FID/CR News 27

Greetings after a rather long delay. My apologies. Unfortunately, I was unable to meet the deadline for the last issue of *International Classification*. However, I hope the "News" is now back on track.

Task Force on UDC System Development

The Task Force completed its work at a final meeting held in Amsterdam in early February. The report was presented to the UDC Management Board in March, and was to go forward to the FID Council in April. Dr.I.McILWAINE, Chairperson of the Task Force will be preparing a report which, hopefully, will be published in FID/CR News 28. Meanwhile, FID/CR members can be assured that everything possible is being done to ensure the future of UDC.

5th International Study Conference on Classification Research

Plans are now well under way for the holding of this conference in Toronto, Canada, in June 1991. Tentative dates for the conference are June 23-28. Dates have been picked to permit those who wish to attend the American Library Association Annual Conference in Atlanta, USA, June 29-July 4. The theme of the conference will be "Classification Research in Knowledge Representation and Organization". The Faculty of Library and Information Science, University of Toronto will sponsor the conference and cosponsors are being sought. The conference will focus on classification, its theory, principles and applications in the broadest sense, and will encompass research into both universal classification and special systems, as well as thesauri, knowledge representation and "intelligent" systems. A formal, detailed, call for papers will be sent out about June I, 1990. The deadline for the submission of abstracts will be October 1, 1990, notices of acceptance of papers for presentation will be mailed not later than January 2, 1991 and the deadline for completed papers will be April I, 1991. A paper on "Classification Research since Augsburg" which will lead up to the conference is currently in preparation.

1990 Conferences of Interest to FID/CR Members

Highly recommended for FID/CR members and those interested in classification research are the following conferences:
(1) The ISKO Conference on "Tools for Knowledge Organization and the Human Interface", Darmstadt, West Germany, August 14-17;
(2) The IFLA Annual Conference in Stockholm, Sweden, August 18-25, 1990, especially the program meeting of the Standing Committee on Classification and Indexing;
(3) The TKE'90 Conference of the Association for Terminology and Knowledge Transfer on "Termino-logy and Knowledge Engineering Applications" in Trier, October 2-4, 1990;
(4) The FID 45th Conference and Congress, Havana, Cuba,September 17-22, 1990.
(5) The ASIS Annual Conference, Toronto, Canada, Nov.4-8, 1990. ASIS has a variety of program meetings which focus on classification, thesauri, expert systems and artificial intelligence, as well as a Special Interest Group on Classification Research (SIG/CR).

International Symposium on "Terminology in Advanced Microcomputer Applications, Vienna, Nov. 22-23, 1989.

This International Symposium was organized by the International Network for Terminology (TermNet) under the sponsorship of Infoterm, and supported by the International Institute for Terminology Research (IITF) and Centre national de la recherche scientifique/Centre de terminologie et neologie (CNRS/CTN). The Symposium was attended by more than 70 participants from 20 countries. The aim of the Symposium was to present participants with an overview of some of the microcomputer software available for the management of terminology as well as of their application in information management. The opening address was given by Mr. Pierre LERAT, Vice President of TermNet and Director of the French Centre for Terminology and Neology. Mr. LERAT identified six difficulties facing terminologists, which he believed must be overcome in terminology-microcomputer applications. These were: The simultaneous use of different alphabets, which is now possible; the semantic structure of concepts; inevitable differences in concept systems, on national and international levels; the flexibility of computer processing systems; the portability of programs and data and user-friendliness. Keynote addresses were given by Professor Alan MELBY, Brigham Young University, Salt Lake City, United States, on "Terminology - an Indispensible Tool for All Aspects of Information Management", and by Mr.Michael SCHAAR, InTra Fachübersetzgenossenschaft (Federation of Technical Translators), Stuttgart, FRG.Programme presentations focused on a comparison of traditional databases and dedicated termbanks; the complexity of terminographic data exchange; documentation in computerized terminography; and the integration of systems. At the conclusion of the Symposium, the participants passed a recommendation that since:

"Information management and knowledge processing cannot do without terminology and documentation, as well as without cooperation concerning exchange of terminological data and experience, therefore:
I. decision makers in industry, administrations and organizations are called upon to support and implement terminological approaches to information systems in order to guarantee the accessibility of knowledge by the different user groups in the appropriate form at the time when needed;
2. TermNet is requested to develop a common terminological exchange format and make it available to the general public.

