FID/CR News 39

Ranganathan Award in Classification Research

The Committee on Classification Research for Knowledge Organization invites nominations for the 7th Ranganathan Award for Classification Research. Established in 1975, under the sponsorship of the Documentation Research and Training Centre (DRTC) Alumni Association in Bangalore, India, this Award is made to an individual who is deemed to have made a distinguished contribution to classification research during the previous two years. Where possible this contribution should be in the form of a publication. Previous recipients are:

1976 Derek Austin (United Kingdom)
1982 Jean Aitchison (United Kingdom)
1984 Jack Mills (United Kingdom)
1986 Pauline A. Cochrane (U.S.A.)
1992 A.Neelameghan (India)
1994 Robert Fugmann (Germany)

The Award will be presented during the 48th FID Conference and Congress in Graz, Austria, October 1996.
Nominations for the Award accompanied by a statement as to the merits of the nominee's contribution to research should be sent to the Chair of the Selection Committee, Prof. Nancy J.Williamson, Chair of FID/CR, Faculty of Information Studies, University of Toronto, 140 St.George Street, Toronto, M5S IA I Canada,**not later than February 15, 1996**. Fax: +1-416-971-1399, e-mail: william@fis.utoronto.ca

FID/CR Programme, Graz, Austria, 1996

FID/CR is planning a full day seminar on various issues related to knowledge organization for the FID Conference and Congress in Graz, Austria, Oct. 1996. Invited speakers will discuss research and issues related to knowledge organization in general and an update on UDC will be presented-Further details of the programme will be published in the next issue and on the FID listserv.

CoLIS 2: Call for Papers

A Call for Papers for the Second International Conference on Conceptions of Library and Information Science has been announced. The conference is to be held at the Royal School of Librarianship, Copenhagen, Denmark, Oct.13-16, 1996. CoLIS is the forum for the investigation and exchange of ideas concerned with library and information science in a Euro-Nordic and international perspective. Submissions are invited in eight areas of information science: *Conceptions of Information, Knowledge Organization and Communication, Networking and Media, Information Seeking and Behaviour, Information Retrieval Interaction, Information Management, Investigative Methods and Informetrics and Scientometrics*. Submissions should be in the form of full-length papers and panel proposals. No extended abstracts

will be accepted. Accepted papers will be published in the proceedings of the conference. Panel suggestions should include a description of the topic, names of proposed speakers and moderator, and brief abstracts of the presentations. Deadline for full papers and panel proposals: April 1, 1996. Notification of acceptance: May 20, 1996. Final manuscripts in camera ready copy and electronic form due: July 1, 1996. For further details contact the Conference Secretariat: Royal School of Librarianship, attn.: Ms. Lone Laurberg, Birketinget 6, DK-2300 Copenhagen S, Denmark. Tel.: +45-31-58 60 66, Fax: +45-32-844 02 01. E-mail: colis@db.dk. Home page: http://www.db.dk/konferencer/colis2/callfo-1.htm

IFLA Section on Classification and Indexing in Istanbul

As reported at the 61st IFLA General Conference, 20-26 August 1995 in Istanbul, Turkey, the Section has had a very active year. *Subject Indexing: Principles and Practices in the 90's: Proceedings of the IFLA Satellite Meeting Held in Lisbon, Portugal, 17-18 August 1993*, was published early in 1995. Work continues on two projects -*"Principles Underlying Subject Heading Languages (SHLs)"* and a *"State of the Art Survey of Subject Heading Systems"*. The Working Group on the Principles reviewed its latest draft document at the IFLA Conference in Istanbul and is preparing for a world-wide review. The Survey is to be conducted in two phases. The first phase will ascertain which countries provide subject access to bibliographic records using alphabetical subject headings and the second will be a comparative study to determine the commonalities and differences among subject heading systems used for national level cataloguing. A questionnaire has been sent to national libraries to discover if they provide such access, how long they have been providing it, what subject access systems they use, and whether or not manuals exist for their use.

At the open meeting of the Section at the Istanbul conference, the programme consisted of 3 papers. In a paper on *"Translation and Expansion of Classification Systems in the Arab Countries and Iran"* Poori SOLTANI, National Library of Iran, discussed the necessity for expanding the two most commonly used classification systems, the Library of Congress Classification and the Dewey Decimal Classification to meet the needs of libraries in those countries. In doing so, she outlined the historical background of the existing translations and pointed out deficiencies of the schemes in the areas of literature, history, language and religion for individual countries. Maria Ines LOPES, Instituto da Biblioteca Nacional e do Livro, Portugal, presented a progress report of the section's Working Group in a paper on the *"Principles Underlying subject Heading Languages: an International Approach"* She outlined the problems in achieving universality in subject heading languages and practice and identified external barriers and constraints arising from the nature of information and the world of information itself and internal constraints caused by the nature of the intellectual and technical processes involved. Historical, linguistic and technical backgrounds from which various subject heading systems have evolved often hinder professional communication

