
FID/CR News 29

Welcome to New Members

FID/CR welcomes two new members as official representatives to the Committee: Dr. Ia. McILWAINE, University College London, representing the United Kingdom, replaces Dr. Derek AUSTIN who has retired from active professional librarianship. Dr. Austin has made a distinguished contribution to classification research and has participated in at least two of the International Study Conferences. FID/CR hopes that he will continue his interest in classification and the Committee; Ms. Glenda MYERS, Medical Librarian, Department of Librarianship and Information Science, University of the Witwatersrand, replaces Ms. Clare WALKER as the official representative from South Africa. Ms. Walker, a former teacher of classification has suggested Ms. Myers as a person who is currently directly involved in matters related to classification, information retrieval and expert systems.

A new brochure on the activities of FID/CR is currently in preparation and will be distributed to members and observers of the Committee within the next couple of months.

ISCCR'91: Classification Research for Knowledge Representation and Organization

The preparations for the 5th International Study Conference on Classification Research (ISCCR'91) to be held in Toronto, Canada, June 24-28, 1991 are well under way. A preliminary conference programme has been widely disseminated and the press release has begun to appear in a number of journals, including the back cover of the latest FID News Bulletin.

The conference will concentrate on three major areas:

- (1) *General principles and policies*: The theoretical bases for classification; categorization of knowledge; knowledge representation; linguistics and classification; compatibility and convertibility.
- (2) *Structure and logic in classification*: classification structure and syntax in various types of indexing languages and retrieval tools; structure in data.
- (3) *Empirical investigations*: classification in the design of various types of document/information systems; classification in online retrieval; adaptation of existing systems and development of new systems; classification and expert systems.

Abstracts of contributed papers will be available to participants at the time of registration. Additional presentations will be announced in the final conference program.

The conference programme will include a keynote

address and 10 plenary sessions, as well as more than 30 contributed papers which have been accepted. A preliminary version of the programme is shown below and a full programme will be mailed to participants early in April. There are plenary sessions in the mornings and sessions for contributed papers in the afternoon. The social program includes daily receptions, starting at 5:30 PM and a Harbourfront Boat Tour in the afternoon of June 26.

The Preliminary Programme:

Opening of the Conference: Nancy J. WILLIAMSON, Chair FID/CR

Keynote Address: Elaine SVENONIUS (USA): Classification in the 90s: Problems, Possibilities, and Prospects

Plenary Sessions: Robert FUGMANN (Germany): Illusory Goals in Information Science Research. - Clare BEGHTOL (Canada): Towards a Theory of Fiction Analysis for Information Storage and Retrieval. - Francis MIKSA (USA): The Concept of the Universe of Knowledge and the Purpose of LIS Classification. - Monica SCOTT and Ana Flavia FONSECA (USA): Functional Appraisal Thesauri/Authority List. - Pat MOLHOLT (USA): Rationalizing the Cross-Reference Structure of Hierarchical Thesauri. - Prithvi KAULA (India): Categorization of Knowledge. - Timothy CRAVEN: Concept Relation Structures and their Graphic Display. - Julianne BEALL (USA): Editing the Dewey Decimal Classification Online: The Evolution of the DDC Database and the Editorial Support System. - Rebecca GREEN: The Expression of Syntagmatic Relationships in Indexing: Are Frame-Based Index Languages the Answer?

The conference will conclude on Friday, June 28 with a Panel Discussion chaired by Joan MITCHELL (USA) with the panel members: Ingetraut DAHLBERG (Germany), Bernd FROHMANN (Canada), Jean PERREAULT (USA), Lorna REES-POTTER (Canada), and with a conference summary and conclusion.

Registration (regular Can\$ 325, including conference proceedings, handouts, refreshment breaks, hosted receptions and excursion): University of Toronto, School of Continuing Studies, 158 St. George Street, Toronto, Ont. M5S 2V8, Canada. Tel.: (416)978 2400; FAX: (416)978 6666.

U.K.: CRG 278 and 279

The 278th and 279th meetings of the British Classification Research Group took place at University College London on Oct. 26 and Dec. 13, 1990 with 10 and 11 members present. At the October meeting a set of definitions of 'classification', 'subject heading' and 'subject' as well as the role of thesauri were introduced by Mr. NEILSON and discussed subsequently. Later, Mr. Coates spoke on the Broad System of Ordering (BSO), its history, present situation and possible future. In the past five years it had been enlarged considerably

so that a version three times the size of that originally published had now been created. Advice was sought from the CRG members on the best way to forward the scheme in the future.

