Though lack of an internal index as well as the likelihood that the publication as a whole has not been indexed by our secondary services network, impairs the chances of information access management advertised on the title page it should be considered as a strong recommendation that those who take the trouble of buying (e.g. through IN-DEKS) or locating it in a document collection may find the effort worthwhile.   Daniel Benediktsson

Prof.D.Benediktsson, c/o Jablonkay, Hollo Janos U.4, VI, em. 55, H-4024 Debrecen, Hungary.

HERMES, H.-J., HAVEKOST, H.(Eds.): **Die Systematik im OPAC: über das Instrumentarium zum Ordnen und Wiederfinden** (The use of Classification Systems in OPACs: On the Instruments Available for Ordering and Retrieval). Papers presented at the Working Groups on Library Science of the 16th Annual Convention of the Gesellschaft für Klassifikation, Dortmund 1992. Oldenburg: Library and Information System of the Oldenburg University 1993. 162p. ISBN 3-8142-0432-8

Parallel to (hence separate from) the institutionalized library field, but with numerous interested librarians participating, there exist various councils and societies which, among numerous other things, continuously give attention to questions of contents description at libraries - even if no substantial sponsoring funds are available for this work and if the results obtained do not always find reflection in the rigidly structured fields of library operations. These organizations include e.g. the German Standardization Institution DIN; the Committee for Thesaurus and Classification Research of the German Documentation Society, DGD/KTF; the International Society for Knowledge Organization ISKO with its German Section; and the Society for Classification, GfKl. At the 1992 annual convention of the latter society in Dortmund a special part of the program was devoted to questions of classificatory subject description in libraries. The relevant papers read are presented here in a special publication on this convention.

Although not all papers of the volume reviewed here deal with the use of classification systems in OPACs, a generally quite readable collection is offered here such as otherwise can be obtained only through rounding up widely scattered papers on the subject from various publications. In the germanophone parts of the world the present publication is at this time unique.

The series of papers is led off by B.LISCHEWSKY-WEISER of the Cologne municipal library with a paper which gave the entire book its title: *The use of classification systems in OPACs*. For all those not yet intimately familiar with the subject, this contribution offers a readable and useful introduction, clarifying on the one hand the complexity of the problems involved and on the other hand showing possible solutions oriented to concrete library practice and presenting actually realized examples. An accompanying list of more detailed literature, expanded below by a few English-language texts, is undoubtedly most helpful.

The second contribution by G.GREINER entitled *Facet Systems* endeavors to show the importance and possible use of the analytic-synthetic classification systems for subject description and retrieval. The approach he uses is not so much of a theoretical methodical nature, but rather marked by the presentation of a great many examples. Be it noted here supplementarily that the particular usefulness of this classification method for the construction of retrieval systems was proven by the present reviewer in a recent article, while a thorough and more detailed introduction to the facet classification method has been offered by B.Buchanan.

Another subject, that of classification for book arrangement purposes, is treated by B.LORENZ in his contribution on *Reflections on classification systems for book arrangement purposes*. Not dealing primarily with structural questions, he emphasizes first of all, in a historical analysis, the special importance of systematic book arrangement in library practice, following this up with a description of specific pertinent developments in libraries in German-speaking countries.

H.-J.HERMES reported on the current state of the work on the Universal Decimal Classification (UDC, DK) and in particular on the organizational changes that have taken place in recent years within the FID and DIN. Of particular importance for the German interests in this domain is undoubtely the termination of DIN's leading role in this field in 1991 and the taking-over of this task by a working group for Decimal Classification with the Society for Classification, which was formed in the course of the Dortmund convention, as well as the question of having the UDC publishing board expanded by a German representative.

The use - not readily intelligible to outsiders - of classification systems by Die Deutsche Bibliothek (The German National Library) is described by W.TRAISER. Discussing salient points from the "Systematic Survey of all Subject Fields (=HJV/FJV (Semi-annual and Five-year Lists' Classification)", which is also used for the purposes of systematic characterization of keywords in the SWD (Keyword Documentation) in the tradition of the yellow and green pages of the HJV and FJV respepctively - he gives attention to some problems resulting from the application of this instrument. In a second part Traiser presents considerations on using the Conspectus Classification, developed primarily for book purchase coordination, also for the SWD. A first test yielded no positive results.

