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2nd FID/CR Regional Meeting: Classification and Communication

FID/CR schedules its second regional meeting (the first was held at Königstein, FRG, in 1979) on Nov.15, 1985, in New Delhi, directly after the International Conference on Ranganathan's Philosophy of the Indian Library Association which is to take place there, on 11-14, Nov.1985.

One of Ranganathan's books appeared under the title "Classification and Communication", Delhi 1951. Therefore it was deemed adequate to choose this book title as theme for a Regional Meeting in his area and in his memory, providing thus also the opportunity to resume his ideas and confront them with the new realities of today, after a time of 35 years has elapsed.

The meeting will be co-sponsored by (1) the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, (2) the Indian Library Association, and (3) the Ranganathan Endowment for Library Science. The organization committee consists of Dr.Gopinath, DRTC, Mr. Rajan (from Insdoc) and Prof.Kashyap, University of New Delhi. The local convenors are Prof.Krishan Kumar and Prof.Kashyap. Everybody interested in participating or receiving the program should write to Prof.Kashyap, 38/16 Chattr Marg, University of New Delhi, Delhi 110007, INDIA.

FRG: Classification as a Tool of Research

The 9th Annual Meeting of the German Society for Classification held at Karlsruhe, June 26-28, 1985 had some 160 participants of which 54 came from abroad (16 from USA, 9 from Poland, 8 from France and from the Netherlands, 3 from Canada and from England, 2 from Belgium, and 1 each from Austria, India, Hungary, Switzerland and Sweden).

The abstracts bulletin lists 106 papers, 89 of which belong to the field of numerical taxonomy (including data analysis, cluster analysis, etc.) and 17 to the field of concept-oriented classification. This distribution was unusual, as at the previous conferences of 1981, 1983 and 1984 a certain equilibrium between the two directions was manifested. Owing to the efforts of the local convenor, the weight had been put more on the numerical part in 1985.

This report covers the contents of the non-numerical papers which were divided into the sections: 1) Concept Analysis (10 papers), 2) Indexing Languages (3 papers), and 3) Applications (4 papers).

1) Concept Analysis

Already at the 8th Annual Meeting in Hofgeismar, Rudolf WILLE from the Technical University of Darmstadt had explained his conception of a graph theoretical representation of concept relationships (see Int. Classif.

11 (1984) No. 2: "Line diagrams of hierarchical concept systems"). In the meantime, it seems that one can begin to speak of a Wille-school at the Mathematics Department of Darmstadt TH which found its expression at the Karlsruhe conference in the fact that five of his students and he himself presented results of their latest research based on this graph-theoretical approach.

There was a paper by M. SKORSKY, B. GANTER and K. RINDFREY on "Programs for Concept Analysis" reporting on some Fortran programs implemented for the VAX 11/780 and in another paper by P. LUKSCH and M. SKORSKY ("Drawing concept lattices with a computer") it was shown, how, starting with a set of standard line diagrams (called graphic scales) one can decompose a context into a suitable selection of known graphic scales and combine these into a line diagram with the help of a computer. The program uses different construction methods from lattice theory. J. STAHL, B. GANTER, and R. WILLE based their paper entitled "Ideas of conceptual measurement" also on the concept structures derived from formal concept analysis and defined a measure as a map from an (empirical) context of objects and attributes to a scale which has the additional feature that inverse images (with respect to the measure) of extents being extents. And in his own paper ("From preconcepts to concepts") concluding this series, R. WILLE started from the fact that a context completely determines its hierarchy of concepts, which means that the question of forming concepts must begin with the question of forming contexts. By means of examples (Space and Time) it was shown how one may derive a context and thus a hierarchy of concepts from such a relational structure.

