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Greetings from the Chairperson

I am very pleased indeed to have been asked to be the new Chairperson of FID/CR and look forward to communicating and working with you as a member of the FID community in its efforts "to promote, sponsor and engage in research in the field of classification and indexing".

My first duty in my new office must be to express, on your behalf, our sincere gratitude to Dr.Ingetraut Dahlberg for her untiring leadership and service to FID/CR over the past 7 years. Her qualities of energy, organization and scholarship have contributed greatly to the growth and development of classification research within FID and in the classification community at large. "Many thanks to you Ingetraut. We hope that you will continue your active participation in FID/CR for many years to come".

Secondly, I want to welcome Professor Timothy Craven, University of Western Ontario, Faculty of Library and Information Science, London, Canada, as the new Secretary of FID/CR. Professor Craven is no stranger to FID, having chaired the FID/CR programme meeting at the 3rd Regional Conference in Montreal in 1986. Also, in his capacity as the Chair of the Canadian Classification Research Group, he has kept Canadian interests in classification research alive and well. I look forward to his advice and support, and the close proximity of London, Ontario to Toronto will facilitate consultation and the planning of FID/CR activities.

As I assume the mantle of Chairperson, I will be reviewing the activities of the Committee and looking into new projects and new challenges for the Committee. To this end, I had a very productive meeting with Dr.Dahlberg in Toronto in late February and expect to meet with the Secretary-General, Mrs.Stella Keenan, in London, England, at the end of April. Future projects already proposed, such as the investigation of contents of courses in classification and indexing, a multilingual glossary of classification and indexing terms, and the establishment of closer liaison with other international associations will be re-examined and implemented if this is appropriate. If you, as members, have ideas for new projects, please bring them to my attention as soon as possible. Time for discussing future projects will be provided for in the FID/CR business meeting at the forthcoming FID Conference in Helsinki in August.

I have already commited FID/CR to one major undertaking - the holding of the 5th International Study Conference on Classification Research. Plans are already underway and we are tentatively considering the summer of 1990 as the probable time for the study conference. This will allow for careful planning and for providing participants with sufficient time for the preparation and submission of papers. The venue for the study conference is expected to be Toronto, Canada, and efforts are being made to provide inexpensive living accommodations for participants. For purposes of administering the conference, financial support will be sought from both FID and Unesco. A description of the proposed conference and a call for papers will be issued within the next two or three months.

It is important that the lines of communication set up between FID/CR and its members continue. I urge you to bring forward information about classification and indexing activities in your own countries for dissemination through the *FID/CR News*. The newsletter will continue to appear in *International Classification* and I will be corresponding with the committee members on a frequent basis.

I hope that as many of you as possible will be attending the FID Conference in Helsinki in August. Unfortunately, I am unable to be present there because of a long-term commitment in IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions) which is meeting in Sydney, Australia, at the same time as the Helsinki Conference. Dr.Dahlberg has very kindly offered to chair the Helsinki meeting for me. My grateful thanks to her on this occasion. I plan to be present at all future FID conferences during my term of office. Best wishes,

Nancy J.Williamson

44th FID Conference and Congress

Information - Knowledge - Evolution will be the theme of the 44th FID Congress to be held from Aug.28 to Sept.1, 1988 at Helsinki, Finland. The preliminary program lists some 114 papers to be presented in eight sessions, of which Sessions 2 and 3 seem to be of special relevance to our membership. In Session 2: "Man as an Information Processor" with a Keynote by Matti BERG-STRÖM, the following papers should be of special interest:
S.DARANYI, G.KOVACS, A.ABRANYI: Knowledge extraction from information by multivariate statistical methods. - B.H.KWASNIK, M.S.NILAN: A user-centric method for investigating information classification behaviors. - M.PINTO MOLINA: Indexer and abstractor as main processor of information. - S.L. SANGAM: Pattern of development of knowledge.

