the system which, despite dire predictions to the contrary, is still alive and well, not only in Albany, N.Y., but around the globe, as witness Appendix C, which is a list of 47 countries that use the DDC in their national bibliographies. Other appendixes display a French proposal for development of class 300, particularly 329 Political parties, and 336 Public finance, to accommodate specific French conditions (not presently taken care of by Dewey because of its still largely Anglo-American bias). There is also a fairly exhaustive list of readings on Dewey since 1971, with a separate author and subject index.

It is tempting to compare this collection of papers with the one held a year before at the Allerton Park Institute in the United States, Nov. 1976, which at least partially was also devoted to DDC in other countries. The American conference was largely concerned with theoretical and historical aspects, whereas the British one seems on the whole to have been oriented towards the future. Those interested in the Dewey system will be well advised to study both publications; there is only very little overlap and they complement each other in a most felicitous way.

Hans H. Wellisch

VAN SLYPE, Georges: **Conception et Gestion des Systèmes Documentaires**. (Creation and management of documentation systems). Paris: Editions d'Organisation 1977. 264 p. 95 F. ISBN 2-7081-0324-5

This book is reviewed in this journal mainly because it contains a remarkably lucid assessment of the problems of documentary languages (chapter III, pp. 87–125) at the point of confluence of information science and linguistics.

It judiciously compares and differentiates the characteristics and areas of applicability of classification systems and descriptor thesauri.

In the enumeration of the types of semantic relationships (p. 96–97), the author invents a number of new terms, the more or less arbitrary choice of which may be an obstacle to the inexperienced reader. On the other hand, too little is said about the computer management of thesauri and its cost effectiveness.

The book also lists a number of formulae for the determination of the optimal volume of a thesaurus; it misses another formula, presented in 1967 by Vernimb, which may well be based on more logical considerations than those cited.

The book was obviously written by someone who has thought a lot about practical applications of information theory, and who, through his lectures, has learned to pass the message to the reader. In order to show that the book is meant to be read not only by students and lecturers, but also by system users, system operators and system designers, Van Slype has subdivided each chapter into three facets which underline the topics of particular concern for either of these classes of readers.

This is a very interesting feature, which deserves to be extended to other manuals in the future.

Another useful innovation is the condensed presentation, in microfiche form, of those annexes and illustrations the volume of which would have made the book bulky and uneconomic.

The book is presented in such a way as to facilitate its use to the utmost: a variety of type fonts, a number of typology tables, condensed presentation through multiple indentation, etc.

But its most valuable contribution to information science is, without any doubt, chapter II (pp. 46–85) on the psycho-sociology of knowledge transfer. Van Slype reminds us of the fact that all too often the human factor is neglected and underrated in the conception and design of information systems. Extremely interesting facts are uncovered, and statistics are given on the more or less rational behaviour of the producers, the intermediaries and the users of scientific and technical knowledge.

Because of this chapter and because of a large number of innovations of conception and presentation, the book certainly deserves to be translated, at least into English and German, just as Soergel's basic manual on thesauri deserves to be translated into French and German.

L. Rolling

BAHNER, H., FRIEDE, H.-J., HAENDLER, H., SCHOEN, P.J. (Comp.): **Thesaurus Tierische Produktion**. (Thesaurus on Animal Production). Vol. 1: Faceted representation of the vocabulary and special indexes. Vol. 2: Alphabetical index of the thesauruswords with references to the descriptors. 2nd ed. (In German). Stuttgart: Dokumentationsstelle der Universität Hohenheim 1976. 167 + 461 p., DM 75,–

Zweifellos gehört die Dokumentationsstelle der Universität Hohenheim zu den ältesten und bewährtesten Dokumentationsstellen der Bundesrepublik Deutschland. Vor allen Dingen gehört sie zu den ganz wenigen Dokumentationsstellen, an denen neben der Literaturdokumentation schon seit langem eine echte Datendokumentation betrieben wird. Man sollte meines Erachtens keine Gelegenheit vorüber gehen lassen, um immer wieder auf die Notwendigkeit und auf die Bedeutung einer solchen Datendokumentation hinzuweisen, weil wir mit dem Problem der Dokumentation ganz sicher nicht fertig werden, wenn wir uns nur auf die Literaturdokumentation beschränken, die ja nichts weiter als einen ersten Schritt in der notwendigen Richtung darstellt. Dies ist auch der Grund, weshalb ich hier die Pionierarbeiten Haendlers und der Dokumentationsstelle Hohenheim auf dem Gebiete der Datendokumentation von Futtermitteln besonders erwähne.

Der gute Ruf Haendlers und seiner Mitarbeiter sowie die jahrzehntelangen praktischen Erfahrungen der Dokumentationsstelle Hohenheim lassen von vornherein erwarten, daß alles, was an Veröffentlichungen aus diesem Hause kommt, sehr gründlich wissenschaftlich durchdacht und praktisch erprobt ist. Nicht anders verhält es sich mit dem „Thesaurus tierische Produktion". Der Thesaurus umfaßt 2 Bände, von denen der erste die Einführung, eine alphabetische Liste der Deskriptoren, eine facettierte Darstellung des Vokabulars und 2 alphabetische Sonderregister (für Länder und für Nutztierrassen) enthält. Der zweite Band enthält Hinweise für die Benutzung des alphabetischen Registers, eine alphabetische Liste der Deskriptoren und ein alphabetisches Register der Thesauruswörter mit Verweisen auf Deskriptoren.

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