Instead of an EDITORIAL

Dear Readers of International Classification!

Eric de Grolier, known probably to everyone in the international classification world through his detailed investigation "A study of general categories applicable to classification and coding in documentation, Paris 1962", pointed out time and again in earlier years how essential it is not to forget classification bibliography, a subject not being given large-scale attention anywhere in the world.

Mindful of this urgent exhortation we have therefore tried, starting with the very first issue of our journal INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION, to keep track of this literature at least as of 1974 while even going back as far as 1960 in our coverage of proceedings. Nevertheless we are none too sure of really having recorded the complete post-1974 literature, especially when looking at the literature references cited in our technical contributions. And of course, but for the one exception mentioned, the entire pre-1974 literature has been left out of account so far.

Now in order to present, in a single volume, a clear and orderly picture of the literature of the past 30 years, the Classification Society, in cooperation with the newly-founded society "INDEKS Gesellschaft für Indexierungund Klassifikationssysteme mbH" (INDEKS, A Society for Indexing and Classification Systems), has decided to bring out a 500–800 page single volume presenting the entire classification literature from 1950–1980, comprising some 10 000 titles, systematically arranged and made accessible through various indexes.

This will be a major project requiring at least two years and the cooperation, also in the form of a creative thinking, of many colleagues capable of contributing toward this end. We therefore would like to appeal to all those authors who ever wrote anything on classification and/or indexing in the broadest sense to either send us their publications or their personal bibliography, supplemented if possible by such comments e.g. "outdated", "ideas developed further in . . .", "new edition in preparation", or any other helpful comment or additional information.

The projected bibliography is to appear in English, with French, German, Spanish and Italian titles being presented in the original language as well. To be entitled "INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION AND INDEXING BIBLIOGRAPHY" (ICIB), the volume is to become the standard work for all classification research anywhere in the world capable of acquainting any interested person with the current status of knowledge and the publications produced so far on any given subject in our field.

For the semantic presentation of the bibliography we intend to use the arrangement employed also for our "Classification Literature", refined of course by at least one more level of detailedness (see preceeding page). Should you have any comment, criticism or desire for expansion with regard to this arrangement, then now is the time for you to let us have your much-appreciated opinion on this subject.

A personal request to conclude with: we have none too clear an idea as to the number of copies in which to print this bibliography: 1000? 2000? 5000? The larger the edition, the lower can the price be kept. Should you kindly let us know your personal estimate, this, too, will be a great help to us.

The projected bibliography will furnish all of us a better instrument for keeping track of the knowledge compiled so far by our science of classification. Whoever contributes in some form to the factual success of this bibliography should be able to obtain this work at a lower price than all others. So please help us, thereby helping all others as well!

Sincerely

Ingetraut Dahlberg

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