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Ranganathan Award 1986

Nominations are invited for the Ranganathan Award for Classification Research to be presented in September 1986 during the 3rd FID/CR Regional Conference.

The Award consists of a Certificate of Merit awarded to a person chosen by FID/CR, every two years, for an outstanding contribution in the field of classification in recent years.

Work done (published or unpublished) not earlier than 1 Sept. 1982 may be submitted or nominated for consideration. There is no restriction in respect of age, sex, or nationality of the author of the work.

The submission or nomination should mention the special points as to why the work deserves to be considered for the Award.

The closing date for receiving nominations will be March 12, 1986. The works and nominations should be sent to the Chairman, FID/CR, Woogstr. 36a, D-6000 Frankfurt 50.

The Ranganathan Award Subcommittee will review all the works and nominations received for consideration; it will make the decision as to which work should receive the Award. The Sub-Committee reserves the right not to make an Award if such a decision is warranted. The decision of the Sub-Committee is final; and it is not subject to appeal.

Call for Papers: "Classification, Indexing and New Technology". 3rd Regional FID/CR Conference, Montreal, Sept. 12-13, 1986

The Third Regional Conference of FID/CR is to be held in conjunction with the 43th FID Conference and Congress in Montreal, Canada, September 14-18, 1986. The theme of the FID Conference and Congress is INFORMATION, COMMUNICATIONS and TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER. Contributions to the FID/CR Regional Conference are invited relating classification or indexing to various areas of new technology, including:

Artificial Intelligence
Videotex and Teletext
Electronic Messaging systems
Electronic Publishing
Full-Text Retrieval
Fifth Generation Computer Systems
Computer Graphics
Minicomputers and Microcomputers
Telecommunications

Authors are requested to submit abstracts of about 1000 words, by February 1, 1986 to one of the conveners: Prof. Timothy C. CRAVEN, School of Library and Information Science, The University of Western Ontario, London, Ont. N6G 1H1, or Prof. Paule ROLLAND-THOMAS, Ecole de Bibliothéconomie et des Sciences de l'Information, Université de Montréal, Case Postale 6128, succursale A, Montréal, Québec, H3C 3J7, Canada.

To assist in application of funding, authors are also requested to submit lists of their degrees and appointments, citations to their important recent publications, and 200-word summaries of the submitted abstracts.

Authors will be notified of the acceptance of their abstracts in May. Authors of accepted abstracts will be asked to submit full texts of their papers in time for reproduction for distribution to participants.

FRG: German Society for Classification: Call for Papers for 10th Annual Conference, 1986

The Gesellschaft für Klassifikation will hold its 10th Annual Conference on the topic: "Classification and its environment" from June 18-20, 1986 in Münster/Westphalia where also the very first conference was held 1977.

Contributions are invited relating to the following topics

I. Conceptual Part:

- (1) Grundfragen der Wissensordnung und Geschichte der Sachkatalogisierung. (Basic problems of knowledge organization and history of subject cataloguing).
- (2) Definitionstheorie und -methoden; ihre Anwendung auf Begriffserkenntnis und -analyse und die Erstellung von Begriffs- und Klassifikationssystemen. (Definition theory and -methods; their application in concept recognition and -analysis and the construction of concept- and classification systems).
- (3) Untersuchung und Anwendung von quantifizierenden/messenden Methoden bei der Begriffsanalyse. (Investigation and application of quantifying/measuring methods in concept analysis).
- (4) Begriffsbeziehungen und grammatische, insbesondere syntaktische Theorien. (Concept relationships and grammatical, especially syntactical theories).
- (5) Erschließung von Texten für das visuelle oder maschinelle Retrieval. (Text analysis for visual or machine retrieval).
- (6) Einsatz neuer Technologien für Wissensordnung und strukturierte Wissensrepräsentation. (Implementation of new technologies for knowledge organization and structured knowledge representation.)
- (7) Bewertung von Klassifikationssystemen und Thesauri nach dem ihnen zugeordneten Zweck. (Evaluation of classification systems and thesauri according to their purpose).
- (8) Kompatibilität von Klassifikationssystemen und Thesauri oder Integration dieser Systeme. (Compatibility of classification systems and thesauri or integration of these systems).
- (9) Unterricht und Ausbildung im Fach Klassifikation und Indexierung, auch Einsatzmöglichkeiten des Computers im Fach "Inhaltliche Erschließung". (Education in Classification and Indexing including computer applications in teaching this subject).
- (10) Zukunftsperspektiven klassifikatorischer/wissensordnender Tätigkeit. (Perspectives of classificatory/knowledge organization activities).