Rudolf UNGVARY, Budapest, who had already described his conception of the possibility of a relationship-oriented representation of concept relations in a thesaurus (see Int. Classif. 10 (1983) No. 2, p.63-8) at the Königswinter conference of 1983, had investigated recently into the duality of concepts ("Empirical investigation of conceptual duality"). He named the elementary conceptual contiguity of a concept pair, as for instance, space-time, nothing-something, matter-energy, the Relation of Intensional Tolerance. He assumes that this relationship plays a decisive role in the deep semantic structure of a language.

Norbert MEDER from the Education Department of the University of Köln tried in "Artificial Intelligence as a Tool of Classification" to show the principles which artificial intelligence uses when it is implemented accordingly and here especially in answering the question: how can one learn something new about human cognition by constructing and programming intelligent operations? He developed his thoughts on concept formation and concept connections in referring to Marc DeMey's work "The Cognitive Paradigm".

Helmut MÖNKE, Traunstein, who had already spoken about his studies on definition theory at the annual conferences of 1978 (Frankfurt-Höchst) and 1980 (Salzburg) outlined this time the "Classificatory efficiency of a linguistic definition" and used the phonological system as a classical example for a heuristic-productive, analytical definition of single elements of a concept field and its useful organization.

The linguist Mönke was followed by the terminologist Wolfgang NEDOBITY, Infoterm Wien, who clarified in "Classification, Artificial Intelligence, and Cognitive Psychology" that both AI-research and classification science operate in the development and construction of knowledge-based systems. He showed on the basis of four approaches mentioned by Don WALKER in a paper in J. ASIS 1981, which parallels could be drawn between AI and the activities and results of classification research.

Victor E. WEISSMANN, TU Berlin, related his investigations ("A framework for a theory of statistical applications") to the theories of SNEED and STEGMÜLLER. The value and necessity of this approach, however, was debated during the discussion. Some more practical results seem necessary.

A huge application field of concept theoretical investigations, however, became obvious from the paper by Klaus M. SCHMIDT, Bowling Green State University, Ohio, who spoke on "Problems of classification and application of conceptual systems to historical languages". He showed the approaches necessary for concept-analytical work in so-called dead languages. Schmidt's treasure of experience results from his project work (since 1975) concerning a "Conceptual Dictionary for Medieval German Epics" and also from the conferences organized by the Society for Conceptual and Content Analysis by Computer (SCCAC) which he founded (see for this latter also Int. Classif. 1985-1, p. 21).

2) Indexing Languages

The author of the first paper of this section, Pavla STANCICOVA, could not attend the meeting and her paper "Information Retrieval and its Impact on Indexing Languages" was not presented owing to the fact that Francis DEVADASON, DRTC Bangalore, needed all of her time for the presentation of the results of his doctoral thesis in "Deep Structure Indexing System: Computer Generation of Different Types of Subject Index Entries Based on Deep Structure of Subject Indexing Languages". The paper is printed in full length in this issue of Int. Classif. (85-2). It will also be included in a shortened version in the conference proceedings. His findings were very well accepted by the audience, especially since the solutions offered for an improvement in the handling of what has been termed String Indexing Languages may pave the way for a reconsideration of syntax problems, not only in documentation centers but also for information purposes of libraries.

A third paper on indexing languages was presented in another context: Gerhard KÖNIG from the Zentralblatt für Didaktik der Mathematik, Karlsruhe summarized in "Online retrieval with the UDC" his experiences with this system, showing its capabilities but also its limitations.

3) Applications

Of the four papers in this section two were devoted to problems in subject fields and two in library science. J.H. WINTER stated in "Successful research in chemistry due to classification" that a qualitatively much better starting situation would be given for every chemist, if his curriculum would include a systematic study of logic,

classification science and computer applications. H.P. OHLY, IZ Sozialwissenschaften Bonn, ("Classification in sociology and social research"), gave a survey of the possible application fields of conceptual and numerical classification methods in different phases of research. H. SCHNELLING, FU Library, Berlin, who had already published in Int. Classif. 1984-3 his thoughts on "Pattern Indexing" extended these toward greater generality in his paper "Pattern indexing: towards universal structures and transparency of indexing". And finally, Bernd W.J. LORENZ, University Library of Regensburg, considering classification as a tool of research in the systematic arrangement of books in libraries, gave a summary of the results of his recent book with the same title published by Harrassowitz, 1985.

