

# ISKO News 7

## Advances in Knowledge Organization, 3

The 3rd volume of ISKO's Advances series is available now from the INDEKS Verlag, Frankfurt. The publication date was Dec.2, 1991. Entitled "Documentary Languages and Databases" it contains the English translation of papers from the excellent conference in Rome, Dec.3-4, 1990. The collection pictures the progress made in Italy in our field and shows in many ways also the close collaboration of our Italian colleagues in European projects.

We gratefully acknowledge the efforts of Dr. Giliola NEGRINI and Mrs. Tamara FARNESI in organizing and preparing this volume. Our thanks go also to Prof. Daniel BENEDIKTSSON from Reykjavik, Iceland, who helped to polish up the non-native English of the contributors.

Our members and everybody else are invited to subscribe to the series ADVANCES IN KNOWLEDGE ORGANIZATION. At least one volume per year will be issued at the price of DM 56.- (DM 40.- for ISKO-members). This equals US \$36/\$26 (if 1\$ = DM 1.55).

## KOTA'91 at Varna: Interdisciplinary Look at Knowledge Organization and Terminology

*The facts:* From 16-20 Sept. 1991, the F.J.-Curie International House of Scientists at the Black Sea near Varna, Bulgaria, was the scene of KOTA'91, the first conference on Knowledge Organization and Term Analysis ever held in Bulgaria.

*Elucidation: First Light.* The development of terminological activities in Bulgaria in recent years has brought about the establishment of two terminological groups - one at the Institute of Bulgarian Language at the Academy of Sciences (Sofia) and another terminological group in Varna. The Varna terminological group, adopting the idea of joining terminology research with knowledge organization, grew into a non-profit society - the so-called Search Interdisciplinary Group for Knowledge Organization and Term Analysis - SIG KOTA. (The Bulgarian word 'kota' means 'elevation'.) From its starting elevation SIG KOTA faced a number of tasks and objectives:

- to contribute to the development of the new trend in science - knowledge organization (in Bulgaria)
- to promote the establishment of a National Council for Terminology; and
- to be the principal coordinating institution in terminology formation in Bulgaria both as an interdisciplinary science and as a practical activity with an all-embracing character.

Organizing the international interdisciplinary conference KOTA'91 was the first important activity

carried out by SIG KOTA. The honorary chair of KOTA'91 was Dr. Ingetraut Dahlberg, President of ISKO. She also helped in that our call for papers reached the ISKO membership, in supporting us in different other ways, and by encouraging us. More than 40 application forms of participants from 5 countries were received by the Organizing Committee.

*Second light:* More than 30 specialists in different knowledge fields participated in the conference. It was opened on Sept. 17 by Peter Petrov, President of SIG KOTA and local chair. He put forward the main goals of the conference and expressed his wish for turning it into an open-minded talk between people sharing the same views who reason on whether Knowledge is organizable through the Term and who think about the Chaos of a scientist's soul, searching for Order.

The plenary session included two papers: I. Dahlberg's "Knowledge Organization and Terminology: Philosophical and Linguistic Bases" and Hemalatha Iyer's "Semantic Interpretation of Conjuncts". In her presentation I. Dahlberg spoke about classification theory and the main philosophical directions which have an influence on it. In fact her presentation played the role of a seminar for the participants on the problems of the relationship between knowledge organization and terminology.

The preliminary idea for carrying out the conference was to have no division into sections in order to achieve an interdisciplinary character. Provisionally three streams were outlined: 1) Philosophical and Methodological Problems of Knowledge Organization and Terminology; 2) Term Analysis and Organized Knowledge - Linguistic and Information Aspects; 3) Tools for Knowledge and Term Organization.

The presentations on the first stream were delivered in front of all the participants. Interest was evoked by L. Andreev's philosophic positions regarding the parameters of disbelief and by S. Markov's points about the borders of philosophical terminology.

Sept. 18 was a busy conference day. It began with the second plenary paper, presented by H. Iyer from the State University of New York in Albany. Miss Iyer spoke about a possibility for automatic Boolean interpretation of conjuncts. The proceedings went on with 26 presentations. Of a clear-cut linguistic character were those read by B. Alexiev about the conceptual structure of terms as the tertium comparationis in contrastive terminology, by M. Popova about the informativity of the term, by I. Chongarova about organization of lexicographic knowledge in dictionaries of a new type, and by K. Kabakchiev about the cognitive bases of the verb aspect.

Interdisciplinarity was inherent in "Therm as a Germ - An Apology of a New Term" (T. Alexandrova), in "Thesaurus Semiotics and Thesaurus Lexicography" (G. Dimitrova), in "Through the Looking-Glass through the Organizing-Glasses" (P. Petrov).

