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# Reports and Communications

## Chinese Society of Indexers founded in Shanghai

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The Chinese Society of Indexers (CSI) (in Chinese: Zhongguo suo yin xue hui) announced its formal founding on December 24, 1992. CSI is a nonprofit professional association and the only one professional organization in China solely devoted to the research on the theory of index and indexing, the advancement of indexing, and the development and publishing of indexes. The mission of the CSI is summarized as "Seeking Truth and Nature, Exploring, and Contributing" with the purpose of improving research of indexing theory, encouraging and supporting the development and the publishing of indexes, and increasing academic exchanges at home and abroad.

The first meeting of the CSI was held in Shanghai, December 8-10, 1992. About 200 representatives of libraries, information centers, news agencies, and publishers attended the meeting; over 40 research papers were presented at the conference. Among the keynote speakers, Professor Qi-yu Zhang reported on the study of issues and trends in indexing and index constructing; Professor Han-qing Hou gave an introduction to the development and current status of the indexing profession in the world; Professor Guangzu Chen reported on the technology of computer-assisted indexing and index constructing. Two proposals of compiling "An index series for Chinese academic works published in the 20th century" (presented by Mr. Ming-gen Wang) and "An Index of Chinese Comprehensive Encyclopaedia" (presented by Mr. Zhong-xiang Lin) were discussed in the conference. The proceedings of the conference will be published in 1993.

The Society has 450 regular members and 30 institutional members currently. Mr. Yun-kai Yuan serves as the president of the Society. Others on the Board of Directors include Yong-qin Ge, Qi-yu Zhang, Fu-zhi Leng, Ming-gen Wang, You-song Luo, Tian-jun Zhu, Guang-zu Chen, Qi-qin Chen, Zhong-xiang Lin, Hai Luo, Bing-liang Sun, and Tong-ce Wang. The standing committees of the society include the Executive Committee, as well as Committees for Publications, Research, and Education. In addition, the CSI has a Research Department for History of Indexes at Harvard-Yenching School.

The address of the Society is: Chinese Society of Indexers, University Library, Huadong Normal University, Shanghai 200062, PR China.

## Universal Knowledge Tools and their Applications

This was the topic of a very inspiring conference which took place at the Ryerson Polytechnical Institute in Toron-

to from June 3-5, 1993 with some 50-60 participants. It was organized by the Ontario Division of the International Society for the Systems Sciences. The Draft Program announced the following 38 papers: BURKHARDT, H.: Universal knowledge tools. - CARVALHO, J.: Symmetry as a knowledge tool. - HOLDSWORTH, D.: Universality and rationality. - WELCH, R.: The art of game and knowledge: an abstract. - Zeman, V. & G.: Generative concepts as universal knowledge tools. - Regoczei, S.B.: Text-initiated conceptual modelling of discourse-laden systems. - EICHHOLZ, V.: How to achieve effective inter-ethnic communication. - EICHHOLZ, R.: Language standardization through terminology. - RANCOURT, R.: Technology, culture, and ways of knowing: a challenge for teacher education. - CRICHTON, W.: Some concepts for a universal culture. - McNEIL, D.H.: Mapping into perspective: the systemic concepts of the Tree of Knowledge. - ZESSNER, W.: Do metalanguage projections invite utopian temptations - ZEPETNEK, S.T., Systemic approaches to literature. - MORGAN, N.: Renaissance mirror of our empty paradigms. - EDER, W.E.: Half century of (sub rosa, irredentist) transdisciplinary knowledge development. - RILEY, M.M.: An engineering perspective on Canadian education: Can our current educational system meet the real life challenges of an increasingly complex technical world? - STARKERMANN, R.: Transdisciplinary morphology of information networks. - LOWRY, E.: Optimum information microstructures. - MASTORAS, A.: A metaprocess model for specification reuse. - HOPLIN, H.P.: The emergence of case technology. - BROWNSYED, C.: Soft, appreciative, and general systems — Idealism in action. - GUY, A.: Steps from an ecology of ideas to a systems curriculum for educational institutions. - BURNSTINE and MILLAN: The power of enterprise mapping. - KADRI, F.L.: An analytical approach to hysteresis. - LOGAN, R.: The concept of nationality is a knowledge tool in need of redefinition. - ROBBINS, J.: Media literacy - What is it? - Why is it important? - SIMMONDS, C.: Steps toward a sustainable morality. - WILDE, K.: Limitations of a universal knowledge tool. - YNGSTROM, L.: Developing transdisciplinary knowledge within IT security - The system-holistic approach. - WOJCIECHOWSKI, J.: The development of knowledge as a moral problem. - ROSS, S.: Searching for concordance in a world of fragmentation. - BERG, R.: Canadian codes of engineering ethics as universal tools for moral knowledge. - FAWCETT, E., SUMMERS, C., MESLIN, E.: Towards a scientific ethic: The Toronto Resolution. - SWANSON, G.A.: Systems science and universal knowledge. - LAUZON, Y., RANCOURT, R.: Students' ways of knowing and their use of vocabulary. - TAYLOR, S.: Knowledge modelling systems - Conceptual tools for teaching and learning. - VELTMAN, K.: SUMS (System for Universal Media Searching): A database on perspective and the concept of levels of knowledge. - WILLIAMS, D.: Teaching and learning in an electronic age. - Furthermore 7 posted papers and displays were listed. It was announced that proceedings of this conference will be published. For

further information please contact Prof.H.Burckhardt, Ryerson Polytechnical Institute, 63 Gould Street, Toronto, Ont., Canada.

