

# Editorial

## Knowledge Organization on Its Way - Between Madras and Copenhagen

It seems that our colleagues have hardly succeeded so far in properly digesting the second international ISKO Conference in Madras ("Cognitive Paradigms in Knowledge Organisation"), for to this day, one year after the event with the appearance of the so handsomely executed Proceedings volume, we have not yet encountered a single review of it in the relevant literature, although we are now already preparing for the 3rd international conference in Copenhagen, for which a Call for Papers was sent out in June 1993 and is reprinted once more in the ISKO News section of this issue.

Meanwhile, however, a few other, regional conferences have taken place at which noteworthy papers well deserving of our attention were presented. Thus, our present issue contains two contributions that were read at the Joint FID/CR-ISKO Meeting in Madrid, Spain, on 20 October 1992. Prof. Nancy WILLIAMSON, who chaired this meeting, went to the considerable effort of editing all contributions, for which we owe her heartfelt thanks! The contribution by the two young philosophers, Francisco Javier GARCIA MARCO and Miguel Angel ESTEBAN NAVARRO, from Zaragoza opens our eyes to connections, possibly not yet recognized by us as such between our discipline and other ones ("On some contributions of the cognitive sciences and epistemology to a theory of classification"), while the paper by Ms. MariaInes LOPES on the Portuguese data bank PORBASE ("Subject authority control in a union catalogue: Perspectives for a national co-operative project in Portugal") describes a practical problem: how subject access in a Union Catalogue can be organized on a national level. By the way, Madrid will host still another interesting conference this year: one on the subject "Knowledge Organization in Information Systems", which event will also give occasion to the founding of a Spanish or Iberian ISKO Chapter.

On the Russian ISKO Conference we already reported briefly in KO 93-2, while summaries of the contributions are to appear in issue 93-4. At this conference we received Prof. S. GRINEV's voluminous manuscript, an abridged version of which is included in this issue ("Terminological research in the former USSR"). Be it noted in particular here that this article also contains a "Classification of Terminology Subjects" (p.156), to which we invite your kind attention.

A further ISKO meeting, namely the 3rd one of the German ISKO Chapter, is to take place (again) in Weilburg. You will find the translated program in *ISKO News* of this issue.

This issue furthermore contains a highly readable contribution which deals with the philosophical foundations of

the ordering of being and calls attention to certain interrelationships that might prove useful for the ordering of knowledge and of our consciousness. The article concerned ("The SUM of science: The taxonomy and methodology of sociophysics") is a concise summary of the book by Paris ARNOPOULOS on the subject "Sociophysics" (1993). Who does not feel reminded here of J.M.PERRAULT's triadic system of relators ("Categories and relators: A new schema" - published in Rev.Int.Doc.1965-4, and reprinted in J.M.Perrault: Towards a Theory for UDC. London: C.Bingley 1969. p.119-140), or of the division of the ICC (*Information Coding Classification*) according to 3x3 general object and aspect fields?

Thus it is my wish that - not only with regard to this subject - our present issue will give rise to lively discussions and also, if possible, to Letters to the Editor as welcome evidence that this journal is not simply put on the shelf unread. This suspicion - I can't deny it - sprang up in the editor's mind because of the fact - among others - that only two readers have expressed an interest in the new offer of a used-book collection in our latest issue (1993-2, inside of back cover, *The K.O. Antiquary*.). Was not this a good idea which might be helpful to many?

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