176

Knowl. Org. 22(1995)No.3/4
FID/CR News 39

and understanding. Despite difficulties in attaining practical solutions to problems, Lopes suggested that it should be possible to "reach some international understanding about concept foundations of subject alphabetical retrieval systems". These in turn could become a focal point for further developments in national and international cooperatrion. The purposes of such principles would be to facilitate subject access to information on an international level, to assist in the development of subject heading lists of an acceptable standard, to promote understanding of different subject heading systems by identifying commonalities underlying them and providing a structure for their comparative study and a theoretical rationale for particular standards or guidelines for the construction and application of subject heading systems. In the work to date a draft document has been prepared in 2 parts. Part 1 introduces the Working Group and provides background, definitions and principles. Principles identified include construction principles, principles of the control of terminology (i.e. *Uniform Headings, Synonymy, Homonymy, Naming Principles), as well as principles of Semantics, Syntax, Consistency, Literary Warrant, User Warrant and Application Principles)*.

Part 2 deals with these principles as applied in real systems using data gathered from the survey. Illustrated statements and examples have been included. Nine countries are represented and subject indexing tools relate to 8 languages. All of the systems are universal in scope and most are managed by or in collaboration with a national library. Findings show that all systems surveyed comply "in general" with many of these principles. Least clear was the coverage and conformity among *Application Principles*. The final conclusions from the work are still under discussion. However Lopes feels that an internationally acceptable statement of principles underlying subject heading languages is feasible, that existing subject heading systems are more advanced and concordant with each other in technical devices for terminology control and semantic structure but less structured and similar with respect to syntax. Early indications are that there is less knowledge of, and coherence in, indexing policy. Both the syntax of terminology control and indexing policy require further study.

As is the Section's custom, the third paper "Subject Indexing Practices in Turkey" by Gulbun BAYDUR, Hacettepe University, Ankara, Turkey, presented an overview of subject analysis practices in the host country for the IFLA Conference. Criticisms of the use of foreign classification and subject heading systems in Turkish libraries were discussed. *Library of Congress Subject Headings*, translated on a term-by-term basis into Turkish as needed, is the most frequently used subject heading list. *Medical Subject Headings* (MeSH) after translation is used in the medical libraries. Criticism was approached from three points of view: Criticism of terminology focused on problems of incompleteness with respect to Turkish culture. Criticisms of structure also centred on incompleteness, specifically on the lack of main topics and subtopics about Turkey, the non-existence of a scheme for Turkish law and a deficiency in the table for Turkish geography. Criticisms also focused on translation as a problem

because of the effort, personnel and time required. Some libraries, such as the National Library of Turkey have classified catalogues arranged by the Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC) and to some extent the Universal Decimal Classification (UDC). Major problems related to changes from one edition of DDC and UDC to another. In conclusion Baydur urged that adaptations in the Turkish edition of DDC, Ed.20 be considered for later editions of DDC and other schemes.

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DDC on the INTERNET

Dewey has also found the Internet. At the ALA Midwinter Conference, OCLC/Forest Press unveiled a "Dewey Home Page" which includes the OCLC Forest Press Catalog, Dewey News and the Dewey ALA report as well as 'hot' classification topics and Internet addresses of online catalogues using Dewey. The 'home page' is located on the World Wide Web and may be accessed at URL: http://www.oclc.org/fp/

As might be expected, with many new publications on the topic 'Internet' a 'hot classification topic' is: "Where does one class documents on Internet?" In response to this need, the DDC editors have developed a Manual note, a version of which will be incorporated into DDC Edition 21. Depending on the point of view of the text there are at least four possible locations in Dewey for 'Internet'. Interdisciplinary works about the Internet which contain a substantial amount of computer science material and some information on computer hardware would be classed in 004.67. Where computer science is not a dominant feature, the first alternate choice would be 025.4. The 025.4 location is also the location for information science works on the Internet where the emphasis is on search and retrieval, while 005.713 is preferred for works emphasizing communications software packages for connecting with the Internet or emphasizing the commands needed for electronic mail, FTP, and telnet. Class in 384.33 works on Internet access providers and works on economic and public policy issues of 'Internet'. In brief, the editors recommend that if in doubt, prefer 004.67. Where 004.67 can be ruled ut, prefer 025.4.

In other DDC activities, the Decimal Classification Editorial Policy Committee EPC has held two 'electronic meetings' via the Dewey listserv. Those meetings resulted in a final approval of the contents of the schedules and tables for Edition 21.

For questions and comments on the Dewey Decimal Classification, the Internet address is: Dewey@loc.gov. or direct communication to Ms. Joan Mitchell, Editor, Dewey Decimal Classification, Library of Congress, Decimal Classification Div., Washington, D.C. 220540-4330. Tel.: +1-202-707 6991; Fax: +11-202-707-0279; Internet: joan_mitchell@oclc.org   N.W.

Knowl. Org. 22(1995)No.3/4
FID/CR News 39

177