

ISKO's Chapter Contacts now online

You want to be active within ISKO? Please contact your nearest chapter coordinator or enquire at ISKO's General Secretariat in Amsterdam on how to set up a chapter in your area. Currently there exist chapters in France, Germany-Austria-Switzerland, India, Russia and Spain, and chapters for the Czech Republic and Mercosur (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay) are being founded. See: <http://www.isko.org/ChapterCoordinators.html>

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German Society for Classification (Gesellschaft für Klassifikation e.V.)

The society held its 24th Annual Conference at the University of Passau March 15-17, 2000. More than 200 authors contributed with about 130 papers (many in English), including two tutorials and 17 plenary or semi-plenary lectures. Most topics covered cluster analysis and other multivariate statistical aspects. Nevertheless, some remarkable papers covered information processing in medicine, archaeology, and social sciences, as well as linguistic analysis, information systems, data and text mining, web analysis and new media. Notable papers in these fields were (citations abbreviated and translated):

Batschi: Visualization of Multilingual Thesauri
Bodendorf: Lecture on Demand
Cleff: Global Sourcing
Dösselmann: Nowshow Recognition
Erben: Benchscoring of Hospitals
Esswein: Knowledge Discovery
Florescu: Searching in XML Documents
Frankewitsch: Standardized Vocabulary to Index Multimedia
Fronk: OO-Construction and Maintenance of Hypermedia
Geyer-Schultz: Virtual Universities
Hainerl: Dialectometrics
Kelle: Virtual Dialect Landscapes
Kindermannn: Text Classification with Support Vector Machines
Levene: Web Interaction
Mehler: Text Mining
Meyer: Direct Marketing Visualization
Müller: Geolinguistics
Mobasher: Mining Web Usage Data
Nerbonne: Dialect Distances
Ohly: Concept Associations in Nutrition Research

Quasthoff: Semantic Classification
Strahl: Information Needs in Poland
Tepel: Text Mining - Technology Watch Tool
Velin: Cartography for Web Site Promotion
Weihs: XML Thesaurus
Weippl: Knowledge Landscapes.

The conference programme and the abstracts are available from <http://stoch.fmi.uni-passau.de/gfkl2000/programm/indexen.html>. The proceedings volume will be published by Springer in the series "Studies in Classification, Data Analysis, and Knowledge Organization."

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Towards Knowledge Organization with Topic Maps

The new ISO/IEC standard 13250 defines a syntax that allows interchange of information necessary to collaboratively build and maintain indexes. Topic Maps can provide a basic service for modelling and merging semantic networks (such as thesauri and more formal ontologies) and for associating documents with metadata. However, the standard cannot solve semantic problems, e.g. how to deal with different conceptualizations when merging. Hence, classic challenges within knowledge organization remain (e.g. how to achieve comparability and compatibility of knowledge order systems). Close cooperation between experts from Knowledge Organization and Information Technology is highly needed.

Alexander Sigel's request for discussion of the relationship between Knowledge Organization and Topic Maps (see <http://www.isko.org/topic-maps.html>) has recently led to a talk (full paper available at: http://index.bonn.iz-soz.de/~sigel/veroeff/XML-Europe2000/KM_and_TM-full.html) on that topic at XML Europe 2000 (see <http://www.gca.org/>). Anyone interested in the subject may contact sigel@bonn.iz-soz.de.

5th International Meeting on Information and Documentation Systems, Spain

A session on knowledge representation and organization will be held at the 5th International Meeting on Information and Documentation Systems to be celebrated in Zaragoza November 6-10, 2000. Persons interested in delivering a paper or a conference are kindly invited to participate. Contact person: Fran-

cisco **Javier García Marco**, Departamento de Ciencias de la Documentación, Facultad de Filosofía y Letras, 50.009 Zaragoza, Spain, e-mail: jgarcia@posta.unizar.es, phone: +34 976 762239, fax: +34 976 761506.

Seminar on Knowledge Organization in Information and Documentation Systems, Spain

A seminar on knowledge organization was held in Zaragoza, Spain, February 17-18 2000 with the aim of studying the differences among several approaches in content analysis and indexing languages and their possibilities of integration in a common theoretical frame.

The different approaches were classified in two classes: those regarding the specific treatment required by different materials (textual publications, archival materials, audio-visual documents, electronic resources); and those related to several distinct methodologies that can be applied to these materials (terminological analysis, diplomatic approach, discourse analysis, etc.).

Francisco Javier García Marco, University of Zaragoza, delivered the opening paper on knowledge organization, in which he considered it from a faceted perspective: the challenge, concept, term and prospective definition of KO, and some of the problems, utopias, contexts, metaphors and referents associated with the discipline. **Emilia Curras**, honorary president of ISKO-Spain, considered Ranganathan's theory of classification from the perspective of systems theory. **José Luis Bonal Bazo**, University of Extremadura, and **Pilar Gay** and **Esperanza Velasco**, University of Zaragoza, studied the problem of normalisation in archival content analysis and its implications for information retrieval in automated environments. **Jorge Caldera**, University of Extremadura, considered the problem of the representation of images in television archives. **José Augusto Chaves**, UNESP (Sao Paulo, Marilia, Brasil), presented the contributions of diplomatic analysis to content analysis, representation and communication. **Mario Barité**, University of Montevideo, delivered a paper on the impact of terminology on vocabulary control. **Manuel José Pedraza**, University of Zaragoza, presented the standards and problematics of the description of electronic resources. Finally, **José Luis Otal** delivered the closing paper on discourse structures and abstract cognitive models. The seminar also offered panels of discussion on the problems of documentary analysis in the different information services and centres and on Linguistics and Knowledge Organization. The papers presented to the conference will be published in

Spanish in volume 6, number 1 of the journal *CEScire: representación y organización del conocimiento*.

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The 10th ASIS SIG/CR Workshop

The 10th SIG/CR Classification Research Workshop was held on October 31, 1999, in conjunction with the 62nd Annual Meeting of the American Society for Information Science [ASIS] in Washington, DC. Eight papers were presented by participants representing Canada, Denmark, Romania, Scotland and the United States.

The challenge of harmonizing the classificatory structure of the Universal Decimal Classification [UDC] with a controlled vocabulary was the topic of the presentation by **Victoria Frâncu**. As she had detailed in her paper entitled "A Universal Classification System Going Through Changes", Frâncu described the growing need to control the dispersion of subject content that had occurred after uncontrolled keyword indexing was introduced to support online searching in a public access catalog. The task of developing a multilingual (English, French and Romanian) thesaurus based on the UDC was facilitated by two significant features of the scheme: the UDC is an aspect classification that subordinates an actual phenomenon to the aspect (or class) within which it occurs, allowing for disambiguation of homonyms through identification of the class within which each instance of a term appears; and, because the UDC is a hierarchical classification generated by the application of principles of logical division, the notation can be used to support retrieval of all subordinates of a specific class. After providing examples of how the UDC can be used in indexing, Frâncu addressed the problems of compatibility involved in the development of a multilingual thesaurus, including not only issues of representation of objects and concepts, but also language-specific hierarchical and non-hierarchical relationships. She discussed the need for specific methodological principles to supplement current international standards for thesaurus development; and she concluded with a review of problems of equivalence that plague translation across languages.

In the presentation of their paper "Application of Faceted Classification Structures in Electronic Knowledge Resources," **Elin Jacob** and **Uta Priss** argued that modification of conventional practices can lead to the development of alternative design frameworks that are better able to respond to the dynamic nature of the electronic environment. They investi-