledge existing about these intellectual tools for information analysis

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and ordered storage and retrieval. It seems we still have a long way to go until some satisfaction can be obtained from their adequate form, structure and contents.

I. Dahlberg

International Workshop "The Cognitive Viewpoint"

A ten years' anniversary was celebrated recently at the University of Ghent, Belgium, when on March 24–26, 1977, more than 200 scientists from a great many fields, (and a great many countries as well) participated in an international colloquium, organized by the interdisciplinary Working Group *"Communication and Cognition"* founded in 1967. The 64 papers presented and discussed –partly in parallel sessions–were concerned with the "Cognitive point of view" in general and in particular in the fields of logic and epistemology, psychology, artificial intelligence, linguistics and language acquisition, anthropology, sociology, information science and aesthetics. The printed volume setting forth these papers (plus a preface by *Jean Piaget*) was available ahead of the conference and may probably still be ordered from "Communication and Cognition", Blandijnberg 2, B–9000 Ghent.

In his introductory speech, the founder of the group and chairman of the organization committee, Prof. *Leo Apostel*, Ghent, pointed out that he regards the "cognitive point of view" as a research programme ("the danger of Kuhn is Feyerabend") involving among other things recognition of existing knowledge, pluralism of opinions, different ways and kinds of knowledge organization and storage ("heterarchical organization"), preferably in large "chunks", not atomistically. He pleaded strongly for a theory of action rather than of knowledge and emphatically urged every contributor to consider how he would define the cognitive viewpoint in his own discipline and in relation to his neighbouring sciences. *Marc De Mey*, Ghent and Tilburg, the first of the four proceedings-editors, delivered the fundamental paper. According to him the central point of the cognitive view is: "that any processing of information, whether perceptual or symbolic, is mediated by a system of categories or concepts which, for the information-processing device, are a model of his world." He stated: "The adoption of the cognitive view is a recent stage in a series of stages through which thinking on information processing has developed." By using and extending a classification of Michie (1971) he distinguishes the following four stages:

"– a monadic stage during which information-units are handled separately and independently of each other as if they were single self-contained entities;

– a structural stage where the information is seen as a more complex entity consisting of several information-units arranged in some specific way;

– a contextual stage where in addition to an analysis of the structural organization of the information-bearing units, there is required information on context to disambiguate the meaning of the message;

– a cognitive or epistemic stage in which information is seen as supplementary or complementary to a conceptual system that represents the information-processing-system's knowledge of its world,"

and he related these in an analytical way to the following four fields: (1) Perception, (2) Language understanding, (3) Representation of knowledge and (4) Philosophy of Science. Concerning field (3) he proposed that instead of approaching knowledge from an assertational or declaration point of view one should follow the MIT-doctrine emphasizing goal-directiveness, procedure- or action-orientation. "The knowing system's actions are the measure of all things" ... and "Knowledge is subordinate to action"! Concerning field (4) he distinguished a) the monadic stage: classical positivism, b) the structural stage: logical positivism, c) the contextual stage: external factors and d) the cognitive stage: paradigms (in the Kuhnian sense). These latter he considers "very elaborate cognitive structures specifying the prerequisite knowledge necessary for processing the information delineated by the paradigm" and he regards their challenge to the cognitive view as lying in their ability to specify prerequisite knowledge and to account for interactions between the various levels of its organization.

The relationship to classification–organization of knowledge–is obvious here, as it was in many of the other papers of this remarkable conference. It is impossible to report here on all of them. I should like to give an impression at least of some of the most outstanding (to me) contributions and their authors, such as *F. Vandamme*, Ghent ("Cognition: a psychological or a social reality?"), who elaborated on the question: how do we get the initial knowledge needed to build up other knowledge?, *J. Moravcsik*, Stanford ("On understanding"), who distinguished between different levels of understanding according to different abilities comprised in the notion of "having a concept", and *L. Nowak*, Poznan ("The classic and the essentialist concept of truth"), who used the idea of exaggerating features in caricatures as an analogy for the possible determination of what may be regarded essential features and who concluded finally that "science and art care about the same thing: about truth in the essential sense of the term". *R. H. Robins*, London ("Knowledge of natural languages and scientific language") considered it necessary to determine–the Sapir-Whorf hypothesis taken into consideration–the extend to which one can get at "the nature of the cognitive system that constitutes universal grammar" and to determine its role in the organization of scientific thought. *Ch. Travis*, Calgary, Canada ("Theories of reference in the twentieth century") tried to show–invoking also an example taken from F. v. Kutschera–that "there is no correct classical theory of reference" and concluded that "an important and distinguishing function of our intelligence, then, is that it allows us to do some thing and be got to do some without having or being given explicit instructions for doing them". *Y. Wilks*, Colchester, Essex ("Language boundaries and knowledge structures") outlined "how one might deal with extensions of word sense in a natural language understanding system", extending by this "the knowledge representation of the preference semantics with pseudo-texts, which are effectively frame structures in the sense of Minsky (1975)". *J. D. Sneed*, Santa Cruz, California ("The structural approach to descriptive philosophy of science") used a set-theoretical

