

On page 101 of these proceedings, Eugene Garfield is quoted as saying "Ranganathan is to library science what Einstein is to physics". Most of these contributions provide a worthy memorial to the great man, but he could have been much better served by the publishers.

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Deutscher Bundestag. Gruppe Datenverarbeitung: **Struktur des Thesaurus für Parlamentsmaterialien. PARTHES.** Formaler Aufbau und Datenverarbeitungs-Konzept. (Structure of the Thesaurus for Parliamentary Materials. Formal structure and data processing conception.) Dem Leiter der Abteilung Wissenschaftliche Dokumentation, Heinz Matthes, zum 65. Geburtstag. Bearb. v.J.Hansis, W.Mausberg u. J.Tappertzhofen. München, etc.: K.G. Saur 1985. 146p. ISBN 3-598-10584-3

This book contains explanations and instructions for users of the PROTON software for the maintenance and use of thesauri as applied to PARTHES, a German thesaurus for legislative information systems. Others may find the work of limited usefulness. The conceptual schema for thesaurus data used here is complex, inflexible, and limited in the structures it can represent. It is geared primarily to the support of printed index production, and it makes quite a number of sophisticated provisions in this area. However, it allows only for one level of indentation in the index. There is no capability for producing a good classified listing of the descriptors (notations are limited to four-digit numbers) and no capability for entering the source of a descriptor or the dates of introduction of a descriptor except as free-format comments. On the positive side, each relationship between two terms is treated as a separate record, which facilitates creation and updating of the thesaurus data base. The style of the book is more technical than it has to be and far from lucid. The book seems to be written for those who already know the system. For example, formal definitions of data elements or operations are usually introduced before their function is explained, making these definitions very hard to understand and remember. (They are needed to follow the text.) Thus the reader must work hard to understand the material presented. There is no index.

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WEINBERG, Bella Hass (Comp.with the assistance of L.Dombeck): **Education and Training in Indexing and Abstracting.** A directory of courses and workshops offered in the United States and Canada, with a bibliography of textbooks used in indexing and abstracting courses. 3rd ed. New York: Amer.Soc.of Indexers 1985. 144p.

This directory lists 71 courses given by 59 instructors at 56 universities, colleges or other places in the USA, Canada and England (1 correspondence course). The arrangement is alphabetical by name of state, or city, or university, or institution. The indexes give (a) the names of instructors, (b) the correspondence courses, seminars and foreign language courses, and (c) the geographic distribution, showing 9 entries in Canada, one in England, one in Puerto Rico, and 45 in the United States.

In 1976, the American Society of Indexers had published its first edition of this directory, entitled "Directory of Courses on Indexing in Canada and the United States". The second edition of 1981 was already differently named: "Education and Training in Indexing for Document and Information Retrieval". In the edition of 1985, a further topic has been included: abstracting. This corresponds indeed to the actual situation, as the course title "Indexing and Abstracting" occurs 27 times (x) whereas the rest of the titles show a considerable variety of names, as, for instance, Cataloging and Classification (4x), Indexing (4x), Organisation of Knowledge/Materials (3x), Information Storage and Retrieval (3x), Information Systems (2x), Thesaurus Construction (1x), Classification and Indexing (1x), Indexing Language Design (1x), etc.

The data was collected by questionnaires, and it was pointed out that not only courses on indexing and abstracting will be collected but also on related fields (some of which were named). However, not all the schools answered. It would have been interesting to learn about the percentage of schools that did not answer. Some schools sent information on more than one course; Rutgers and Simmons are listed with 5 courses each, Drexel with 3, the rest with only one course. I am missing many colleagues in the instructors index: where are the courses of Phyllis Richmond, Nancy Williamson, Paule Rolland-Thomas, Harold Borko, Jean Perreault, Dagobert Soergel?

The textbooks used had also to be included in the questionnaire and the 39 which are listed (p.135-138), together with the schools using them, are surprisingly heterogeneous, most of them used only at one place. The few exceptions are: (1) Cleveland and Cleveland: Introduction to Indexing and Abstracting, used at 11 places, (2) Borko and Bernier: Indexing Concepts and Methods, used at 5 places, (3) Foskett, A.C.: The Subject Approach to Information, used at 4 places, and (4) Wynar: Introduction to Cataloging and Classification, used at 3 places. In many cases this information had not been supplied, perhaps this counts for the perplexing result.

This survey was meant for students and educators for orientation purposes. However, it is also highly interesting for all those who would like to acquire a picture of what is understood in the US and Canada as constituting the field of indexing and abstracting. Perhaps for a new edition, the questionnaire could also ask for information on courses in the field of classification and subject analysis. This would comply with the interest of FID/CR who is preparing to start such a survey in all its member countries for comparative purposes.

North-America has already done most of the job for its region, a helpful contribution for which we should be very grateful!

I.Dahlberg

GERSTENKORN, A., ROLLAND, M.Th. et al (Eds.): **Thesaurus Guide. Analytical directory of selected vocabularies for information retrieval**, 1985. Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities. Amsterdam: Elsevier Science Publishers BV (North-Holland) 1985. XXXVI+748 p. ISBN 92-825-4897-X; 0-444-87736-3.

