

# Knowledge Organization

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# KNOWLEDGE ORGANIZATION

KO

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## Contents page

Beghtol, Clare. (2003). **Classification for Information Retrieval and Classification for Knowledge Discovery: Relationships between “Professional” and “Naïve” Classifications.** *Knowledge Organization*, 30(2). 64-73. 33 refs.

**ABSTRACT:** Classification is a transdisciplinary activity that occurs during all human pursuits. Classificatory activity, however, serves different purposes in different situations. In information retrieval, the primary purpose of classification is to find knowledge that already exists, but one of the purposes of classification in other fields is to discover new knowledge. In this paper, classifications for information retrieval are called “professional” classifications because they are devised by people who have a professional interest in classification, and classifications for knowledge discovery are called “naïve” classifications because they are devised by people who have no particular interest in studying classification as an end in itself. This paper compares the overall purposes and methods of these two kinds of classifications and provides a general model of the relationships between the two kinds of classificatory activity in the context of information studies. This model addresses issues of the influence of scholarly activity and communication on the creation and revision of classifications for the purposes of information retrieval and for the purposes of knowledge discovery. Further comparisons elucidate the relationships between the universality of classificatory methods and the specific purposes served by naïve and professional classification systems.

McIlwaine, I. C. (2003). **Trends in Knowledge Organization Research.** *Knowledge Organization*, 30(2). 75-86. 86 refs.

**ABSTRACT:** This paper looks at current trends in knowledge organization research, concentrating on universal systems, mapping vocabularies and interoperability concerns, problems of bias, the Internet and search engines, resource discovery, thesauri and visual presentation. Some problems facing researchers at the present time are discussed. It is accompanied by a bibliography of recent work in the field.

Hjørland, Birger. (2003). **Fundamentals of Knowledge Organization.** *Knowledge Organization*, 30(2). 87-111. 74 refs.

**ABSTRACT:** This article is organized in 10 sections: (1) Knowledge Organization (KO) is a wide interdisciplinary

field, much broader than Library and Information Science (LIS). (2) Inside LIS there have been many different approaches and traditions of KO with little mutual influence. These traditions have to a large extent been defined by new technology, for which reason the theoretical integration and underpinning has not been well considered. The most important technology-driven traditions are: a) Manual indexing and classification in libraries and reference works, b) Documentation and scientific communication, c) Information storage and retrieval by computers, d) Citation based KO and e) Full text, hypertext and Internet based approaches. These traditions taken together define very much the special LIS focus on KO. For KO as a field of research it is important to establish a fruitful theoretical frame of reference for this overall field. This paper provides some suggestions. (3) One important theoretical distinction to consider is the one between social and intellectual forms of KO. Social forms of KO are related to professional training, disciplines and social groups while intellectual organization is related to concepts and theories in the fields to be organized. (4) The social perspective includes in addition the systems of genres and documents as well as the social system of knowledge producers, knowledge intermediaries and knowledge users. (5) This social system of documents, genres and agents makes available a very complicated structure of potential subject access points (SAPs), which may be used in information retrieval (IR). The basic aim of research in KO is to develop knowledge on how to optimise this system of SAPs and its utilization in IR. (6) SAPs may be seen as signs, and their production and use may be understood from a social semiotic point of view. (7) The concept of paradigms is also helpful because different groups and interests tend to be organized according to a paradigm and to develop different criteria of relevance, and thus different criteria of likeliness in KO. (8) The basic unit in KO is the semantic relation between two concepts, and such relations are embedded in theories. (9) In classification like things are grouped together, but what is considered similar is not a trivial question. (10) The paper concludes with the considering of methods for KO. Basically the methods of any field are connected with epistemological theories. This is also the case with KO. The existing methods as described in the literature of KO fit into a classification of basic epistemological views. The debate about the methods of KO at the deepest level therefore implies an epistemological discussion.