II. Mathematical-Numerical Part:

- (1) Hierarchische und nichthierarchische Klassifikationsverfahren (Hierarchical and non-hierarchical classification procedures).
- (2) Analyse und Aggregation diskreter Strukturen. (Analysis and aggregation of discrete structures).

- (3) Vergleich und Bewertung von Klassifikationen. (Comparison and evaluation of discrete structures).
- (4) Mustererkennung und Diskriminationsverfahren (Pattern recognition and discrimination procedures).
- (5) Multivariate Methoden zur Datenanalyse – z.B. Skalierungsmethoden, Korrespondenzanalyse. (Multivariate methods for data analysis, e.g. scaling, correspondence analysis).
- (6) Phylogenetische Stammbäume und DNA-Analyse. (Phylogenetic trees and DNA-analyses).
- (7) Graphische Darstellung von Strukturen und Klassifikationsergebnissen. (Graphical representation of structures and classification results).
- (8) Probabilistische und statistische Modelle. (Probabilistic and statistical models).
- (9) Rechenprogramme und Software-Aspekte. (Computer programs and aspects relating to software).
- (10) Praktische Anwendungen, z.B. in Biologie, Information Retrieval und Dokumentation, Psychologie, Wirtschaftswissenschaften und Marketing, etc. (Practical application, e.g. in biology, information retrieval and documentation, psychology, economics and marketing, etc.).

Abstracts of papers should be submitted by Jan.15, 1986 to the Secretariat of the Society, Woogstr. 36a, D-6000 Frankfurt 50. The papers will be refereed; their subsequent publication in a proceedings volume is intended.

Classification and Communication.

Report on 2nd Regional Conference of FID/CR

A day after the Conference on "Ranganathan's Philosophy..." (see below) had ended this meeting could take place on Friday, Nov.15, 1985 in New Delhi in the same building and cosponsored by the same organizations, namely the Indian Library Association and the Sarada Ranganathan Endowment for Library Science. In addition, support for the meeting had also been received from the FID General Secretariat. It was very fortunate that the meeting could be arranged in connection with the earlier conference, especially with regard to the possibility that many participants from India and abroad could stay over for this event as well.

The conference had been prepared by Prof.Krishan Kumar and Mr.M.M.Kashyap. Eleven papers, exclusively of Indian origin were presented, ten of which were included in a volume of 111 pages which was given to the participants before the conference started. A new proceedings volume will be printed later in book form. The papers concentrated on possibilities and actual implementation of computers in connection with classification and indexing problems as this can be seen from the following summarizations of papers: M.M. KASHYAP, in "Information Technology, Knowledge Systems and Classification", had studied carefully the recent literature in the fields of Artificial Intelligence and Expert Systems and attempted to relate them to possible application areas in classification. – B. GUHA and H.N.PRASAD discussed in "Relativity of Classification in the Context of Information Retrieval", the role of classification in the changed context of computerised handling of information. They propagated a relative system of classification in which different types of