In Session 3: "Content Analysis and Description of Documents" the Keynote will be given by C.J.van RIJSBERGEN. Here the following 20 (out of 23 papers) must be mentioned: I.DAHLBERG: The International Classification and Indexing Bibliography: Some reflections. - B.ENDRES-NIGGEMEYER: Content analysis - a special case of text comprehension. - A.A.AL-FALAHI: Computerized text analysis based on transition phenomena of word occurrences. - Sh.FUJIWARA: Specifity and generality: a fundamental problem in information science. -M.A.GOPINATH: Information processing frames and development of knowledge base management systems. - I.HOVI: The cognitive structure of classification work. - P.INGVERSEN, I.WORMELL: Means to improve browsing and access to information in IR. - M.JUCQUOIS-DELPIERRE: Expert systems and UDC. - P.KARHULA: Role of UDC-classification in developing content analysis and information retrieval in Finnish databases. - P.N.KAULA: Canons of terminology and classification schemes. - G.A.KNIGHT: Linguistic

reflections on concept analysis within a chronological range of information sources. -M.M.MOSHOESHOE: Content analysis and description of documents, evolution challenge in Lesotho. - J.NIEMISTÖ, H.JÄPPINEN: Some linguistic problems for automatic indexing caused by inflections and compounds. - M.L.PAO: Retrieval differences between term and citation indexing. - M.F. RAMOS: Indexing and classification of documents on science and technology policies -the case of Portugal. - M.P.SATIJA: Anatomy of the evolution and growth of knowledge. - Ch.SCHWARZ: Natural language access to free-text databases. -H.SPANG-HANSSEN: Give care to the alphabetic index. - M.TONOSAKI: Categorization of medical journals by their bibliographic structures's point of view. -A.J.WARNER: Linguistic theories for information retrieval. -

Further sessions cover topics like: "Industrial Product Documentation -Language Aspects", "Evolution in Information Services", "Electronic Knowledge", "Information in Industries - Information Industry", "National and International Information Policies". - For further information, please contact: Finnish Society for Information Services, Ms.Leena Harju, FID88 Administrative Secretary, P.O.Box 1025, SF-00101 Helsinki, Finland.

FRG: Classification and Order.
12th Annual Conference of Gesellschaft für Klassifikation

This conference turned out to be one of superlatives in many regards. It took place from March 17-19, 1988 at the Technical University of Darmstadt and was organized by Prof.Rudolf Wille. Some 150 participants of which 24 came from 12 other countries (Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, France, Switzerland, Austria, Hungary, Greece, Poland, Sweden, USA and Canada) listened to and discussed 70 papers - in 10 plenary and 9 workshop sessions. The speakers of the plenary sessions and their papers (all in German except for I.Rival) were: E.HOLENSTEIN (Bochum): Classification in natural languages. - I.RIVAL (Ottawa): Order - a theory with a view. - F.WINGERT: Foundations of indexing medical diagnoses and therapies. - R.FUGMANN (Idstein): The concept of order in information science. - H.GOEBL (Salzburg): Dialectometrics - an aid in the recognition of complex dialect-geographic structures of order. - G.LAUSEN (Mannheim): From databank systems to knowledge based systems. - W.GAUL (Karlsruhe): Data analysis and decision support. - G.LUSTIG (Darmstadt): Automatic indexing and information retrieval - experiences and perspectives. - P.O.DEGENS (Dortmund): Approaches in the mathematization of biological systematics. - H.H. BOCK (Aachen): Possibilities and limitations of data analysis in structuring and organizing information. The topics of the workshops were: (1) Conceptual order (Chair: B.GANTER, 11 papers), (2) Linguistic order (Chair: W.PUTSCHKE, 4 papers), (3) Library Classification (Chair: H.SCHNELLING, 4 papers), (4) Information Retrieval and Data Bases (Chair: G.KNORZ, 7 papers), (5) Commodity Classification and Product Description (Chair: H.GASTHUBER, 4 papers), (6) Decision Supporting Systems (Chair: M.SCHADER, 9 papers), (7)