Nancy Williamson, FID/CR Chair

U.K.: CRG 275

The 275th meeting of the British Classification Research Group was held on Feb.15, 1990 at University College London with 8 members present. The minutes of the previous meeting were enlarged upon concerning the elaboration of the preliminary classes AK and AY/AZ of the Bliss Classification, 2nd ed., (regarding Systemology, Management and Information Processing). The main topic of this meeting were the problems of the BC Classification of Law. It had been agreed that the general arrangement of the subject would be: Jurisdiction – Legal Subject – Administration of Justice – Jurisprudence with the coverage of the theory of the subject and including comparative law. The schedule order will reflect the filing order and will start out with Jurisprudence. The specific subclasses were also presented by Mr. Jacques MILLS and commented upon by the present members of the Group. The problem of where should special kinds of law be placed were among those to be discussed, viz., ecclesiastical law, tribal law and the law of specific jurisdiction, military law. Also of concern was the problem of the arrangement of national law. The potential value of following Moy's arrangement under jurisdiction was noted. – The next meeting was scheduled for April 26, 1990 on the topic: "Problems in subject description in large online bibliographic data bases".

USA: SIG/CR Program for ASIS Mid-Year
(From ASIS SIG/CR News March 1990)

The 19th ASIS Mid-Year Meeting will be held May 13-17 at the Bahia Mar Hotel in Fr.Lauderdale, Florida. The topic for the conference is "Microcomputing in the 1990's: Unlocking the Power." The SIG/CR proposal for a session on thesaurus construction titled "Micro-Thesauri" has been accepted by the conference committee.

The "Micro-Thesauri" session will have presentations about microcomputer-based thesaurus development tools, as well as problems in the development and application of hierarchically structured controlled vocabularies. The following presentations are planned:

Ronald L.BUCHAN from NASA STI/RMS Associates will present a paper titled "Retrospective Indexing -What's new under the Sun". Mr.Buchan's paper is about computer-assisted techniques which facilitate re-indexing following, for example, development of a new controlled vocabulary. Although the NASA problem is operating on larger computers, the machine-assisted approach to the problem of re-indexing is computer-independent.

Kathleen MCDONNELL and Barbara SNYDER from the Getty Conservation Institute (GCI) will give a talk titled "Conservation Information Network (CIN) Structured Tools for Building and Accessing a Cooperatively Developed Database". This presentation will discuss various GCI Projects including development of a controlled vocabulary for art and archaeology conservation, application of the controlled vocabulary retrospectively to CIN databases, and development of a microcomputer-based system for standardizing CIN data collection in the future.

Barbara SNYDER from the Getty Conservation Institute (GCI) will give a talk titled "Conservation Information Network (CIN) – Joint Development of the Vernon Toolkit, an ARev Application". In collaboration with Vernon Associates of Aukland, New Zealand, GCI has developed a general purpose data entry system for members of CIN which includes a sophisticated thesaurus construction module. The Vernon Toolkit is built on the Advanced Revelation (ARev) dbms and includes the capability to create a hierarchically structured thesaurus which can be integrally linked to the data entry system.

SIG/CR program planners are pleased to have been able to assemble some of the latest examples of microcomputer-based thesaurus construction systems. Since almost everybody today has access to an MS DOS or Macintosh microcomputer, I often receive questions about what packages are available for thesaurus construction on microcomputers. The best place to start is in the 2nd edition of *Thesaurus Construction* by Aitchison and Gilchrist, Section M "Packages and Service Bureaus". I have seen micro versions of products from the following vendors listed – ADLIB (Databasix, UK), Micro Stride (BNF Metals, UK), and TINTERM (IME, UK). Micro versions of BASIS (Battelle), INQUIRE (Infodata), and MINISIS (IDRC) are rumored to exist but I have never seen them. And new software specifically developed for thesaural applications on microcomputers – Toolkit (Vernon) and TCS (Liu-Palmer). Joseph A.Busch

ASIS '90 SIG/CR Program Preview
(From ASIS SIG/CR News March 1990)

The ASIS'90 Annual Meeting will be held November 5-8 (1990) at the Sheraton Centre in Toronto, Canada. The SIG/CR program promises to be interesting and informative, gathering speakers with a wealth of experience and knowledge and involved in projects at the forefront of classification resarch in information science.

A special part of our program is the CR Workshop to be held Sunday, November 4. The Call for Papers... (has been published in Int.Classif.90-1, p.34- Ed.).

The following are proposals for SIG/CR Sessions developed so far and presenters we have lined up.

Thesaurus Software Specifications
SIG Sponsors: SIGs/Classification Research (CR) and Personal Computers (PC).

Description: Panel discussion of requirements, specification, feasibility, ease of use, effectiveness, efficiency, and evaluation of software meant for thesaurus construction. All participants have experience in both designing and using such software. each will give a short presentation, with time for interaction and comment.

Moderator: Raya FIDEL, University of Washington. Panelists: Dagobert SOERGEL, University of Maryland; Jessica L.MILSTEAD, Jelem Company; James D.ANDERSON, Rutgers University; 4th panelist to be announced.