concept associations can be recognized and weighted and called for a relativity mechanism which should be used together with an ordering system. – P.N.KAULA asked for "A new Approach to the Study of Classification for Communication" and proposed studies to improve, revise and extend existing classification systems, especially the UDC. – K.S.RAGHAVAN showed in "The General Theory of Classification as the Basis for Structuring of Subject Headings" by way of many examples how Ranganathan's theory could very well also be applied in dealing with the structuring of subject headings. – M.A. GOPINATH explained in "Classification Frameworks in Computer Based Decision Support Systems" how the latter – which he considered a kind of collective expert systems as they are having a knowledge base, an inference base and decision alternatives in their data base management systems – will profit by the utilization of classification principles. D.CHANDRAN tried to show how the indexing vocabulary of a classaurus can be organized into categories and used in a combinatory way. – K. NAVALANI submitted ideas in "Communication and Classification: New Technology and New Opportunities" on how the possibilities of the computer as a flexible, dynamic tool with better browsing capacities and improved retrieval facilities could be applied in serving the user better than up to now. – S.V.SANGAMESHWARAN and M.V.GOPINATH explained in "Use of devices in Colon Classification: A case study of reclassification in NICFOS Library" how documents which were classed according to different earlier editions of the Colon Classification were reclassified to the new seventh edition using the Law of Osmosis and some of the Depth Schedules of CC7 already published. – T.A.V.MURTHY and others gave a system description ("Information Retrieval from the Bibliography of the Indian Agriculture Data (BIA) Base") with special emphasis on a package called GRIP with examples from the main file, the inverted file and of query outputs. – I.B.RAJASHEKAR ("Utilization of Classification Codes in BIOSIS Data Base: Tapes for SDI Services") described the advantages of using the notation of BIOSIS for the construction and refinement of search profiles. – F.J.DEVADASON, in presenting a paper by G.BHATTACHARYA and himself on the "Use of the General Theory of Subject Indexing Language (SIL) in the computer generation of subject indices" explained the use of the General Theory of SIL in the computer generation of different types of index entries.

In her introductory remarks, I.DAHLBERG referred to the book of Dr. Ranganathan under the title of this conference which had been published in 1951. She asked the audience to imagine what Ranganathan would have advised in the present situation, how he would have looked at classification and communication in the light of today's technological possibilities and suggested that each contribution of this conference should be examined in this light.

The morning session had been chaired by Derek AUSTIN, the one in the afternoon by Douglas FOSKETT who also presided over the final session and summarized the results excellently. At the latter session some issues were proposed to become recommendations of this conference. However, as some exchange of views showed that there was no unanimity to accept this proposal it was decided not to issue recommendations but to

include these items in the following report of conclusions.

Report of the Second Regional FID/CR Conference on Classification and Communication held at New Delhi, November 15, 1985

The new developments in the fields of Artificial Intelligence and Knowledge Engineering based on the possibilities of the latest computer technology imply very sophisticated techniques of handling linguistic expressions and statements which do not seem to be based on those principles and empirically verified theories in the field of classification, or organisation of knowledge, which have been elaborated in the professional world of Library and Information Science, especially through the work of the Indian mathematician and librarian, S.R. Ranganathan.

In order that at this point of development the existing wheel may not be re-invented, a careful planning of resources should be envisaged, involving the collaboration of all those responsible, including especially (1) those who know the work and the possibilities of the methodology contained in the works of Dr.Ranganathan, (2) those who work in the field of computer linguistics, knowledge engineering, numerical taxonomy, and (3) those who are responsible for the distribution of research/national funds.

With regard to the situation in the South-East Asian Region, especially in India, the participants in the Second FID/CR Regional Meeting on Classification and Communication draw attention to the following areas for action by all the appropriate bodies:

(1) Propagation

To continue and advance the work of Ranganathan, and to propagate his teachings through all existing media, including radio and television.

(2) Research and Development

To study and develop computer-based systems based on modern classification theories such as concept analysis, facet analysis, and the analytico-synthetic approach to knowledge organization through inter-disciplinary working groups.

(3) Publication

(a) To seek assistance for the early completion of editing and publishing of the Colon Classification, including schemes for macro- and micro-documents, and also data documentation, especially in collaboration with the Sarada Ranganathan Endowment for Library Science.

(b) To seek assistance for reprinting seminal works of Ranganathan with a view to organising an exhibition for the Frankfurt Book Fair, within the exhibitions of the Cultural Contributions of India, the topic of the Fair in 1986.

(4) Inter-disciplinary Cooperation

To encourage the establishment of an inter-disciplinary Classification Committee in the South-East Asian Region, with members from different areas of activity, including library and information science, statistics, linguistics, philosophy, economics, computer science, artificial intelligence, and other fields from the natural and social sciences, with the object of encouraging and

fostering inter-disciplinary thought, and of facilitating the flow and distribution of information on results from its meetings and seminars.

(5) Cooperation with FID/CAO

That the Chairperson of FID/CR propose to the Chairperson of FID/CAO to promote regional classification research groups, and in collaboration with FID/CR to organise a study circle in the FID/CAO Conference.