The proceedings of the 9th Annual Meeting will not be published by the INDEKS Verlag (as hitherto) but by North Holland, Amsterdam. The papers by Ungvary and Meder will be published in English in Int. Classif. 1985-3. I.D.

India: Lectures, Workshop and Theses

The Sarada Ranganathan Endowment Lectures (16) for 1984 were delivered by Prof. G. Bhattacharyya, Head, DRTC, Bangalore. He spoke on "Indexing Languages" from 12-14 December 1984 at DRTC.

Workshop on Designing of Depth Classification Schedules

Dr. S. Seetharama, Associate Professor, DRTC, Bangalore, served as a Visiting Fellow at the DLIS, Nagpur University, Nagpur from 3-17 December 1984. Apart from delivering a series of lectures to MLSc students, he conducted a Workshop on "Designing of Depth Classification Schedules" from 11-15 Dec. 1984. About 25 librarians attended this workshop.

(Herald of Libr. Sci. 24 (1985) No. 1-2, p. 97)

Doctoral Theses in Classification and Indexing

submitted to Indian Universities between 1957 and 1984. (Communication by Mr. M.P. Satija, Amritsar, India; information also from D.R. Sharma's article in Herald of Libr. Sci. 24 (1985) No. 1-2, p. 62-67)

The data are given in the following sequence: Name of Candidate, Year of Award of PhD, Subject/topic, University, Guide/Advisor, Publication.

(1) ASUNDI, A.Y. 1983. Development of a Unified Scheme of the Common Subdivisions in General Classification Systems. Gulbarga. S.R. Gunjal. Not yet published.

(2) AWAD, A.K. 1984. An optimum algorithm in subject indexing systems. University of Delhi. Not yet published.

(3) BHATTACHARYYA, G. 1980. General Theory of Subject Indexing Language. Karnatak University. M.R. Kumbhar. Not yet published.

(4) DEVADASON, F. 1984. Computer Based Systems for Generating Different Types of Subject Indexes and

Alphabetical Classaurus Based on "Deep Structure" of Subject Indexing Languages. Karnatak University. M.R. Kumbhar. Not yet published.

(5) DHYANI, Pushpa (Mrs.) 1981. Use of Library Classification Schemes in Indian Libraries with Special Reference to Delhi. University of Rajasthan. S.N. Srivastava. Published.

(6) GOPINATH, M.A. 1983. An Analysis of Problems in the Recognition of the Manifestations of Fundamental Categories in Interdisciplinary Subjects. Karnatak University. M.R. Kumbhar. Not yet published.

(7) IYER, Ms. Hemalatha. 1984. Structure of Indexing Languages and Retrieval Effectiveness. University of Mysore.

(8) KRISHNA RAO, D.B. 1957. Facet Analysis and Depth Classification of Agriculture. University of Delhi. S.R. Ranganathan. S. Dasgupta. Not yet published.

(9) PRASAD, K.N. 1983. Development of Terminology in the Field of Library Classification with Special Reference to the Indian School of Thought: A Case Study in Terminology and Development. Karnataka University, M.R. Kumbhar. Not yet published.

(10) SEETHARAMA, S. 1984. Compatibility among Medical Classification Systems: A Case Study in the Classification of Cardio-vascular Diseases. Karnatak University. M.R. Kumbhar. Not yet published.

(11) SHARMA, P.S.K. 1977. Expansion and Modification of Dewey Decimal Classification for Indologica Books with Special Reference to Indian Philosophy and Indian Religion. Punjab University. J.S. Sharma. Published.

(12) VOHRA, Ranjana (Mrs.). 1984. Concept of a Analytico-Synthetic Scheme of Classification with Special Reference to Ranganathan, Barbara Kyle, Farradane and Foskett: A Study. Punjab University. J.S. Sharma. Not yet published.

