

INTERNATIONAL

IC

CLASSIFICATION

Devoted to Concept Theory
Systematic Terminology &
Organization of Knowledge

The GALEN Dream

Medical Knowledge and Hypermedia

Natural Language Processing and GALEN

Ranganathan and the Universe of Knowledge

DIN 32 705; the German Standard on
Classification Systems: A Critical Appraisal

Classing and Indexing: A Comparative Time Study

Spiritual Matters: Provision for
Independent African Churches in
General Classification Schemes

INDEKS - Verlag, Frankfurt
ISSN 0340-0050 Int.Class.
Vol. 19 (1992) No. 4

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INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION

Devoted to Concept Theory, Systematic Terminology, and Organization of Knowledge

The journal is the organ of the INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KNOWLEDGE ORGANIZATION (General Secretariat: Woogstr. 36a, D-6000 Frankfurt 50)

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UDC 025.4+168+001.4(05)

INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION

Devoted to Concept Theory, Systematic Terminology, and Organization of Knowledge

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Editorial Office: c/o Dr.I. Dahlberg, Woogstr. 36a, D-6000 Frankfurt 50. Tel.069-52 36 90, FAX: 069-52 05 66

Issue frequency: 4x/ann. *Annual subscription rates:* Institutions per volume DM 94.-, Individuals per volume 20% less, if directly ordered from INDEKS Verlag. Single issues: DM 28.- Back issues available, ask for special offer. Subscription included in membership fee for members of the International Society for Knowledge Organization (ISKO). MwSt (domestic only) and postage are not included; for Air Mail delivery an additional DM 4.- per issue is required.

Advertising rates: Advertising rate card No.3. Advertising fact sheet with details of mechanical requirements and closing date available upon request.

Publisher: INDEKS Verlag, Woogstr.36a, D-6000 Frankfurt 50, Tel.069-52 36 90; FAX 069-52 05 66.

Bank Account Nos: INDEKS Verlag, Postgiro-Konto Frankfurt No.151208-608 (BLZ 500 100 60). Frankfurter Sparkasse No. 852082 (BLZ 500 502 01)

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Vol.19(1992)No.4

Rada, R., Rossi-Mori, A., Paton, R., Rector, A., Magliani, F., Vries Robbe, P.de et al: **The GALEN dream.**

Int.Classif. 19(1992)No.4, p.188-191

Outlines the origin, needs and principles of GALEN, the Generalized Architecture for Languages, Encyclopedias, and Nomenclatures as applicable to Medicine. Short-term and long-term plans of GALEN have been elaborated to cope with possible developments. "Milestones" are given indicating what should be reached when and how much funding will be required for each milestone. In two "vision" pictures the situation before and after the introduction of GALEN is shown and the responsibilities at 4 different levels are listed. (I.C.)

Rada, R., Ghaoui, C., Paton, R., Taylor, M.: **Medical knowledge and hypermedia. A position paper.**

Int.Classif. 19(1992)No.4, p.191, 3 refs.

This position paper describes the history of the University of Liverpool research group and its vision. The vision is to merge medical knowledge and hypermedia so as to produce more powerful information creation and access tools for all players on the health care scene. This vision corresponds with the GALEN vision in that it seeks to improve ways of building the appropriate knowledge bases which must underlie such information spaces and it relates to the major demonstrator of the GALEN effort, namely, the user interface to medical information. (Authors)

Baud, R., Alphay, L., Rassinoux, A.-M., Wagner, J.: **Natural language processing and GALEN.**

Int.Classif. 19(1992)No.4, p.193-194, 4 refs.

Within the next three years, analyzing, understanding, indexing, querying, and generating free texts in Natural Language for a couple of European languages will be available in a closed domain like a medical specialty. This means that physicians and nurses will be able to enter information for the patient database using ordinary sentences, more or less well-formed, including typing errors, bad syntax constructions and locally defined medical jargon. A new generation of human interfaces will be at hand, including voice recognition and speech generation, as complementary features of NLP applications. (Authors)

Binwal, J.C.: **Ranganathan and the universe of knowledge.**

Int.Classif. 19(1992)No.4, p.195-200, 47 refs.

Ranganathan was the first library and information scientist to recognize the role of developmental and structural studies of subjects in knowledge representation. 'Knowledge' and 'information' are used synonymously in the article. Different types of social knowledge can be distinguished and identified, applying the concept of 'subject' as formulated by Ranganathan. The Universe of Subjects is a growing universe. It is being cultivated continuously. This leads to change and growth, and consequently to new structures. This concept is illustrated by taking the case study of a specific subject namely biochemistry. The article also highlights other structural and developmental attributes of the universe of subjects as propounded by Ranganathan and points out their relevance and role in information retrieval. (Author)

Dahlberg, I.: **DIN 32 705: The German standard on classification systems: A critical appraisal.**

Int.Classif. 19(1992)No.4, p.201-204, 21 refs.