**Ranganathan's Philosophy:
Assessment, Impact, and Relevance**

Exactly during the week of the Hindu Widali Feast (which was explained to the Europeans as being something like Christmas for the Christians), namely from 11-14 Nov.1985 a unique conference took place in New Delhi, sponsored by the Indian Library Association (ILA) and the Sarada Ranganathan Endowment for Library Science and organized by Prof.Girja Kumar with assistance, especially during the conference, by Dr.M.A. Gopinath. It brought together 161 enthusiastic admirers of the great Indian teacher and librarian R.S.Ranganathan, who lived from 1892 until 1972 and has remarkably shaped India during more than 45 years with regard to library science, library education, library legislation, library societies and especially also in classification. The participants came from India and 14 other countries such as England, Germany, Jugoslavia, Luxemburg, Denmark, USA, Canada, South Africa, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Malaysia, and China. It was not the annual meeting of ILA, which had taken place just the week before at which occasion the new president of ILA, Mr.T.S. RAJAGOPALAN, Director of INSDOC, had been elected.

In the opening session a non-Ranganathanian, Prof.Kesavan, spoke on Ranganathan's merits and Mr.D.J.Foskett was honored to release the conference proceedings, a handsomely bound volume with 60 papers on 690 pages. (Later on it proved that these were by far not all of the papers which were handed in, some more were presented and will be published — as it was stated — in a second volume together with the introductory papers, the conference synthesis and the index including the first volume). The editor, Mr.T.S.Rajagopalan and Vikas Publishing House did a remarkable job to finish the volume in time before the event.

The meeting took place in an international youth center, not far from the J.Nehru-Center. 69 papers were presented and discussed in 11 sessions, mapping the fields of interest of Ranganathan. These fields are as follows (together with the number of papers and their chairmen):

- 1 Laws of Library Science (13) (D.J.Foskett)
- 2 Classification and Subject Organization (18) (I.Dahlberg)
- 3 Indexing Models (3) (D.Austin)
- 4 Document Description (6) (E.J.Coates)
- 5 Management of Library and Information Systems (6) (S.Parthasarathy)
- 6 Standardization in Library and Documentation (1) (M.A.Shepherd)
- 7 Reference Service (4) (T.S.Rajagopalan for K.A.Isaac)
- 8 Education & Training in Library & Inform.Sci.(9) (P.Havard-Williams)
- 9 Information Technology (3) (V.A.Kamath)

10 Library Movement (1) (A.Khurshid)

11 Ranganathan as a Humanist (5) (P.N.Kaula)

It was quite satisfying that Session 2 ("the heart of the matter") had some 18 papers. The program had listed them in alphabetical order of authors. The chairman rearranged them to follow Ranganathan's canon of seminal mnemonics and thus three classes of 8+6+4 papers were formed on (1) theoretical approaches, (2) systems of classification, and (3) application areas. Here are the topics of these papers (in alphabetical order of authors):

- (1) J.Aitchison: Bliss and thesaurus: The Bibliographic Classification of H.E.Bliss as a source of thesaurus terms and structure
- (2) S.Bury: Ranganathan's theories embodied in both Colon Classification and the 2nd edition of Bliss Bibliographic Classification
- (3) F.J.Devadason: Ranganathan's idea of facet analysis in action
- (4) D.J.Foskett: The personality of the personality facet
- (5) M.A.Gopinath: Relevance of Ranganathan's postulational approach in the identification of key concepts in the newly formed subjects and its implications to intellectual organisation of information
- (6) Hemalatha Iyer: Users preference of sequence of component ideas in subject representation: PMEST model
- (7) ASK hypothesis and Ranganathan's fundamental categories
- (8) M.M.Kashyap: Ranganathan's postulational approach to classification: its development and impact
- (9) P.S.G.Kumar: Hidden roots of Colon Classification
- (10) D.W.Langridge: Discipline, forms and phenomena
- (11) G.Hemasunder Naidu, S.R.Gunjal: Application of Ranganathan's facet analysis in Dewey Decimal Classification, 19th ed., a study
- (12) S.Narasimhan: Classification of oriental libraries with a case study of four regions
- (13) M.Parameswaran: The contribution of Dr.S.R.Ranganathan in the classification and cataloguing of ancient Sanskrit classics
- (14) K.N.Prasad: Development of classification terminology: contributions of Prof.S.R.Ranganathan
- (15) S.V.Sangameswaran, M.V.Gopinath: Design and development of depth version of Colon Classification for food technology
- (16) P.Sankaralingam, K.S.Raghavan, P.Gangadhara Rao: Structure and synthesis of DDC: an analysis
- (17) S.Seetharama: Compatibility issues affecting classification systems: relevance of Ranganathan's normative principles
- (18) Ranjana Vhora: Analytico-synthetic scheme of classification, its impact and relevance to modern theories of classification

