

FID/CR News 42

Nancy Williamson

FID/CR News Editor

FID/CR activities: International Study Conference

Preparations for the 6th International Study Conference on Classification Research, to be held at University College London, June 16-18, 1997, are now in the final stages. A goodly number of interesting papers have been accepted for presentation and it promises to be a stimulating and productive conference. For further registration and other information, please contact: Kerstin Michaels, Office Manager, School of Library, Archive and Information Studies, University College London, Gower Street, London, UK WC1E 6BT (tel: +44-171-380 7204; fax: +44-171-383 0557; email: o.manager@ucl.ac.uk)

UDC

Major activities for the year 1996 are described in the annual "Report of the UDC Editor in Chief" (Dr. I.C. McIlwaine) that appears in *Extensions and Corrections to the UDC* published by the UDC Consortium in November 1996. The following is excerpted from the full report. In her report, the Editor indicates that the work on overhauling the Medicine schedule is proceeding well and has generated interest within the medical profession in the UK. Discussions are currently underway to investigate the feasibility of using the revised scheme as the basis for organizing information for the use of General Practitioners within the Health Service of the United Kingdom. With respect to other aspects of UDC revision, she comments on the slow progress in the work on some classes, for example Astronomy. In part, this can be attributed to the problem of finding people willing to participate in the work. This is a general problem and the Editor appeals to UDC users to consider any way in which they can assist. Co-operative efforts have been used with success in revising the Vertebrates class and the Editorial Board welcomes more of this kind of participation by users of the scheme in the work of revision. The updated Table of Special Subdivisions for class 7 is described and there are plans for a similar revision to bring together the special auxiliaries in class 3 across several disciplines, especially Demography and Sociology. It is hoped that the revision

of the class 3 Table of Special Subdivisions will be published in the 1997 issue of *Extensions and Corrections*. Class 53, Physics, is cited as a class which needs urgent attention. Unfortunately, a 1993 revision of this class had to be withdrawn for a number of reasons, including difficulties arising from changes of ownership and revision procedures.

The previous version has been temporarily reinstated until a more acceptable revision can be prepared. In this context, the Editor makes a plea for assistance as follows: "Libraries who have made their own in-house changes to 53, to 621.3 Electrical and Electronic Engineering and to Nuclear Science and Technology are urgently asked to consider submitting their revisions to the UDC Consortium with a view to incorporating them in future revisions of the scheme." While these particular sections of the schedules are top priorities, she further indicates that this request is not limited to these classes and the Consortium is anxious to receive similar in-house versions of other classes to be considered in the light of future revisions. The report also cites a number of upcoming conferences which will be of interest to UDC users - these include a half-day workshop on UDC to be organized by the Editor for the 1998 IFLA Conference in Amsterdam. Persons wishing to make contributions to the workshop should contact the editor as soon as possible. Other forthcoming conferences of interest are the 6th ISKO General Conference to be held in the Netherlands just prior to the 1998 IFLA Conference and the 6th FID International Study Conference on Classification Research to be held at University College London June 16th-18th 1997.

In addition to the report of the Editor in Chief, *Extensions and Corrections to the UDC, November 1996 (E&C)* contains a number of articles on UDC as well as revised UDC tables. Articles included are as follows: An article by K. Loth entitled "Überlegungen zu einer computergerechten Reorganisation der UDK" which describes a trilingual (German, French and English) information retrieval system based on UDC and run by the libraries of the ETH in Zurich and the EPF in Lausanne; a progress report on the "Restructuring of Class 61 - Medical Sciences", by I.C. McIlwaine and N.J. Williamson which includes