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INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION

A Journal Devoted to Concept Theory, Organization of Knowledge and Data, and to Systematic Terminology

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K. G. Saur München New York · London · Paris

Editors

Dr. phil. Ingetraut Dahlberg, D-6000 Frankfurt 50, Woogstr. 36a, FRG

Prof. Dr. med. Dr. phil. Alwin Diemer, Philosophisches Institut der Universität Düsseldorf, D-4000 Düsseldorf 1, Universitätsstr. 1, FRG

Prof. Jean M. Perreault, University Library, University of Alabama, P. O. B. 2600 Huntsville, Alabama 35807, USA

Prof. Arashanipalai Neelameghan, Documentation Research and Training Centre (DRTC) 31, Church Street, Bangalore-560001, India

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– FID/CR (Fédération Internationale de Documentation, Committee on Classification Research), address see Prof. A. Neelameghan
– International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) International Office for UBC, Director: Mrs. D. Anderson, c/o The British Library, Ref. Div., London WC1B 3DG, England

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Forschungsabteilung Information und Dokumentation des Philosophischen Instituts der Universität Düsseldorf, D-4000 Düsseldorf, Universitätsstr. 1, FRG, Prof. Dr. phil. Norbert Henrichs

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Infoterm. c/o öster. Normungsinstitut, Postfach 130, A-1021 Wien, Mr. H. Felber

Authors of this issue

W. Dahlberg, Woogstr. 36a, D-6000 Frankfurt 50
Mr. Dan Fink, Det Kongelige Akademi for de Skönne Kunster. Bygningsteknisk Studiearkiv, 10 Tordenskoldsgade, DK-1055 Copenhagen K
Mrs. E. Hoffmann, siehe Schuck
Dr. Alfred Hoppe, August-Bierstr. 20, D-5300 Bonn
Mr. A. J. N. Judge, Assistent Gen. Secr., Union of Intern. Assoc., 1, rue aux Laines, B-1000 Bruxelles
Prof. H. Leclercq, Lentelaan 1, B-3040 Korbeek-Lo
Mr. Einar Öhman, Avägen 4, S-18330 Täby
Prof. Dr. Erhard Oeser, 1. Philosoph. Institut der Universität, Währingerstr. 17/III, A-1090 Wien
Dr. S. Reball, Forsch. Inst. Manfred von Ardenne, Zeppelinstr. 7, 8051 Dresden/DDR
Mrs. Marta Ricci, c/o Biblioteca Marciana, San Marco 7, I-Venezia
Prof. Dr. F. W. Riggs, see Consulting Editors
Reg. Dir. H. J. Schuck, Bundessprachenamt, 5030-Hürth bei Köln
Dr. Otto Sechser, Margritstr. 13, CH-8304 Wallisellen
Mr. Erik Sundström, TNC, Brahegatan 38, Box 5243, S-10245 Stockholm
Prof. Dr. Elaine Svenonius, School of Library and Information Studies, The University of Western Ontario, London N6A 5B9, Canada

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Judge, A. J. N.: **Representation, comprehension and communication of sets: the role of number. I.** (Sect. 1–6.1)
In: Intern. Classificat. 5 (1978) No. 3, p. 126–133

Examines the cognitive and other factors which tend in practice to limit the number of elements distinguished in a set, particularly for sets fundamental to social science and policy formation, such as: human needs, values, principles, problems. It is argued that the number of elements so distinguished influences significantly both the relationships perceived between the elements and the qualitative characteristics manifested by them, irrespective of the content of the set. Such effects are important in the case of the more abstract sets for which the ambiguity of verbal descriptors creates considerable problems of comprehension and communication, especially when the set of elements is used as the basis for the elaboration of a group of cooperating institutions. The representation of such sets in traditional symbol systems and in modern 2 and 3-dimensional forms, is reviewed both as a source of constraints on set formulation and as a guide to the formulation and comprehension of the more complex sets through which the problems of society can be better contained. (Author)

Svenonius, E.: **Facet definition: a case study.**
In: Intern. Classificat. 5 (1978) No. 3, p. 134–141

Historical account of the sophisticated method of indexing developed by J. O. Kaiser (1896/97), a librarian at the Philadelphia Commercial Museum who established his index on cards (a novelty then) and distinguished his items according to the categories 'concrete', 'process', and 'country'. He also introduced "statement indexing" and rules to this end in order to permit the supply of "complete information" on a subject in a document. In summarizing these findings, the author stresses the necessity of establishing well-defined categories if an organization of terms is to serve e.g. information retrieval. (I. C.)

Dahlberg, I.: **A referent-oriented, analytical concept theory for INTERCONCEPT.**
In: Intern. Classificat. 5 (1978) No. 3, p. 142–151

The concept theory presented, meant to serve as a basis for conceptual analyses of all terminological efforts, implies that every concept has a referent (be this a set of objects, a single object, an activity, a fact, a topic, etc.) about which verifyable statements determining the properties and relationships of the referent in question can be made. The totality of all the verifiable and necessary statements on a referent may be summarized and/or synthesized by a term which will then represent a concept in any communication process. A concept is thus regarded as a knowledge unit, and the statements about its referent are found to be the knowledge elements, also known as the characteristics, of the given concept. The possibility of thus determining the characteristics of concepts permits the analysis, construction, reconstruction, correlation, categorization and definition of concepts as well as the formation and control of adequate terms and the construction and comparison of concept systems. (Author)

Reball, S.: **Zur Bewertung von Informationsfonds durch die Theorie unscharfer Mengen.** (On the evaluation of information resources by means of the theory of fuzzy sets.) (In German).
In: Intern. Classificat. 5 (1978) No. 3, p. 152–155

The information and documentation resources are described by means of the theory of fuzzy sets. Application of the allocation function f_R, well known to be document-oriented, to partial resources characterized as mean-value functions f_R^* permits resources to be evaluated in such a way as to make the effort and rate of recall calculable and experimentally veryfiable for an "optimum retrieval strategy" model derived from such resources. (Author)

Leclercq, H.: **"Europe": a term for many concepts.**
In: Intern. Classificat. 5 (1978) No. 3, p. 156–162

An attempt at clarification of the various meanings, the polysemy of the term "Europe" by considering its etymology, mythology and onomastics and by studying the evolution of "Europe" as a geographical, an ideological as well as a political concept. The meaning, of contemporary usages of the term "Europe", either alone or in combination with other words or roots, is discussed, and a classification of European terms and concepts is given. (I. C.)

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Vol. 1 of the German Classification Society's 2nd Annual Conference contains introduction and welcome addresses and the 12 lectures and discussions of the first three sessions concerning Philosophical and linguistic foundations of classification, Cooperation in national and international subject analysis and indexing and Applications of numerical taxonomy. The concluding panel session gives the summarizations also of those sessions which will appear in Vol. 2 of this conference.

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