

tional Library of China); and "Problems of Development of the National Russian Subject Authority File", by Irina Tsvetkova and Julia Selivanova (National Library of Russia, St. Petersburg). A brief summary of these papers will appear in a future issue of "FID/CR News".

Under the direction of its Chair, Ia McIlwaine, the Standing Committee of the Section continues its work on a number of projects. The Working Group on the Principles Underlying Subject Heading Languages (SHLs), chaired by Maria Inêz Lopes, has completed its work; its report has been reviewed and is expected to be published in mid-1999. The Standing Committee is also participating in a Joint Working Group of the Classification and Indexing and Information Technology Sections on the "Requirements for a Format for Classification Data". This activity involves the modification of the *USMARC Format for Classification Data* to provide a *UNIMARC* format for classification data. The work is expected to be completed by August 1999. The Working Group on the State of the Art Survey on Subject Heading Systems, chaired by Magda Heiner-Freiling, reported at the Amsterdam Conference on additional survey data received and plans were put into motion to publish an article on the survey in *International Cataloguing and Bibliographic Control*. Further information on the Section and its activities may be found at the IFLA website, [www.ifla.org](http://www.ifla.org).

### Classification Research Group (CRG)

At its 318th meeting the CRG discussed the possibility of an updated time table for completion of the *Bliss Bibliographic Classification (BC2)* and the question was raised as to how *BC2* would be maintained and updated in future. It was agreed that the main burden for updating would probably rest with the users of *BC2*. The major portion of this meeting was taken up with a discussion of Class CG/CW Chemical Substances. Jack Mills introduced a draft outline which he had prepared for discussion. Debate focussed on schedule order with general works on elements and compounds filing before works on specific elements and their compounds. Elements are filed in the order of their appearance of the Periodic table as defined by the orbital blocs in which they occur. This order reflects the division of the Periodic table grouping into two sequences (A&B), an arrangement universally observed until recently, when IUPAC recommended a single numbering of groups (from 1 to 18). It was felt that "this new numbering, although simpler, gives an order much inferior in terms of the collocation of closely related elements and has not

therefore been followed" in the *BC2* proposal. From this point on the discussion turned to various specific aspects of order related to the general pattern of citation order and the subordination of functional groups to basic molecular structure in organic chemistry. There was also a brief discussion on the problems of large classes in CU/CW. Eric Coates queried the relationship of these structures to structures already provided for in the classes for acyclic and cyclic compounds. The relations of biochemical substances and biochemistry were also considered. Those present generally agreed that more discussion would be needed before the whole class could be finalized. It was announced that at the next meeting on Friday, July 9, 1999, the subject will be chemical compounds, with special attention to complexes, polymers and biochemical substances.