For the December meeting the members had been asked to prepare themselves by reading Don Swanson's "Historical Note: Information Retrieval and the Future of an Illusion" (JASIS 39(1988)No.2, p.92-98). When it was discussed, Mr. FOSKETT related its statement also to Robert FAIRTHORNE's "challenge in 1963 when he stated that information science was a branch of science not mathematics and that it was essential to formulate principles valid in the outside world and that such principles might be statements of what cannot be done". In the discussion, particular attention was also paid to the 'postulates of fertility' which Don Swanson had provided in addition. - The meeting continued with a presentation of Jack MILLS on the structure of the Bliss Classification. - The next meetings were scheduled for Febr.21, April 25, July 4, Oct.24, and Dec.12, 1991.

U.S.A.: Call for Participation.

2nd ASIS '91 Workshop on Classification Research

The ASIS Special Interest Group on Classification Research (ASIS/SIG/CR) invites submissions for its 2nd Workshop, to be held at the 54th Annual Meeting of ASIS in Washington, DC, Sunday, Oct.27, 1991, 8:30 am.

The CR Workshop is designed to be an exchange of ideas among those engaged in active research or practice in the creation, development, management, representation, comparison, compatibility, theory, and application of classification schemes. Emphasis will be on semantic classification, in contrast to statistically-based schemes. Topics include, but are not limited to:

Warrant for concepts in classification schemes. Concept acquisition. Basis for semantic classes. Automated techniques to assist in creating classification schemes. Statistical techniques used for developing explicit, nonstatistically-based semantic classes. Relations and their properties. Inheritance and subsumption. Knowledge representation schemes. Classification algorithms. Procedural knowledge in classification schemes. Reasoning with classification schemes. Software for managing classification schemes. Data structures and programming languages for classification schemes. Comparison and compatibility between classification schemes. Previously-named topics, highlighting specific applications such as subject analysis, database navigation, information retrieval, natural language understanding, expert systems, and image processing.

The CR Workshop welcomes submissions from various disciplines. Attendance will be by invitation only. Those interested in participating are invited to submit a short (1-2 page single-spaced) position paper, summarizing their substantive work in the above areas or other areas related to semantic classification schemes. Submissions may include background papers as attach-

ments. Those selected as presenters will be invited to submit expanded versions of their position papers and to speak to those papers in brief presentations during the workshop. All position papers (both expanded and short papers) will be published in proceedings to be distributed prior to the workshop. Registration fee is \$30.00 per person, and includes a copy of the proceedings and lunch and refreshments.

Submissions should be sent by email, or diskette accompanied by paper copy, or paper copy only (fax or postal), to arrive by May 1, 1991, to Barbara Kwasnik, School of Information Studies, 4-206 Center for Science and Technology, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY 13244, USA (FAX: (315)443-5806).

Liu-Palmer Thesaurus Construction System

An issue 1-1991 of a "Liu-Palmer Newsletter for Information Professionals" has been released which provides information on the "Professional Edition" of the software called "Thesaurus Construction System", TCS. The authors are Songqiao LIU, at present completing a doctorate at UCLA's GSLIS from whose 1985 MLS research the basis for the TCS was created. He developed also a Thesaurus Maintenance System for the Art and Architecture Thesaurus. - Roger C. PALMER is Technical Manager for The Getty Art History Information Program. - For further information contact: Liu-Palmer, 2272 Colorado Blvd., Suite 1280, Los Angeles, CA 90041, USA.

Memento: Karl FILL (21 July 1902 - 14 Sept. 1990)

It is with great regret that we heard of the death of Dr. Karl Fill, Wiesbaden, Germany, at the age of 88. The German UDC editions had been edited by him for a quarter century; the UDC Medium Editions in their first and second versions were his idea and special contribution (as well as many UDC indexes), but much longer than his editorial work he had been involved with UDC work as the German representative in the Central Classification Committee of the FID, as the Chairman of the Committee for Classification of the German Standardization Institute, and as the Editor-in-Chief of the journal "DK-Mitteilungen". He was also the author of the standard guidebook "Einführung in das Wesen der Dezimalklassifikation" and taught UDC courses at the DGD-Lehrinstitut für Dokumentation and in many further education courses of this institution and of the DIN, Berlin. He was tenderly nicknamed as "Germany's UDC Pope"! Even on his card he would show his predelection for the UDC by classing his twelve different interests and activities by UDC and impressing all those who would profit from such a demonstration of the capacities and flexibilities of this universal classification system. May the order which he created with the help of this system bring happiness in the Beyond to him, who had - besides all of his many other activities - always been such an enthusiastic fighter for the UDC! (I.D.)