## New English Edition of UDC

(To appear in Late 1993)

The new UDC Consortium (UDCC), which assumed ownership of UDC on 1 January 1992 now manages and maintains this major information retrieval language. The UDCC has created, and is developing, an international database that can be the source of many kinds of UDC edition in the future. The machine-readable version of the Master Reference File of the UDC was completed in March 1993. The class descriptions currently exist in English, to which French and German will soon be added, and other languages later. The first published product from this source will soon be available.

A Revision Advisory Group (RAG) is in place with responsibilities to plan and commission revisions and to have such work refereed. A database of experts, both institutional and individual, is being compiled. A new "Guide to the Use of the UDC" has been prepared and will be published by FID in 1993.

In 1993, the British Standards Institution will publish a new edition of BS 1000M, the English medium edition of the UDC, which will supersede the 1985 edition. It will appear in two parts to be issued simultaneously: Pt.1 Systematic tables, and Part 2 Alphabetical subject index.

Ed.2 will contain nearly 50% more entries than edition 1 (almost 60,000 entries). All amendments published in *Extensions and Corrections to the UDC* from Series 10 to Series 14 are taken into account.

Now that the UDCC has created an international (and eventually multilingual) database, the UDC can be developed with the maximum of consistency and efficiency. The database includes entries derived from English, French, German, Hungarian and Japanese medium editions, harmonized to form a comprehensive international version. Instead of a computer-generated index with minimum intervention, Pt.2 of the new edition will be an index compiled in accordance with BS 3700:1988 (the British "Recommendation for preparing indexing to books, periodicals and other documents"). by professional indexers who are also subject experts. In addition to the alphabetical, natural language approach, the index collects headings into hierarchies which group together information on subjects scattered by the arrangement of the classification itself. Cross-references between related topics are also supplied. The prices: 160 British pounds per part, 240 pounds per set. - For further information turn to British Standards Institution, Linford Wood, Milton Keynes, Bucks. MK14 6LE, England.

## DEWEY News

The new editor of the Dewey Decimal Classification is Ms. Joan S. Mitchell who had been director of educational technology at Carnegie Mellon University and an adjunct faculty member at the University of Pittsburgh School of

Library and Information Science. In 1985 she became a member of the Decimal Classification Editorial Policy Committee (EPC) and served as its chair from January 1992 on until she became DDC Editor in April 1993. As a member of the EPC, she was a strong advocate of standardization, logical growth of the schedules and tables, and consideration of user views. She holds a computer science certificate from AT&T Bell Laboratories and a master of library science degree from the University of California. Joanne Anderson, from San Diego Public Library succeeded Ms. Mitchell as chairperson of the EPC and David Balatti, National Library of Canada was elected vice-chair at the April 1993 meeting.

**Italian DDC.** An Italian translation of DDC 20 has just been published by Associazione Italiana Biblioteche. The group has begun work on a translation of DDC Abridged Edition 12. Publication is expected in early 1994.

**The LC Decimal Classification Division** assigned DDC numbers to 108,826 titles distributed in LCMARC records during fiscal year 1992.

**DDC Research Agenda:** OCLC Forest Press published in June 1993 the draft of a DDC Research Agenda, listing 7 research goals followed by a list of potential projects. Research licences for subsets of the database are available for approved projects. Inquiries and suggestions for additional projects are welcome. For further information turn to OCLC Forest Press, 85 Watervliet Ave., Albany, NY 12206. Tel.: 518-489-8549.

## IFLA Section on Classification and Indexing

The Annual Newsletter of the Section (No.12, 1993) appeared in June. On 13 pages a wealth of information is provided: (1) on the Barcelona meetings of the Section (Aug.21-26, 1993), including (a) the timetable of the meetings, (b) the Open Forum presentation of the Section Chairperson Dorothy McGarry on the Section and on the Lisbon Satellite Meeting (Aug.17-18, 1993), (c) the list of the members of the Standing Committee of the Section, and (d) the abstracts of papers for the open programme (contributions are by P.B.Castellote on Classification and Indexing in Spanish libraries; J.Dietze on Subject cataloguing for OPACs; I.C.McIlwaine on UDC: the present state and future developments); (2) on the Section activities at the New Delhi conference in Aug.1992 and developments since then; (3) on a Seminar on Universal Bibliographic Control, Rio de Janeiro, March 1993; (4) on DDC, LCC/LCSH, and on UDC News; (5) on progress of classification in Iran (6) on a report from Mira Mikacic, Croatia; and (7) on Workshops in Barcelona. The newsletter concludes with 14 abstracts of papers to be presented at the IFLA Satellite meeting in Lisbon on Classification and Indexing.