Some problems outlining the relations between knowledge organization, terminology and artificial in-

telligence systems were discussed in V.Staichev's paper on possibilities for compressing the process of making a decision in a given time-interval; in K.Grigorova and A.Antonov's paper on knowledge representation in automated educational systems; and in the paper of A.Aтанасов, P.Petrov, N.Spaiev and S.Trifffonov "Toward Knowledge Organizing SENSUS" putting forward the idea of building an expert classificatory system by introducing an "Abstract Sensus" - in fact this paper represents the basis of the main scientific project of SIG KOTA.

In the late afternoon of Sept.18 the Bulgarian Council for Terminology was founded. Its main objectives are the coordination and development of terminological research and application in Bulgaria and widening of international collaboration in this field.

The intensiveness of the day was relaxed into a cocktail party and into a sightseeing tour the next morning. The conference participants travelled to the ancient Bulgarian town of Nessebar.

*Third Light:* KOTA'91's spirits were high even at the starting zero (sea) level. Everyone took away with him a small book - "KOTA'91. Materials" containing a translation of ISKO-Brochure No.1 into Bulgarian as well. Everyone took away something from the conference spirit, something from the sea-breath, something fragile with the KOTA sign on it. Everyone is looking forward to the next elevation - KOTA'93. Peter Petrov

*Addendum from the ISKO Executive Board:* At the occasion of KOTA'91 the SIG KOTA members had asked to form the Bulgarian Chapter of ISKO, whereupon the ISKO Executive Board, at its meeting of October 18, 1991, decided to accept this proposal. This means that a Bulgarian becoming an ISKO member will be a SIG KOTA member at the same time.

### German ISKO-Chapter Conference 1991

The program of this conference on the topic "Kognitive Ansätze zum Ordnen und Darstellen von Wissen" (Cognitive approaches for the organization and representation of knowledge), held from 16-18 Oct.1991 at Weilburg/Lahn, had already been included in ISKO News 6. A report on its achievements (as well as on its preceding *Workshop on Thesauri*) will be published in the forthcoming ISKO News issue 8. We should like to mention here that the conference was held in a very positive spirit with many participants also from abroad such as from France (E.de Grolier), from Italy (G.Negrini), from Russia (Ju.Schreider), from Hungary (M.Domokos), from Sweden (E.Wahlin), from the Netherlands (L.D.Couprie and F.de Jongh), and from Switzerland (O.Sechser and L.Preuss). The site of the old town of Weilburg with its beautiful castle and its pleasant surrounding was a surprise for most of the almost 80 participants and supported the decision to have the next conference in 1993 again at this fine place in the middle of Germany.

Five *Working Groups* of the German ISKO Chapter had their meetings in the afternoon of the second conference day. Their chairpersons will report about their work also in the next issue.

The proceedings volume - edited by W. GÖDERT and P. JAENECKE - will be published and available via INDEKS Verlag in January 1992. A new series will be started with this volume, entitled "Fortschritte der Wissensorganisation".

The *Membership Assembly* elected a new chairman, Dr.Peter Jaenecke, Pforzheim, who had been vice-chairman before. Prof.Winfried Gödert, Köln, the former chairman took the office of a vice-chairman for the next period (2 years) with Ms.Jutta Vischer from Hamburg. The organizer of the next conference will be Prof.Norbert Meder, Köln.

### 2nd International ISKO Conference, Madras, 26-28 Aug.92

The preparations for this conference are well under way. Some thirty proposals for papers have been received until September 91 and the organizers expected more by October. They are working hard to make this conference (on "Cognitive Paradigms in Knowledge Organization") the "grand finale" of the Dr. S. R. Ranganathan Centenary Year. For further information please turn to Dr. Suseela Kumar, 5,Sivaganga Road, Madras 600034, India.

### A Change in the ISKO Scientific Advisory Council

Professor Dr.Josef HÖLZL, Direktor of the Institut für Technologie und Warenwirtschaftslehre, Wirtschaftsuniversität Wien, retired from his office and gave up his memberships in different societies, among which ISKO and his work for the Scientific Advisory Council. We regret this very much as Mr.Hölzl, who has also been the president of the International Society for Commodity Science and Technology, had been contributing to our field in many ways regarding ordering systems in commodity and product sciences and the description of contents in these fields. On Oct.18, 1991, a symposium in his honor was held in Vienna, devoted to the topic "Auf der Suche nach dem Gemeinsamen". A Festschrift with this title containing the 14 contributions of the symposium is available from the Institute mentioned above, (A-1090 Wien,Augasse 2-6). We would like to express to Prof.Hölzl our best wishes for the start of his retirement!

The "free chair" in the ISKO Scientific Advisory Board is being filled by Prof.Roy RADA from the University of Liverpool, England. Being a medical doctor but also (very) knowledgeable and interested in computerized information handling, Prof.Rada had been associated with the National Library of Medicine's Unified Medical Language System (UMLS), USA. He is now very actively working also in the field of hypertext. Readers of International Classification have "met" him already at least three times! Much success, dear Roy, for all your endeavors!