

ISKO News 30

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President of ISKO

First conference of French ISKO chapter at Lille, October 16-17 1997

This conference, held at the University Lille 3, gathered about hundred participants, and 35 lecturers from five countries (France, Canada, Germany, Belgium, Bulgaria), about the central theme "Knowledge organization as an element in representational and information retrieval systems".

The richness of the subject of knowledge organization, inherent in ISKO's vocation to pluridisciplinarity, raised various approaches: from information science, cognitive sciences, linguistics, philosophy, artificial intelligence. But whatever the point of view might be, most of the papers integrated computer science as an essential tool.

The inaugural lecture by J. G. Meunier, University of Montreal, aimed at designing an open and multi-dimensional generic model of the Information Processing Systems, through a critical analysis of various existing models (cybernetic, cognitive, linguistic, auto-organizing ..).

The other lectures are divided into three headings:

General Studies (10 papers)

- Methods of language processing applicable to cognitive analysis or abstract concept representation (7 papers)
- Critical analyses of some indexing methods (2 papers)
- One historical study on the French research in the field of information science since 1950

Developments and improvements in information retrieval (20 papers)

- By refining and extending the structure of thesauri (5 papers)
- By taking into account factors external to content, chiefly the personality of users (6 papers)
- By refining the methods in automatic indexing (mathematical, statistic and/or linguistic processes) (9 papers)

Studies about images (4 papers)

Problems of representation, models of multimedia databases, systematic analysis of images.

The meeting was conducted in a studious and enthusiastic atmosphere, and a lot of researchers made acquaintance with new colleagues.

Jacques Maniez

ISKO-German Section, 5th conference at Humboldt University, Berlin

The 5th conference of ISKO-German Section was devoted to the theme 'Knowledge Organisation by Multimedia Technologies'. Program-selection was headed by Hans Czap, Business Administration and Information Systems at University of Trier. The local organisation was done by Walther Umstätter and his team at the Institute for Library Sciences, Humboldt University Berlin. The meeting was accompanied by three tutorials devoted to different themes.

As at the preceding meetings of the ISKO-German Section, dr Winfried Schmitz-Esser organised a very successful workshop on Thesaurus Technologies with special emphasis on pictorial representations together with the committee for classification and thesaurus research (Komitee für Klassifikations- und Thesaurusforschung KTF) of German Society for Documentation.

Peter Jaenecke organized and conducted himself a highly successful workshop on the science of metascience. His aim was to provide scientists and researchers with the necessary tools to conduct scientific work successfully.

The third tutorial was organized by Hans-Peter Ohly and Alexander Sigel and was dedicated to 'Aspects of Knowledge Organisation with respect to Subject Resources of the Internet'. As a consequence of this tutorial a new working group devoted to this theme arose.

The conference was opened by the vice-president of Humboldt University. First scientific presentation was given by G. Rahmstorf, under the heading: "Visualisierung: Vom Begriff zum Bild". He gave a very good introduction about different aspects of pictorial representations. Rahmstorf had been the driving force for devoting the conference-theme to multimedia and especially to pictorial representations.

The key-note presentation by Dagmar Schmauk on "Schweigende Texte, sprechende Bilder" (silent texts, talking pictures) gave a very profound overview of the combination of text and pictorial representations and their sometimes intended ambiguities. Mainly, use of this latter aspect is made by pictorial puzzles and in cryptography or steganography.

The conference was structured in different sections. Organizers of the section 'Multimedia knowledge representation, presentation and reception as well as reception and applications' had been Susanne Pribbenow, Klaus Sachs-Hombach and Wolfgang Schnotz. Papers in this section were presented by O. Scholz, R. Schumacher, R. Schantz, B. Berendt and H. F. Friedrich / J. Heins / E. Picard.

The section 'Multi-Media and Knowledge Structure' had been organised by J. Palme and W. Umstätter. It covered presentations by the organisers and additionally by T. Plebisch, B. I. Dahn and I. Schwarz.

H.-P. Ohly and A. Sigel organised the section 'Challenges of Knowledge Organisation by the Internet' with presentations by the organisers and B. Batinic as well as A. Oehler. In addition they founded a new working group concentrating on 'Knowledge Organisation and the Internet'.

As at earlier meetings, the library sciences had their own section with presentations ranging from electronic publications, given by C. Lehner, R. Flatscher, M. Scholz and W. Oeltjen, over classification and visualisation, given by G. Bauer and G. Schildmann, to general classification methods, given by G. Schoenfeld, A. Otto and R. Lorenz.

General aspects of knowledge organisation had been collected to a special section, organised by H. Czap. Papers ranged from conceptual navigation (K. Veltmann / H. Benking) over different aspects of 'Knowledge Organisation' (W. Bies, M. Bundschuh, H. Benking / K. Veltmann) to the final presentation on document engineering, given by E. Schoop.

Peter Jaenecke, the last president of German section, conducted the final discussion and closed this very successful meeting.

The papers of this conference will be published in a forthcoming proceedings-volume to appear in ERGON-Verlag spring 1998.

Hans Czap

New working group on 'Knowledge Organization and Internet' constituted at the German ISKO Conference

At the German ISKO conference on 'Wissensorganisation mit multimedialen Techniken', Berlin, Oct 7-10th 1997, a meeting took place to find out if there was joint interest in the formation of an ISKO Work-

ing Group 'Wissensorganisation und Internet' ('AG wiss-org'). The meeting was arranged on the initiative of P. Ohly (oh@bonn.iz-soz.de) and A. Sigel (sigel@gmd.de), and took place on Oct 9th. After a short presentation of the rationale, namely why a forum was needed for the exchange on knowledge organization issues related to Internet information sources, all attending persons agreed that it was worth the effort to establish such a group within ISKO - at least temporarily. The following German membership assembly on the same day approved this WG proposal. For the time being, this is a WG of the German section, focused on regional meetings, although we would welcome guests from other countries. It is intended to arrange meetings together with other groups in the field of information science between the ISKO conferences. General aims of this WG will be the overview, discussion and harmonization of knowledge organization tools applicable in or dependent on the Internet, as well as the exchange of practical usage experiences. The next meeting is foreseen in spring 1998 at the Informationszentrum Sozialwissenschaften, Bonn, where challenges to Internet clearinghouses will be discussed.

A discussion list, named wiss-org, has been established meanwhile. The list is not restricted to ISKO members. To subscribe to this discussion list, please send an e-mail to listproc@bonn.iz-soz.de with message body (no subject): subscribe wiss-org SurName FirstName. In case of problems, please send an e-mail to the list administrator oh@bonn.iz-soz.de with subject: Subscribe wiss-org).

First suggestions for topics for the discussion list and the meeting activities were:

- The publication of a Knowledge Organization FAQ (Frequently Asked (and Answered) Questions), resp. Hints and Tricks
- An overview of classification schemes and thesauri available and used on the Internet
- Metainformation standards like RDF and DC as well as information agents contributing to or using such metadata
- Standards of Internet-o-metrics
- The organization of a special meeting on ontologies and
- Organization of a session on the next German and/or international ISKO meeting.

H. Peter Ohly & Alexander Sigel