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## Editor-in-chief (Editorial office)

Dr. Hope A. OLSON (Editor-in-Chief), Joanne MILLEMAN (Editorial Assistant), School of Information Studies, University of Wisconsin Milwaukee, PO Box 413, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53201, USA  
Fax: +1 (414) 229-4848; Email: [olson@sois.uwm.edu](mailto:olson@sois.uwm.edu)

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*Reference citations within the text* should have the following form: (author, year). For example, (Jones, 1990). Specific page numbers are optional, but preferred when applicable, e.g. (Jones, 1990, p.100). A citation with two authors would read (Jones & Smith, 1990); three or more authors would be: (Jones et al., 1990). When the author is mentioned in the text, only the date and optional

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Graesser, A., Person, N. & Huber, J. (1992). Mechanisms that generate questions. In T. W. Lauer, E. Peacock, & A. C. Graesser (Eds.), *Questions and Information Systems*. Hillsdale, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates. 167-187.

Sager, J.C. (1990). *A Practical Course in Terminology Processing*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

Sukiasyan, E. R. (1996). Change as a problem of classification system development. In R. Green (Ed.), *Knowledge Organization and Change: Proceedings of the 4<sup>th</sup> International ISKO Conference*. Frankfurt: Indeks Verlag, 119-122.

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## Scope

The more scientific data are generated in the impetuous present times, the more ordering energy needs to be expended to control these data in a retrievable fashion. With the abundance of knowledge now available the questions of new solutions to the ordering problem and thus of improved classification systems, methods and procedures have acquired unforeseen significance. For many years now they have been in the focus of interest of information scientists the world over.

Until recently, the special literature relevant to classification was published in piecemeal fashion, scattered over the numerous technical journals serving the experts of the various fields such as

philosophy and science of science  
 science policy and science organization  
 mathematics, statistics and computer science  
 library and information science  
 archivistics and museology  
 journalism and communication science  
 industrial products and commodity science  
 terminology, lexicography and linguistics

Beginning 1974, KNOWLEDGE ORGANIZATION (formerly INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION) has been serving as a common platform for the discussion of both theoretical background questions and practical application problems in many areas of concern. In each issue experts from many countries comment on questions of an adequate structuring and construction of ordering systems and on the problems of their use in opening the information contents of new literature, of data collections and survey, of tabular works and of other objects of scientific interest. Their contributions have been concerned with

- (1) clarifying the theoretical foundations (general ordering theory/science, theoretical bases of classification, data analysis and reduction)
- (2) describing practical operations connected with indexing/classification, as well as applications of classification systems and thesauri, manual and machine indexing
- (3) tracing the history of classification knowledge and methodology
- (4) discussing questions of education and training in classification
- (5) concerning themselves with the problems of terminology in general and with respect to special fields.

## Aims

Thus, KNOWLEDGE ORGANIZATION is meant to be a programme for the improvement of classification methods and processes, a forum for discussion for all those interested in the organization of knowledge on a universal or a subject-field scale, using concept-analytical and/or concept-synthetical approaches as well as numerical procedures and comprising also the intellectual and automatic compilation and use of classification systems and thesauri in all fields of knowledge, with special attention being given to the problems of terminology.

KNOWLEDGE ORGANIZATION publishes original articles, reports on conferences and similar communications, the Newsletters of the International Society for Knowledge Organization (ISKO News) and the Committee on Classification Research of the International Federation for Information and Documentation (FID/CR News) as well as book reviews, letters to the editor, and an extensive annotated bibliography of recent classification and indexing literature, covering some 500 items in each issue.

KNOWLEDGE ORGANIZATION should therefore be available at every university and research library of every country, at every information center, at colleges and schools of library and information science, in the hands of everybody interested in the fields mentioned above and thus also at every office for updating information on any topic related to the problems of order in our information-flooded times.

KNOWLEDGE ORGANIZATION was founded in 1973 by an international group of scholars with a consulting board of editors representing the world's regions, the special classification fields, and the subject areas involved. From 1974-1980 it was published by K.G. Saur Verlag, München. Back issues of 1978-1992 are available from ERGON-Verlag, too.

As of 1989, KNOWLEDGE ORGANIZATION has become the official organ of the INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KNOWLEDGE ORGANIZATION (ISKO) and is included for every ISKO-member, personal or institutional in the membership fee (US \$ 55/US \$ 110).

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