Related to this same subject is the contribution by I.RECKER-KOTULLA: *The Dutch Basic Classification as an instrument of cooperative subject description*. In view of the discussion conducted elsewhere on the introduction of this classification at the libraries in Lower Saxony, Germany, this contribution by the translator of this classification into German is sure to command attention. For the subject concerned raises not only methodical questions, but also questions of library planning and policy, in which connection the levels of argumentation are, unfortunately, not always kept carefully apart. The autho-

ress reports on "the development of the Basic Classifiation, its role within the Dutch system of cooperative subject description, its set-up and structure, and the part it might play in a future system of cooperative subject description in Lower Saxony". The idea of an allocation of tasks to various components of a larger subject-description system is lucidly worked out (keywords RSWK), Basic Classification notations, indications of time and geography, literary categories, persons, organizations), with these components not being co-extensively precombined in a document-specific way, but rather being made available individually for post-coordinating retrieval. From this reviewer's point of view the discussion suffered from the fact that it has not yet been sufficiently clarified what the interaction of the various PICA system components will look like in retrieval within an OPAC and that one bases oneself too much on (wishful?) planning concepts. Furthermore the idea of breaking apart the RSWK chains (RSWK = Rules for Subject Cataloguing) into individual retrievable components appears questionable as long as it has not yet been clarified how, by this procedure, exclusively retrievable elements with an individual semantic identity are to be generated.

That a linkage between a classificatory structure and keywords can be achieved in a wholly different manner as well has been known for a long time from the Eppelsheimer Method. How this method can be implemented and utilized for retrieval in an OPAC is shown by W. KOWALK in his contribution *The Saarbriicken Subject Catalogue according to the Eppelsheimer Method in the OPAC*. He presents a whole series of examples which make clear that this method need not be restricted to application in conventional catalogues, but that, on the contrary, suitable system design will permit still far more efficient retrieval. The question of the linkage of verbal with classificatory elements for objective access components in an OPAC is also touched upon by H.NOHR in his paper *Precombination of classificatory and verbal subject description data and its potential in information retrieval*. He, too, resorts to the Eppelsheimer Method for discussing, from a more methodical point of view, possibilities for subject querying, with tasks being allocated to verbal and systematic queries.

In a brief report entitled *Online catalogue of the Dortmund University Library*, B.JEDWABSKI and K.SCHRÖDER offer insights and reflections as to how the catalog data bank can, under the STAIRS retrieval system, be made suitable for querying by users at various points of the university library system, thus providing a pragmatic tool, to be replaced in future by a 'real' OPAC.

The conference volume is rounded off by a contribution by W.BIES entitled *Content description: an attempt at a library-scientific didactic approach*, which, although not strictly fitting to the title of the book, nevertheless should not be overlooked. While quite a lot has been written so far on training in this field, it has remained a problem field (probably not only for students) to this very day. Bies bases his observations not only on the training of future libra-

rians, but also - which makes them particularly readable - on experiences with teaching courses at Berlin Free University for students with library science as a minor subject. From the points of view of both form and setup the book may be regarded as excellently well done for a conference report (no typescripts!), with the only less convincing feature being the bipartition of the contributions into one chapter each on "ordering" and "Retrieval". This bipartition is neither justified by the contents of the contributions, nor can it be justified at all in a field where both concepts are as closely connected as they are in OPACs.

If one is interested in a rounding-off of the subject one will miss specific contributions on the application of the UDC in ETHICS of the Zürich ETH Institute of Technology or on the problems of store-bound keyword indexes for book arrangement classification systems and their use for online retrieval. Fortunately, however, each of these two subjects is briefly dealt with, and more detailed literature referred to, in B.Lischewsky-Weiser's introductory contribution. Let us, as a result, formulate the wish and the hope that a subject field like this one will, eventually, not only be treated in a conference of more or less accidental composition, but rather by a properly edited collective volume containing thematically well-balanced contributions.

Concentrating, in conclusion, once again on the methodical requirements to be imposed on a classification system for use in an OPAC, one can only agree with W.Kowalk that:

A classification not specifically conceived for an automated library system, and even a classification that is automated from the very beginning, has methodologically immanent and application-related peculiarities that are inconvenient in an OPAC.

In other countries, too, the experience has been made in the use of classification systems in OPACs that different tasks require different tools, and the necessary conclusions have been drawn and implemented. Maybe the book presented here can contribute to giving weight to this view in Germany as well.   Winfried Gödert

Prof.W.Gödert, FHBD, Claudiussstr. 1, D-50678 Köln.

SATIJA, Mohinder Partap, COMAROMI, J.P.: **Beyond Classification: Book Numbers. With Special Reference to Chronological Book Numbers**. New Delhi: Ess Ess Publ. 1992. 115p., ISBN 81-70000-136-6

The first four chapters of "Beyond Classification", "Book Numbers: Introduction" (1-5), "Debate over the Usefulness of Book Numbers" (6-10), "History of Book Numbers" (11-32), and "Chronological Book Numbers: Pros and Cons" (33-36), analyze the theoretical and general problems of book numbers. Book numbers are not discussed as mere sequential accession numbers but defined as a vital "adjunct to the class numbers of a relative classification" (11). Far from being optional, book numbers provide "a fundamental organization of the classes of a library classification" (29) and function as "classification within