What was quite appealing was the fact that the 9th paper in the alphabetical as well as in the rearranged systematic order was the one that was almost at the peak of the APUPA pattern, namely P.S.G. Kumar's "Hidden roots of Colon Classification". ("Hidden roots of classification" had once been the title of a paper by Ranganathan himself at the Maryland Conference on Relational Factors, 1966!) Kumar found and spoke about some very interesting traits in CC relating to mysticism and revealing the intuitive power out of which Ranganathan had created his classification system.

Some other papers from the session on Indexing Models should at least also be mentioned here, as they belong to our field as well: SHAKTIPADA DAS: Chain procedure and pre-coordinate indexing. — A.TEJOMURTY: Chain procedure: the first model precoordinate indexing. — KAMLESH VINAYAK and K.K.TANEJA: Chain procedure and its influence on other pre-coordinate indexing systems.

Also, in three other sessions there were relevant papers: D.AUSTIN spoke on "Standards in Documentation" and

described the elaboration of the indexing standard and the two standards on mono- and multilingual thesauri. D.W.LANGRIDGE demonstrated "The unique value of Colon Classification" namely as a help in the education and training of students and H.STRAETER ("Structures of knowledge, information transfer and library education") referred to the necessity to teach how fields are structured rather than to burden the students with too much subject field knowledge. One of the most interesting papers came from Canada: M.A.Shepherd and C.R.Watters spoke on "Implementation of facet-based retrieval using a relational database management system". A surprise for everybody at this conference was the appearance of a grandson of Prof.Ranganathan, who is about to finish his studies in the field of nuclear science in the Fed.Rep.of Germany and who showed a great interest in the work of his grandfather.

As "India" will be the topic of the Frankfurt International Book Fair, Oct.1986 let us hope that the exhibition will also consider the "Father of Library Science in India" and our great "Guru of Classification", Prof.R.S. Ranganathan!

U.K.: CRG 254

At the 254th meeting of the Classification Research Group on 24 October 1985 in London, Mr. COATES introduced a draft outline schedule for class U – Technology in BC2 (Bliss Classification, 2nd ed), discussed with the members present the relationship of technology to the pure sciences and to management, showed how technology would fit into a universal system, and considered the question of various disciplines within Technology. Finally he demonstrated that the reverse citation sequence of TSEP would apply generally for the facet order.

The meetings in 1986 were fixed as Febr.6, April 24, July 3, Oct.23, and Dec.11.

USA: ASIS/SIG/CR

Our friends in the US are to be congratulated: Under the chairmanship of Joseph A.BUSCH, Price Waterhouse, Boston, the SIG/CR received the Award "SIG-of-the-Year 1986" from the American Society of Information Science for excellent accomplishments and contributions to the Society! Also some SIG/CR members were honored, namely Raya FIDEL for the best JASIS Paper and Jessica MILSTEAD for the best Information Science Book of the year!

The last issue of the ASIS SIG Newsletter includes a most interesting and long report on the SIG/CR Technical Sessions at ASIS-85 by Ruth FENSKE and J.E. BUSCH. It announces also the plans for the sessions at the 15th ASIS Mid-Year Meeting, Portland, Oregon, May 1986: R.A.V.DIENER will organize a session entitled "Knowledge Representation: Beyond Content Indexing for Bibliographic Retrieval Toward Meaningful Representations of Information and Knowledge Management" which will be cosponsored by SIG/CR and SIG/FIS. Joseph A.Busch will organize a session entitled "Building a Framework for Planning and Designing Library Information System Databases", cosponsored by SIG/CR and SIG/LAN. The program will encompass lectures, workshops and group discussions on the topics of database scope and contents, data models, authority control, and index construction.