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In Memoriam: Phyllis Richmond

Professor Phyllis Allen Richmond passed away on October 6, 1997 after a lengthy illness. Professor Richmond was regarded as one of the most outstanding authorities in classification research in North America. She held a masters degree in library science from Western Reserve University, and a PhD in the history of science and medicine from the University of Pennsylvania. She taught classification and related subjects at Syracuse and Case Western Reserve Universities and published widely in her field, bringing to bear on classification theory her knowledge of medicine. Phyllis Richmond's valuable contribution to her field as a researcher was recognized when she received the Margaret Mann Award from the Resources and Technical Division (later ALCTS) of the American Library Association. As a pioneer in the field of information science in the United States and was awarded the ASIS Award of Merit. Well known on the international scene, Professor Richmond participated in two of the FID/CR Study Conferences on Classification Research. She was an active participant at Elsinore and prepared a paper which was delivered at Bombay. Professor Richmond made important contributions to classification research and will be greatly missed both as a colleague and as a friend.

Universal Decimal Classification

Extensions and Corrections to the UDC, 1997 (E&C) has just been published by the UDC Consortium in The Hague. The 1997 edition contains revisions for Physiographic regions, Germany, Navigation and Botany (taxonomic tables only). There are also proposals for Mathematics and Medicine and a report on Astronomy. Editions of E&C may be purchased from the UDC Consortium through the FID Secretariat in The Hague. A revision of Chemistry will appear in 1998 and work is currently being carried out on auxiliaries -03 and -05. It is also expected that a third edition of the International Medium Edition, English Text will be published in the near future.

Classification Research Group (CRG)

The 310th Meeting of the Classification Research Group took place on Friday, July 11 at University College London. The principal business of this meeting was a report and discussion of the 6th International Study Conference on Classification Research "Knowledge Organization for Information Retrieval". A number of CRG members had attended the conference and 8 new members had joined CRG during the Conference.

Douglas Foskett led a discussion reviewing some of the issues raised at the conference. He set the tone of the discussion first by discussing briefly the opening of the conference by Professor Ia McIlwaine, Conference Chair, and then reported on the keynote address given by Jack Mills. Mills had stressed four main points: 1. "It should not be forgotten how much Dorking was a real water shed in the introduction of Ranganathan's ideas and in the post-coordinate approach"; 2. "The CRG's articulation of these ideas was notable in the early 1960s when it initiated its own research, funded by NATO, into the problems associated with the provision of a new general classification scheme based on faceted principles. The results from this were published as an LA [Library Association] pamphlet"; 3. "Since the 1970s the major revision of the Bliss scheme, now nearing completion, has drawn heavily on the ideas of Dorking, in particular the use of faceted principles throughout BC2." 4. "Mr. Mills also reminded the Conference of the importance of classification for subject display: the classed array of the shelves was an order and should still be a central concern of classification."

Foskett then recalled the years of discussion in the search for a new general classification scheme and particularly the relationship between general and special schemes which remained unresolved in the NATO research. He argued that a distinction needs to be made between a universal scheme and a general scheme. In a universal scheme there is the notion of the whole and of an integration covering the whole of knowledge. He felt that principle of integrative levels should be used to accomplish this. On the other hand he viewed a general scheme as only a collection of