There is a proverb in German: "Was lange währt, wird endlich gut", meaning, when something takes a long time to be done, it will also end with a good result. This Thesaurus Guide is indeed the fulfilment of a dream. Preliminary plans for it date back to 1971, the actual work was started only in 1982. But in considering its contents, the three years of work are justified: the result is a very worthwhile tool, not only for those seeking information on the different 462 individual "current" thesauri and the 192 additional references, but also for a lot of most interesting research which can be based on this collection.

The overall arrangement is by 10 subject groups which are subdivided altogether into 48 subject fields, as e.g. under Biomedical Sciences one finds Biology, Medicine, Veterinary Science. The single entries of thesauri, each on a separate page, cover the following 15 subentries, called categories and explained at length in the introductory part (they have not always been filled out, depending on the availability of information):

- 1) Heading (= Group and Subject Field)
- 2) Title and publication details (bibliographic data)
- 3) Responsible Organization
- 4) Originator (name and function of compiler)
- 5) Language (e.g. German, with descriptor equivalencies in..., also available in..., translation into ... planned)
- 6) Availability (printed, microfilm, microfiche, machine-readable, computer printout, typewritten, etc.)
- 7) Fields covered (scope, main areas, marginal fields)
- 8) Terms (number of, number of descriptors, non-descriptors modifiers; also criteria, like singular or plural form composite terms, abbreviations accepted, homonym control, scope notes, definitions, source references, indexing frequency data, chronological data, proper names)
- 9) Display (alphabetical, classified, narrow classification, microthesauri, broad classified display, facet classification, graphic display, hierarchical index, alpha-hierarchical index, indexes, supplementary lists)
- 10) Subdivision (main groups, sub-groups, hierarchical levels maximum)
- 11) Relational structure (synonyms, equivalence relation, alternative, hierarchical, generic, partitive, appurtenance, associative, antonymic relation; also ISO, DIN compatibility)
- 12) Notation
- 13) Construction and maintenance (instructions for use, character set, maximum descriptor length, software for thesaurus construction, edp-system for thesaurus development, updating)
- 14) Implementation
- 15) Miscellaneous (all other data of interest)

All of this has been most carefully checked and included in the volume in a very easy-to-read manner!

Besides the indexes for organizations and persons there are three trilingual subject indexes for German, French and English first entries (p.583-748). A lot of translation had to go into them. However, here one would have wished that more terms from the category "fields covered" had been included. A selection was apparently necessary because of too many entries. Thus, Classification and Indexing is not included in the index. Perhaps a reason to construct a thesaurus in this field soon?

One would wish that in the same manner an investigation could be undertaken to lead to a similar result for the special classification systems used in our world. This idea had been proposed by L.Rolling already in 1982 at the FID/CR Business Meeting in Augsburg. He is also the

"man behind the scenes" of the European Communities who inspired the Thesaurus Guide project and who is now working towards finding an adequate place for its further updating.

Besides the accessibility of the stored thesaurus data in printed form, a database has been established within ECHO (European Commission Host Organization) where one can search for its thesaurus data even free of charge. Please, look for information on this somewhere else in this issue.

I.Dahlberg

**GOPINATH, M.A.: Construction of Depth Version of Colon Classification: A Manual.** New Delhi: Wiley Eastern 1986. VIII,163p. ISBN 0-85226-326-0, Rs.70/-

H.E.Bliss, on coming across a copy of the first edition of the Colon Classification in a New York book shop, enquired S.R.Ranganathan in October 1933 about the theory behind his scheme. Ranganathan replied that there was no prior theory and he was just contemplating to construct the theory behind the CC - referring to *Prolegomena to Library Classification* which was in his mind in those days. Bliss replied: "I did the theory first and design the next. You have done the design first and you propose to do the theory hereafter." (1, p.80). Ranganathan had the professed view that the work of designing a classification scheme requires a powerful flash of intuition. There is no doubt that the CC and the DDC were intuitively conceived. Ranganathan felt that designing a scheme on an a priori theory was just like writing poetry with a rhyming dictionary and a book of prosody (1, p.79). Such a view stems from his conviction that practice of any kind of art precedes its theory: poetry existed long before its theory just as social behaviour existed long, long before sociology was formulated.

While using the CC thus created, Ranganathan came to know many maladjustments. "These could - no doubt - have been avoided", writes Ranganathan, "if I had been working on the basis of a well-tested theory of classification. But the process was reversed in my case. My theory had to be developed later to discover the causes of such hidden faults and to set them right" (2, p.28). Ranganathan was also fully aware that a classification theory was not only necessary to remove the kinks and to polish up the "cosmic product", but also to make it objective. So, he developed the theory behind his CC in his *Prolegomena to Library Classification* (1937, 1957, 1967). He had wished to be very explicit on this topic. During his office (1951-1960) as chairman of FID/CR, he unsuccessfully mooted a proposal to organize an international summer school on the designing of documentary classification schedules. (It became, though, the famous Dorking Conference of 1957!) With his establishment of the Documentation Research and Training Centre 1962 at Bangalore, and with him as its founder director, the designing of depth classification schedules to the Colon Classification became formally institutionalised. Ranganathan realized that such a training was imperative for a documentalist. DRTC students are now imparted an intensive training in depth schedule making and they are also taught its theory. By this, also the research in the methodology of schedule making got a good impetus. The result is an impressive number of