Structure Recognition in Data Analysis and Statistics (Chair: F.MURTAGH, 7 papers), (8) Numerical Classification (Chair: O.OPITZ, 9 papers), (9) Order structures in the natural sciences (Chair: P.O.DEGENS, 3 papers). Two pre-conference events should be mentioned: An introductory course "Formal Concept Analysis" took place from March 15-16, 1988 and a Further Education Course of the SIG "Library Classification" on March 16, 1988 on "Subject Heading Authority Files and Online Public Access Catalogues (OPACs)". The latter one was attended by some 40 persons. The following papers were discussed (all in German): Ch.BOSSMEYER: Technical possibilities of cooperation in maintaining a subject headings authority file. - W.STEPHAN: Maintenance and further work concerning the subject headings authority file of the German Library. - H.-J.HERMES: The subject headings authority list in practical usage. - M.SKIBBE: The OPAC of the Hochschule der Bundeswehr. - W.KOWALK: The OPAC of the Saarbrücken University Library. - The meeting was concluded with a panel discussion (G.DREIS, H.SCHNELLING, U. SCHULZ a.o.) on Special requests put to an OPAC from the point of view of subject analysis: The Düsseldorf University Library plans and experiences.

On the last day, meetings of the SIG Indexing Languages (Chair: R.FUGMANN) and the SIG Commodity Classification (Chair: H.GASTHUBER) were held.

The Proceedings volume of this conference will appear within the series "Studien zur Klassifikation" (INDEKS Verlag) towards the end of the year 1988. The papers of the plenary sessions will be printed in full length, the workshop papers in abridged form only.

The 13th Annual Conference of the Gesellschaft für Klassifikation will take place at Augsburg, FRG, during the week of April 10-14, 1989. Prof. OPITZ will be the convener. A Call for Papers will be issued soon. For further information, please contact: Prof.Dr.Otto Opitz, Lehrstuhl für Mathematische Methoden der Wirtschaftswissenschaften. Universität Augsburg. Memminger Str.14, D-8900 Augsburg.

U.K.: CRG 263 and 264

The 263rd and 264th meetings of the British Classification Research Group took place on Oct.22 and Dec.10, 1987 respectively at University College London. Both meetings were devoted to the problems of the classes on Politics and Law of the new Bliss Classification. A paper of Mrs. TOMLINSON had been circulated to the members as well as Draft schedules for Class R in BC2. In the first edition of the Bliss system, Law had been treated as a subclass of Politics. Now it is given Main Class status and has been placed behind the class Politics. Also the title has been widened from "political science" to include "politics" as well. It was stated that the concept implies political behaviour and action in the widest sense, to be defined roughly as "activities and relationships concerned with the exercise of power". The minutes (CRG 263) depict the lifely discussions concerning the definition of the Class, questions of Public administration, State, use of "politics" in other contexts than the national (as e.g. in companies), law relating to political institutions, International Relations

and Government, Government as the institution and a study area, period, and literature on civil liberties. It contains also a list of 7 facets in Class R.

The minutes of Dec.10, 87 reflect the discussion of the importance of date in Politics as against History and a consideration of the subdivisions used in the outline of the class Law, defined as "the interpretation and in part the enforcement of rules of social conduct, overseen and produced by the political system". Mr.MILLS looks at Law as a manifestation of a political system and therefore as something to go parallel with Politics. He did not encounter any difficulties in elaborating the scheme.

The classification of history was to be on the agenda of the next meeting, Febr.11, 1988. Further meetings in 1988 have been scheduled for April 28, July 7, Oct.20 and December 8.

Education - A New Classification Scheme

The Bliss Classification Association (1 Dale Side, Gerrards Cross, Bucks. SL9 7JF, England) announces the compilation of a revised issue of the second edition of this Class in the new Bliss Classification System. Suggestions and comments for the revision would be welcomed by the compiler (see address above). The new edition is to be published in 1989.