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approach for the representation of a conceptual structure of empirical theories. The findings of *H. Göttner*, München ("Classification of theories of literature") may be regarded as a possible test of this theory. The other end of this line of argumentation, "knowledge without consciousness", was presented in the paper by *B. C. Goodwin*, Brighton, England ("Cognitive biology"), who referred to the creativity of the evolutionary process which "proceeds according to general rules which result in the organized complexity of organisms, while the selection process provides the test of appropriateness, of relevance or of meaning of the resulting organism"—the knowledge of nature? Equally exciting was the ensuing contribution by *O. E. Laske* ("Toward a process model of musical structures"), who introduced and elaborated on "the assumption that musical long-term memory (which holds musical knowledge) is an associative propositional network of interconnected nodes representing non-verbal concepts". Finally—in an almost non-serious talk—*S. Papert*, MIT Cambridge, outlined the chapters of his forthcoming book (co-author: *M. Minsky*): "The constructed mind", "The power of knowledge", "Mind as society" and the possible impact of the computer on future children's different intellectual development and capacities. In a short summarizing session at the end of the conference this latter assumption was strongly opposed by Goodwin ("the eye will not grow before the head is there") as well as by Moravcsik and *J. B. Grize*, Neuchâtel, Switzerland who warned against Papert's extreme pragmatism and utilitarian approach. But all the "summarizers" seemed to agree in that the dynamics of knowledge transfer should be more urgent a problem to pursue today than the statics of its propositional basis.

The paper most relevant to the problems of classification (*N. Rescher*, "The systematization of knowledge") was not presented since Prof. Rescher could not come from Pittsburgh. However, it was proposed that it be reprinted in the forthcoming issue of *International Classification.*

I. Dahlberg

Gründung der Gesellschaft für Klassifikation

Am 12. Februar 1977 wurde in Frankfurt/Main die Gesellschaft für Klassifikation gegründet. Sie versteht sich als eine Vereinigung von Interessierten aller Fachbereiche an theoretischen und praktischen Fragen der Wissensordnung und Systematik, sowohl aus den einzelnen Aktivitätsbereichen der Informationswissenschaften als auch aus den ihnen nahestehenden Disziplinen, wie Linguistik, Logik, Mathematik, Wissenschaftstheorie und -geschichte sowie aus den sonstigen Sachbereichen.

Die Gründung erfolgte anläßlich der von englischen Kollegen vorgeschlagenen Einrichtung eines „German Branch" der Classification Society (gegründet 1964), die bisher einen „European" und seit 1968 auch einen „American Branch" umfaßt.

Während das Hauptziel der Classification Society darin besteht,

> "cooperation and interchange of views and information among those interested in the principles and practice of pattern recognition and classification in any discipline that uses them"

zu fördern, strebt die Gesellschaft für Klassifikation darüber hinaus auch danach, das bisher nur in einzelnen Anwendungsbereichen entwickelte klassifikatorische Methodenwissen zusanunenzufassen, es theoretisch zu durchdringen und systematisch darzustellen; dies insbesondere auch, um es mit seinen Grundlagen aus Logik und Linguistik in einheitlicher Weise für die Lehre und für die praktische Entwicklung von allgemein akzeptablen wissenschaftlichen Ordnungssystemen verfügbar zu halten. Dies wird auch die Voraussetzung für eine vorgesehene weitere praktische Aufgabe der Gesellschaft sein, nämlich die Erarbeitung von Begriffssystemen aller Wissensgebiete in Zusammenarbeit mit den einschlägigen fachwissenschaftlichen Vereinigungen.

Die Gesellschaft hat ihren Sitz in Frankfurt. Mitteilungsorgan ist zunächst diese Zeitschrift *International Classification.* Die Vorstandsmitglieder sind: Dr. I. Dahlberg, Frankfurt, Dr. R. Fugmann, Frankfurt-Hoechst, Dr. H. H. Bock, Hannover, Dr. H. G. Schön, Bielefeld, Prof. Dr. M. Scheele, Schlitz/Hessen. Mit der Geschäftsführung wurde Herr Wolfgang Dahlberg beauftragt. Die Adresse der Geschäftsstelle lautet: Gesellschaft für Klassifikation e.V., Woogstr. 36a, D–6000 Frankfurt 50.

Ihre erste Fachtagung zum Thema „Prinzipien der Klassifikation" hält die Gesellschaft am 4.6.1977 in Münster/Westfalen ab. Folgende Vorträge stehen auf dem Programm:

Helmut Gipper: Sprachliche Voraussetzungen wissenschaftlicher Begriffsbildung.
Ingetraut Dahlberg: Begriffstheoretische Grundlagen der Klassifikation.
Norbert Henrichs: Relationstheoretische Probleme der Klassifikation.
Otto Nacke: Definitionen und ihre Einteilung.
Hans Hermann Bock: Grundlagen und Probleme der numerischen Klassifikation.
Peter Ihm: Grundlagen von Ordination und Seriation.
Hartwig Lohse: Prinzipien der Klassifikation aus bibliothekarischer Sicht.
Abschlußpanel: Leitung *Martin Scheele.*
Es ist geplant, die Proceedings der Tagung im Spätsommer 1977 zu veröfffentlichen.

I. D.

Please, correct:

It has been pointed out to us that the note published in Intern. Classificat. 3 (1976) No.1, p. 35, saying that the "Société du Stage en Bibliothéconomie de la Pocatière (is) devoted to the education and training of librarians" gives a wrong information. This Société does not exist anymore since 1973 and it never educated librarians but only sub-librarians or library technologists.

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