Italy: AIB (Italian Library Association) National Study Commission for Cataloguing

The Commission had its first meeting on Nov.28, 1984, the second on May 4, 1985. The third will be at the end of October 1985. President of the Commission is Dr. Carlo Revelli, Director of the Civic Library in Turin. He is an expert in both author and subject cataloguing.

The Commission is composed of 15 members; this number will not be increased for the time being.

However, as different study groups were set-up during the second meeting, interested people not belonging to the Commission have been encouraged to participate in the work of these groups.

The "cataloguing", feature of the Commission includes both author and subject cataloguing, comprising classification. The Commission is meant to assume the role of national correspondence to the IFLA Commission on Classification and Cataloguing.

Its immediate aims are the study, advice on and elaboration of recommendations.

The Commission will cooperate with UNI (Italian standardization body) and through UNI with ISO whenever the topic corresponds to its aims; it will also cooperate with ICCU (Istituto centrale per il catalogo unico delle biblioteche italiane).

In fact, already some answers have been forwarded to UNI for ISO.

At the second meeting, four ad hoc study groups were constituted, while one of the members is preparing a paper for October concerning a 5th Group, dealing with general problems of indexing and classification. Each group has a coordinator.

The general tendency within the groups is to start from Italian existing institutions; thus two groups are concerned with RICA (Italian Rules for Author Cataloguing) considered inter se and in relation to ISBD.

Another group considers the Italian official subject headings ("Soggettario") of the National Central Library of Florence) in itself and in relation to other Italian "Soggettari". These three groups will prepare a document on the present situation for the October meeting.

The fourth group concerns the Italian edition of the Dewey Decimal Classification which is being prepared now and which is not only a translation but a collection of several variants, already discussed with the English editors. Another group of AIB, two members of which are also members of the Commission for Cataloguing, is preparing this Italian edition of DDC.

On the basis of information from the latter Group, the Group DDC of the Commission will examine some difficult questions and will prepare an advisory document for submission to the general meeting of the Commission in October 85.

M.P.Carosella

U.K.: CRG 251, 252, 253

Three meetings of the Classification Research Group took place on Febr.7, April 25, and July 4, 1985 at the University College of London.

At all three meetings the Draft Classification for Library and Information Science of BC2 was discussed, which Jack MILLS had elaborated and modified to take into account the recommendations given by group members. At CRG 251 discussions concentrated a.o. on the problem of definition and scope of "Communication", "Telecommunication". The draft outline of the BC2 classes for Generalia, Communication Science, Information Science, Information and Data Processing, Information Collections, Centres, Services, Document Retrieval and Libraries, was attached to the minutes.

At CRG 252 special topics of discussion were the placement of Library Science, Classification, Information Systems and Reading. At CRG 253 discussions turned again on the problem of the placement of Communication, of Library Science, and of Reading.

In the meantime, a new number of the CRG Bulletin (No. 12) (No. 11 had appeared in J. Doc. 34 (1978) No. 1, p. 21-50) had been published in J. Doc. 41 (1985) No. 2, p. 75-99 reporting on members deceased and visitors, problems of a general classification, Broad

System of Ordering, Bliss Bibliographic Classification, Classification for Community Information, Chemical Science Thesaurus, Classification and Online Searching, and the 4th International Study Conference on Classification Research. The bibliography of writings by members of the CRG includes titles from Derek Austin, Jutta Austin, Susan Bury, E.J. Coates, D.J. Foskett, D.W. Langridge, I.S. McIlwaine, J. Mills, M. Piggott, A. Sandison, R. Trotter and M. Whithrow. The list of members' names altogether 35 people from England, Denmark, FRG, India and USA.