USA: ASIS/SIG/CR

In the recent Newsletter of the ASIS Classification Research group a report on the SIG/CR Sessions at the 50th Annual Meeting of ASIS (at Boston October 1987) written by Prof.John LEIDE of McGill University, Montreal, is included. From this we quote the following passages: "Electronic Publishing and Indexing (jointly sponsored with SIG/PUB) Moderator: Dorothy Thomas. Jessica MILSTEAD spoke with her usual eloquence on "Subject Headings and Electronic Publishing". Problems of instant indexing, no second chance, costs of reloading, upgrading, error correction, etc. were neatly grouped into three categories: 1. Updating, 2. Layout, 3. Volume changes. Ester HORNE, under the topic "Authorship from Cover to Cover: Text and Index", presented an overview of current electronic publishing options and requirements. Douglas THOMPSON addressed the "Problems among Authors, Editors and Typesetters" encountered in the publication of a newsletter. Reactors greed that more knowledge is now needed about all phases of publishing. Even though computers are simple, people are not, and indexes are for people.

"Structures for Knowledge Representation" was moderated by Richard DIENER. Three speakers from Syracuse University addressed their current research. Robert ODDY spoke "On the Validation and Interpretation of Representations of Anomalous States of Knowledge in Information Retrieval". He described a method of weighting terms using a distance scale within a search query which enabled the terms to be presented in a vector mapping to demonstrate networks of closely related terms. Susan BONZI discussed "Syntactic Patterns in Sublanguages: Sciences and Social Sciences". Her analysis considered the number of clauses per sentence, words per clause, voice, noun-verb/noun-verb-direct object, tense, etc. to compare tests from science and social science. Preliminary results showed some interesting differences among the groups. Elizabeth LIBBY's study of "Discourse Level Structure in Abstracts" revealed some suggestive frames for automatic analysis of abstracts. Her paper is available in the proceedings. Dick DIENER moderated "the Great Vocabulary Debate" before an eager standing-room-only audience of over 100 people. The protagonists were C.David BATTY for "vocabulary control" and W.Bruce CROFT for "automatic indexing". The nice thing about comparing apples and pears is that it often makes nice fruit salad. There was general agreement that machine assistance should be used as much as possible but that external or contextual information of a thesaurus is beneficial for the indexing process. In retrospect, the central and unaddressed question seems to be whether AI (artificial intelligence) will allow AI (automatic indexing) to develop its own thesauri."

Ms.Sidney C.Frederick from Chapaign, IL, the new editor of this Newsletter added to this a short report on a session called "Multidisciplinary Study of Classification" in which Prof.Francis MIKSA reported on the findings of his classification studies at OCLC, Dublin, OH, where he spent a Sabbatical as a Visiting Scholar. He stressed that "our profession needs a broader focus and understanding of why and how humankind "partitions", or "categorizes."

The 1987/1988 officers of SIG/CR are: Chair: Richard A.V.DIENER, Columbia, MD; Chair-Elect: Jennifer YOUNGER, Madison, WI; Secretary/Treasurer: Renee GELINAS, Montreal, Canada; Cabinet Representative: Sidney FREDERICK.

Classification Theory in the Computer Age.
Interdisciplinary Perspectives

This is the title of a conference to be held from Nov.17-19, 1988 at Albany, NY, co-sponsored by the School of Information Science and Policy, University of Albany and Forest Press, Albany. It will address classification issues from the vantage points of the researcher, practitioner, and educator. Theoretical considerations affecting the design of classification systems in the computer age, conceptual and definitional problems, subject analysis and reclassification, querying systems; interrelationships between user, machine, and indexing languages; and ties to artificial intelligence will be explored. Concluding sessions will focus on implications for future theory and practice. Ways to improve communication between researchers, developers of databases, computer scientists, librarians and educators of information professionals will be emphasized. The conference will interweave the perspectives of information science, computer science, library science, mathematics, philosophy, and other disciplines employing classification and taxonomies.

Invited speakers include: Ingetraut DAHLBERG, Frankfurt; Francis MIKSA, University of Texas at Austin; Dana SCOTT, Pittsburgh, PA; Robert R.SOKAL, SUNY at Stony Brook; and Elaine SVENONIUS, UCLA. For further information call (518)442-5115 or write to: Classification Conference Coordinator. School of Information Science and Policy. The University at Albany - SUNY, Draper 113, 135 Western Ave., Albany, NY 12222, USA.