The Section has asked IFLA to fund as a large project a "State of the Art Survey of Subject Heading Systems". The study would be carried out in two phases, the first a fact-finding phase and the second, an analytical comparison of all available subject heading manuals.

The Section's Working Group on "Guidelines for Subject Authority Files", chaired by Werner Stephan, Deutsche Bibliothek, completed its task: the Guidelines will be published later in 1993 as Number 12 in the UBCIM new series.

The Working Group on "Principles for the Construction of Subject Headings" constituted at the Moscow meeting, met several times during the New Delhi conference and also almost a full day at Lisbon, Aug.19, 1993.

For further information write to Ms. Dorothy McGarry, University of California, Physical Sciences and Technology Libraries, 8251 Boelter Hall, 405 Hilgard Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90024-1598, USA.

### **Ranganathan Centre for Information Studies (RCIS)**

Related to the Madras Library Association this new Centre has been launched on July 19, 1993 as a culmination of the activities to mark the birth centenary of Dr. S.R. Ranganathan. It is meant to promote, support and conduct studies and programmes in information science and related fields; demonstrate and disseminate the results of the studies; support information personnel development activities; and enhance people's capacity to select and utilize information. The Advisory Services of the Centre will provide the necessary expertise for the design, development and evaluation of information systems, networks, products, and services. It is managed by a Board of Trustees with policy and decision making functions; a national Advisory Group representing various sectors and information expertise; a team of specialists headed by an Executive Director (Prof. A. Neelameghan); and Task Groups for specialized matters.

Correspondence and enquiries should be sent to Dr. K.S. Raghavan, Secretary, Ranganathan Centre for Information Studies, c/o The Madras Library Association, 16 Karpagambal Nagar, Madras 600 004, India.

### **Expert Meeting "Environmental Data Catalogue"**

At Semmering in Austria on June 28 and 29, 1993 about 60 Austrian experts on environmental information met with some German colleagues in order to discuss a joint strategy with regard to the implementation of an "environmental data catalogue" as foreseen in German and Austrian laws on the environment.

The environmental data Catalogue will contain the "meta data" to environmental information; these meta data refer to objects at different levels of abstraction. This is considered a user-friendly approach for the benefit of both environmental information experts in public services and users from the general public to access the tremendous diversity of environmental information ranging from published reports to information on and from thousands of individual measuring posts.

Upon the suggestion of Infoterm a "European Environmental Information Thesaurus" will be integrated into the data catalogue. This Thesaurus will be based on several large-scale thesauri on environment to coordinate the

results of these efforts before they lead to different and incompatible information systems.

(*From Infoterm Newsletter No.69, 1993, p.3*)

### **German-Language Terminology Initiative**

During the TKE'93 Congress at Cologne, Germany, on August 26, 1993, the German and Austrian UNESCO Commissions convened a meeting of some 40 experts and decision makers from several countries where the German language is used as an official language under the topic "German-language terminology initiative". First, presentations were given on the importance of terminology and terminological methods in industry, administration, research and education as well as an overview of cooperation in terminology at international level. During the discussions the diversity of terminological activities, their sectorization and relative lack of cooperation became obvious. As a result the UNESCO Commissions present will establish a working group to assess and evaluate the situation of terminology in the German speaking regions (including the UN framework) as a whole and to prepare a proposal for a "Common Cooperation Strategy" on the subject.

(*From Infoterm Newsletter 69, 1993, p.3*)

### **Towards A Global Expert System in Law. Selected Examples from Health and Environmental Law**

This is the topic of a conference to be held in Florence, Dec. 1-3, 1993 to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Istituto da Documentazione Giuridica of the Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche. The program shows 18 papers to be presented in 7 sessions. For further information write to the Organizing Secretariat at the above named Istituto, Via Panciatichi, 56/16, I-50127, Florence, Italy.

### **First International Conference on Applied Synergetics and Synergetic Engineering (ICASSE 94)**

This conference was announced recently to take place from June 21-23, 1994 at Erlangen, Germany. The conference will serve as a forum for engineers and scientists working on the application of self-organized systems. A Call for Papers asks for 3 copies of an abstract (about 300 words) by Dec. 12, 1993, full papers by April 15, 1994 to be sent to Fraunhofer-Society, Institute for Integrated Circuits (IIS) Mr. Thomas Wagner, Wetterkreuz 3, D-91058 Erlangen-Tennenlohe, Germany.

### **4th International Symposium on Information Science, ISI'94**

The Hochschulverband für Informationswissenschaft (HI) e.V. organizes its next symposium in Graz, Austria from Nov. 2-4, 1994 under the topic "Mehrwert von Information" (The Added-Value of Information) at the University of Graz. For further information please contact: Prof. Dr. Wolf Rauch, Institut für Informationswissenschaft, Karl-Franzens-Universität Graz, Strassoldgasse 10, A-8010 Graz, Austria.