USA: ASIS SIG/CR

The Chairman Mr. Joseph A. Busch, Boston, MA reports in the SIG/CR Newsletter No. 23 on the program for relevant meetings at ASIS 85, which will be held Oct. 19-25, 1985 at the MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada:

ASIS 85 will be held in the ERA state of Nevada. The programs for the Meeting are organized into tracks reflecting continuing themes of the Annual Review of Information Science and Technology (ARIST). The list of SIG technical sessions on continuing themes of interest to SIG/CR is extensive. The cosponsorship of most sessions demonstrates the coalescence of current topics relating to information retrieval.

SIG/AH will sponsor a session titled "Personal Databases, Online Organization of Text, and the Future of Scholarly Work" organized by Ralph Dumain (Baltimore, MD) and cosponsored with SIG/CR. This session will deal with forms of textual organization and display, textual database management systems, idea processing, outline processing, word processing-related software, and the needs of the humanities scholar. Presenters will be T.R. Grill (Lawrence Livermore Laboratory) on the topic "Narration, Hierarchy, and Autonomy: the Problem of Online Text Structure"; Sidney Robbins (USDA Southfornt) on the Topic "Information Resource Management Potential Using New Microcomputer-base Bibliographic and Textual Database Management Systems"; and Bradford A. Morgan and James M. Schwartz (Editors, Research in Word Processing Newsletter) on the topic "Microcomputer Software for the Scholar: Needs vs Achievements".

SIG/AH will also sponsor a session titled "Content Analysis in the Humanities" cosponsored with SIG/CR. This session will present recent research in studies of mass communication and literary texts and its relevance to subject analysis for information retrieval. Speakers will be Klaus M. Schmidt (Bowling Green State University) on the topic "Can there be a Symbiosis between Natural Language Meaning and Concept? Conceptual

Analysis in the Humanities"; Sally Yeates Sedelow (University of Kansas) on the topic "Computational Literary Thematic Analysis: the Possibility of a General Solution"; and Walter A. Sedelow (University of Kansas) on the topic "Semantics for Humanities Applications: Context and Significance of Semantic Stores".

SIG/CR will sponsor a "Workshop on PRECIS: Preserved Context Index System" organized by Candy Schwartz (Simmons College). Mary Dykstra, (Dalhousie University) will be the instructor at this full day continuing education programme. This workshop will serve as an introduction to PRECIS, a versatile indexing system used in a variety of applications. Software which supports PRECIS is widely available through UTLAS, a major North American bibliographic utility. PRECIS is designed to provide improved subject access to library collections, in whatever form and in one or many languages. The workshop will assume no knowledge of PRECIS. Lecture topics will be the syntactic and thesaural aspects of PRECIS, string writing basics, and PRECIS as a component of online systems. Accompanying handouts and a copy of the PRECIS Primer by Prof. Dykstra and published by the British Library in 1985 will be distributed to attendees. The program will be held on Saturday, Oct. 19. The registration fee is 150 dollars for SIG/CR members and 160 dollars for other ASIS members.

SIG/CR, SIG/ED, and the American Society of Indexers will cosponsor a session titled "Education and Training of Indexers" organized by Bella Hass Weinberg (St. John's University). This session will be a forum on graduate education and in-house training for indexing from the points of view of the educator, the student and the employer. Presenters will be Deborah Harmer (UMI) on the topic "Indexer Training at University Microfilms International"; Cathryn Galacher (UCLA) on the topic "Indexing Education at Library School: the Student's Point of View"; Bella Hass Weinberg on the topic "Indexing Concepts which Students Find Complex": the Educator's Perspective"; and Jessica L. Milstead (Newsbank) on the topic "Library School Indexing Education: the Gap".

SIG/CR and SIG/LAN will cosponsor a session titled "Automatic Authority Control for Shared Bibliographic Data" organized by Mark Weston (CL Systems) and Joseph A. Busch (Price Waterhouse). This session will be a discussion of the content of authorities, their designated and defacto sources, and networking models for building a national authorities database. Panelists will be Ray DeBuse (WLN), Joanna Rood (UTLAS) and Elaine Svenonius (UCLA) who's topic is "The Content of Authority Records".

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