Knowledge Organization

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ABSTRACT: This study gives an initial appraisal of research activity in Spain surrounding "knowledge organization." The sample comprises articles, monographs and PhD. dissertations identified in the following data bases: ISI, LISA, ISOC, REBIUN, RUECA and TESEO. In Spain, "knowledge organization" is a consolidated subject area that shows increasing productivity, although it cannot be considered well developed by any means. A small number of highly productive authors are responsible for the bulk of output. Most research activity stems from university departments and schools of library science, in particular the Universities of Madrid and Zaragoza. A general interest in the theoretical aspects of classification systems, documentary languages and thesauri can be seen.

ABSTRACT: Ontology, in its philosophical meaning, is the discipline investigating the structure of reality. Its findings can be relevant to knowledge organization, and models of knowledge can, in turn, offer relevant ontological suggestions. Several philosophers in time have pointed out that reality is structured into a series of integrative levels, like the physical, the biological, the mental, and the cultural, and that each level plays as a base for the emergence of more complex levels. More detailed theories of levels have been developed by Nicolai Hartmann and James K. Feibleman, and these have been considered as a source for structuring principles in bibliographic classification by both the Classification Research Group (CRG) and Ingetraut Dahlberg. CRG's analysis of levels and of their possible application to a new general classification scheme based on phenomena instead of disciplines, as it was formulated by Derek Austin in 1969, is examined in detail. Both benefits and open problems in applying integrative levels to bibliographic classification are pointed out.

ABSTRACT: The work titled *Code for Classifiers* by William Stetson Merrill is examined. The development of Merrill's *Code* over a period of 27 years, 1912-1939 is traced by examining bibliographic, attribution, conceptual and contextual differences. The general principles advocated, the differences between variants, and three controversial features of the *Code*: 1) the distinction between classifying vs. classification, 2) borrowing of the bibliographic principle of authorial intention, and 3) use of Dewey Decimal class numbers for classified sequence of topics, are also discussed. The paper reveals the importance of the *Code* in its own time, the complexities of its presentation and assessment by its contemporaries, and it's status today.

ABSTRACT: The present paper presents a philosophical approach to knowledge organization, proposing the pragmatic doctrine of C.S. Peirce as basic analytical framework for knowledge domains. The theoretical framework discussed is related to the qualitative branch of knowledge organization theory i.e. within scope of Hjørland's domain analytical view (Hjørland and Albrechtsen 1995; Hjørland 2002; Hjørland 2004), and promote a general framework for analyzing domain knowledge and concepts. However, the concept of knowledge organization can be viewed in at least two perspectives, one that defines knowledge organization as an activity performed by a human actor e.g. an information specialist, and secondly a view that has the perspective of the inherent self-organizing structure of a knowledge domain the latter being investigated in the paper.

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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 4th International ISKO Conference.* Frankfurt: Indeks Verlag. 119-122.

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Scope

The more scientific data is 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 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 in 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 a forum for all those interested in the organization of knowledge on a universal or a domain-specific scale, using concept-analytical or concept-synthetical approaches, as well as quantitative and qualitative methodologies. KNOWLEDGE ORGANIZATION also addresses 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).