The German standard on the construction and further development of classification systems (CS) is introduced with its background. The contents of its 8 chapters is described. A critical appraisal considers (1) the fact that the standard does not openly deal with the optimal form of CS, viz. faceted CS, but treats them as one possibility among others, although the authors seem to have had this kind in mind when recommending the section on steps of CS development and other sections of the standard; (2) that the standard does not give any recommendation on the computerization of the necessary activities in establishing CS; and (3) that a convergence of CS and thesauri in the form of faceted CS and faceted thesauri has not been taken into consideration. - Concludingly some doubts are raised whether a standard would be the best medium to provide recommendations or guidelines for the construction of such systems. More adequate ways for this should be explored. (Author)

Kautto V.: **Classing and indexing: a comparative time study.**

Int.Classif. 19(1992)No.4, p.205-209, 17 refs.

A total of 16 classifiers made a subject analysis of a set of books such that some of the books were first classified by the UDC and then indexed with terms from the General Finnish Subject Headings while another set were processed in the opposite order. Finally books on the same subject were either classified or indexed. The total number of books processed was 581. A comparison was made of the time required for processing in different situations and of the number of classes or subject headings used. The time figures were compared with corresponding data from the British Library (1972) and the Library of Congress (1990 and 1991). The author finds that the contents analysis requires one third, classification one third and indexing one third of the time, if the document is both classified and indexed. There was a plausible correlation (0.51) between the length of experience in classification and the decrease in the time required for classing. The average number of UDC numbers was 4.3 and the average number of terms from the list of subject headings was 4.0. (Author)

Afolabi, M.: **Spiritual matters: Provision for independent African churches in general classification schemes**

Int.Classif. 19(1992)No.4, p.210-213, 11 refs.

African independent churches have in the last four decades grown in number and in membership. They have become Africans' own way of spreading the Word of God. However, despite several years of their existence and the publication of some books on them, the major classification schemes which are widely used in libraries, namely the Dewey Decimal Classification, the Library of Congress Classification, and the Universal Decimal Classification, have no provision for classifying books on them. The paper describes the nature of these churches and observes that they meet the criteria of a Christian church. It suggests how the three classification schemes could be revised to make provision for classifying books on the subject. (Author)

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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, 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 numerical taxonomy/ 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.

Instructions for Authors

Manuscripts may be submitted in either English, German or French to the editor-in-chief in two sets (the original and one copy) typed in double space, comprising between 1500 to 3000 words. They should be accompanied by an English indicative abstract of 100-200 words. The contributions are refereed.

Criteria for acceptance will be appropriateness to the field of the journal (see Scope and Aims) taking into account the merit of the content and its presentation. Papers are accepted with the understanding that they have not been published, submitted or accepted for publication elsewhere and that, if the work received official sponsorship, it has been duly released for publication. Authors will usually be notified within 6 to 10 weeks. Unless specifically requested, manuscripts or illustrations will not be returned.

The text of the contributions should be structured by subheadings; it should contain (a) an introduction, stating the purpose, (b) a description of materials and methods in sufficient detail, (c) information on results or systems developed, and (d) a conclusion on and/or summarization.

References should be listed at the end of the paper with the numbers in brackets referring to such numbers in brackets within the text part.

Additional notes should be indicated in the text by lifted single numbers behind a word and equally collected with their texts at the end of the paper under the heading *Notes*.

Journal References should contain the names and initials of all authors, full titles of the publication, abbreviation of the journal

Aims

Thus, INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION 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-synthetic 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.

INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION 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 now some 500 items in each issue.

INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION 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.

INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION 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 IC was published by K.G.Saur Verlag, München. Back issues of 1978-1990 are available from INDEKS Verlag, too. (The 10 volumes of 1978-1987 are offered now at the highly reduced price of DM 350.-).

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Rates: From 1990 on for 4 issues/ann. (including indexes) DM 94.- + postage (DM 6.-). For air mail delivery add DM 4.- per issue. Membership rates see above. - INDEKS Verlag, Woogstr.36a, D-6000 Frankfurt 50.

according to the ISO Standard 4, volume number, year of publication in brackets, issue number and first and last page numbers. *Monograph References* should give the name(s) of the author(s), full title, edition, place of publication, publisher, year and the number of pages.

Examples: Mater, E.: Human intelligence as a precondition for the machine processing of knowledge. Int. Classif. 15 (1988) No. 3, p. 125-132

Hunter, E.J.: Classification made simple. Aldershot, GB: Gower 1988. 115p.

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