Applications of Thesauri as Knowledge Bases for Information Retrieval

SIG Sponsors: SIGs/Classification Research (CR) and Human-Computer Interaction (HCI).

Description: While the traditional application of thesauri is for vocabulary control for indexers and searchers, a thesaurus can also be viewed as a knowledge base, that is, a compilation of concepts connected by relations. As such, thesauri can be used effectively in a number of knowledge-based applications. Important applications to be discussed in this session are intelligent interfaces for retrieval and indexing and networking of disparate information systems.

Moderator: Barbary H.KWASNIK, Syracuse University. Presenters: Alina VICKERY, Tome Associates; Deirdre C.STAM, Syracuse University; Jennifer A.YOUNGER, University of Wisconsin and Prudence W.DALRYMPLE, University of Illinois at Urbana; Trish YANCEY, Information Handling Services.

Applications of Classifications

SIG Sponsor: SIG/Classification Research (CR).

Description: Topics include extending and improving use of existing classifications, methods and problems in developing classification schemes for document collections, and proposals for use of classification in automated text analysis.

Moderator: John S.MITCHELL, Carnegie-Mellon University. Presenters: Nancy J.WILLIAMSON, University of Toronto; Clare BEGHTOL, University of Toronto; Mary DYKSTRA, Dalhousie University; Marlene A.PALMER, Farm Credit Administration.

Barbara H.Kwasnik

Classification News
(From ASIS SIG/CR News, March 1990)

Proposed Classification Format

Proposal 89-1, Proposed MARC Classification Format, was reviewed as a discussion paper at meetings of the American Library Association Machine Readable Bibliographic Information (MARBI) Committee during the ALA Midwinter Meeting in Chicago in early January. Topics discussed included uses of the format; treatment of numbers, captions, and hierarchies; handling of 'see' and 'see also' references; extensive subfielding for data identification; and accommodation of tables and index terms.

Sally MCCALLUM, Library of Congress Network Development/MARC Standards Office, introduced the format by reminding MARBI and observers that the prime purpose of any MARC format is communications. In the case of the Proposed Classification Format, secondary goals include providing enough content for browsing, file maintenance, and data for automated applications of classification.

Rebecca GUENTHER, also of Library of Congress Network Development/MARC Standards Office, introduced the format and asked the group to focus on principles for the different blocks of fields, i.e. fixed fields, classification number, references and tracings, note fields, etc. Discussion began with potential uses of the for-

mat, identified by participants as follows: printing of classification schedules, browsing, access to information in classificaiton records, authority control, machine-assisted classification, expert systems, conversion from one classification system to another, and a consolidated index to the classification (e.g., index to all LCC schedules).

Treatment of the classification number and its caption hierarchy was discussed. In the current version of the Proposed Classification Format, the complete caption hierarchy accompanies the classification number in the 153 field (classification number field). Inclusion of this information in the same field as the number remains an unresolved issue, as does the more general problem of how to link numbers where the notation is not expressive of the hierarchy.

A separate document, Discussion Paper 33: References in the Classification Format, was discussed in conjunction with treatment of 'see' and 'see also' references in the format. Gary STRAWN of Northwestern University studied earlier versions of the format and proposed that references be treated in a way analogous to treatment of references in the authority format in 4xx and 5xx fields. MARBI agreed to pursue the idea, but notes that there are many special circumstances (especially in the case of some Dewey notes) which may require double coding.

Participants agreed that the handling of internal tables was problematic. A suggestion was put forth to separate 7xx fields into two blocks: 74x (Access fields) and 76x (Number building fields). In the latter, a subfield containing the appropriate field number from the format might be added to handle the problem of ordering elements (e.g., notes) found within the internal table.

The Proposed Classification Format generated much discussion, but no formal action was taken by the committee. It will be revised again this Spring and discussed at the MARBI meetings during the ALA Annual Conference in Chicago at the end of June.

Subject Code

The Cataloging and Classification Section of the ALA Association for Library Collections and Technical Services will sponsor a program, The Subject Code, at the ALA Annual Conference, Chicago, June 24, 1990, 2:00-5:30 M. Speakers and topics include:

What is a Subject Code?" Mary DYKSTRA, Director, School of Library and Information Studies, Dalhouse University.

Do We Have One? Do We Need One? William E.STUDWELL, Principal Cataloger, Northern Illinois University.

*Models for Subject Code Development and Governance: Dewey Decimal Classification.*Liz BISHOFF, Manager, Cataloging and Database Services, OCLC.

Models for Subject Code Development and Governance: AACR2R. Michael GORMAN, Director, University Libraries, California State University, Fresno.

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Joan S.Mitchell