

tentative 61 schedules for Anatomy and Physiology, Curative Medicine, Diseases and Pathology and the Urogenital system; "Towards a Revision of Class 51 - Mathematics", describing the current situation and calling for comments and suggestions (Matthew Phillips, Christ Church Library, Oxford, OX1 1DP, UK; email: matthew.phillips@christ-church.ox.ac.uk); "International Exchange Languages: the Case of the Universal Decimal Classification", by Michele Santoro; and "Activities of the ISTEI in the Field of the UDC", by F. Scibor, an article on the work of the Institute for Scientific, Technical and Economic Information, the publisher of UDC in Poland. Also included in this edition of *E&C* is a list of "Recent Publications" including the most recent UDC editions and other publications on UDC and UDC-related topics. "Revised UDC Tables" include: a concordance of cancellations and recent amendments to the previously published revised schedules for Class 004 - Computer Science, the reinstated schedule for Class 531/534 Mechanics and the revised schedules for Class 566/569 + 596/599 Vertebrates.

### Classification Research Group

The CRG held its 304th, 305th and 306th meetings on April 26th, July 12th and October 18th, 1996 respectively. As its major focus of current interest, CRG continues to discuss the development of, and revisions to, the *Bliss Bibliographic Classification*, second edition (BC2). At its April meeting, Editor, Jack Mills presented for consideration the outlines for the three separate fields which will make up volume 2 of BC2 - Class 2 Generalia; Class 3 Phenomena; and Classes 4/9 Prologomena to a general bibliographic classification. The purpose of the outlines was to consolidate the findings of various previous discussions so that the content and structure of the whole volume would be more or less finalized, thus bringing it into line with all the other as yet unpublished classes. The Generalia class presented few problems, whereas the phenomena and prologomena classes provided the bases for most of the discussion. At the July meeting a 10 page outline of BC2 Class DG Earth Science was considered. Topics discussed with respect to DG were: the enumeration of dependent processes under special parts; the process of "Deformation" (Class DJG) which is the central process of Geology; the problem of dependency and overlap between processes and structures; and the hierarchy of parts in the main facet. Tectonics and large scale structures and their place in the sequence were also debated and the difficulty of finding a satisfactory definition discussed. The culmination of the discussion was the suggestion that despite all the problems implied in earlier considerations, it might be simpler in the long run and in

accord with standard citation order and the inverted schedule to opt for a complete separation of the processes and structures facets. However, it was noted that in the case of Geomorphology this could result in some unsatisfactory separations. At the October meeting the principal topic for discussion was the Physics Class of BC2. At the July meeting attention was also drawn to an article by Steven Steinberg in *Wired* (May 1996) on the need for organizing information in the Internet. It was noted that the article makes justifiable criticisms of the library profession's addiction to 19th century models, but it displays almost complete unawareness of the developments in classification since 1945, thus giving little recognition to the work of the CRG and the importance of facet analysis in modern information retrieval systems.

### ASIS SIG/CR

The ASIS Special Interest Group on Classification Research participated actively in the 59th ASIS Annual Meeting held in Baltimore Maryland, October 21-24, 1996. Prior to the main ASIS meeting SIG/CR held the 7th ASIS SIG/CR Classification Research Workshop. During the main ASIS Meeting a programme on indexing and abstracting was held and SIG/CR co-sponsored a number of programmes with other ASIS SIGs. The *Proceedings of the 59th ASIS Annual Meeting* contains the papers from the Indexing and Abstracting session and abstracts for the SIG co-sponsored programmes. A working copy of the Workshop papers was provided for the participants at the time of the Workshop and these papers will be published shortly under the title *Advances in Classification Research*, volume 7.

### SIG/CR Workshop

During the one-day Workshop, eight papers on a variety of topics related to classification research were presented. Eileen Abels, University of Maryland, spoke on "Classifying the Questions of Small Business Owners: A Top-Down & Bottom-Up Approach". She described a project in which a classification scheme for business information was developed through question analysis of a set of business requests posed by small business entrepreneurs in the state of Maryland. Using online databases, searches were performed within the context of "a real-world contractual setting" while respecting "market standards of timeliness, quality and overall professionalism". Types of requests used included: literature on a given topic, lists of companies with their addresses, vendors of projects, patent and trademark information and identification of experts. Data were drawn from requests received over a period of a year. Existing classification schemes were examined and deemed to be unsatisfac-