creativity. Moving more strongly into the foreground in all this is the concept of context and of the extralinguistic environment, both deciding on what functions and forms of ordering and presentation of knowledge are adequate in any given case.

During the conference an afternoon session was reserved for the meeting of the Working Groups of the German ISKO Chapter on which the actual work of the Society is mainly based: Universal Organization of Knowledge (Chair: I.DAHLBERG); Indexing (Chair: R.FUGMANN); Cognition and Knowledge Organization (Chair: P.JAENECKE); University Education in Knowledge Organization (Chair: N.MEDER); Business Information Systems (Chair: J.Vischr).

The Membership Assembly elected (effective Nov.1, 1991) - each for the period of office of two years - as Chairman of the German Chapter: Dr.Peter JAENECKE and as 1st and 2nd Vice Chairpersons Mrs.Jutta VISCHER and Prof.Winfried GÖDERT respectively.

The conference culminated in an animated dispute on what chances and risks are inherent in knowledge organization. The stands taken ranged from "modern information technology becoming independent" to "labor-union control of information" to "ethical responsibility of the inidividual information user". Right after that, the final arguments were exchanged in a very social setting in the charming ducal residential town of Weilburg, which because of the pleasant conference atmosphere and the cordial reception in the historic city-hall stands a very good chance of harboring the next German Chapter conference as well.

Werner Bies, Berlin; H.Peter Ohly, Bonn.

# Personalia

### Pauline Atherton Cochrane back home

After many years of working abroad, Prof.Pauline A.COCHRANE has returned to the United States and is living in the environment of Washington. We hope she will again become as active in our field of knowledge as we have known her since she started in the early sixties!

### Emilia Curras Honored

Our colleague and member, Prof.Dr.Emilia CURRAS from the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid has been honored with the Prof.Kaula Gold Medal and citation from the Prof.Kaula Endowment for Library and Information Science in India.

### John Comaromi died

As a real shock we heard of the death of our ISKO Member Dr.John COMAROMI from the Dewey Decimal Division, Library of Congress, Washington, on Nov.6, 1991. (See also the obituary included in this issue). We should like to express our sympathy with all those who had very close relationships to him, personally and in their work!

# FID/CR News 31

## FID/CR Activities

The ISCCR'91 Proceedings will be published by Elsevier and are now in the hands of the publisher. Depending on printing schedules it is hoped that the publication will be ready for sale and distribution early in 1992.

## FID Congress, Madrid, October 22-30, 1992

FID/CR will have a full day programme during the 46th FID Conference and Congress in Madrid. Details for the programme are still being worked out. It is planned to have at least four presentations including "The International Study Conferences: Their Recommendations - Are they Reflected in the Accomplishments of Classification Research?", "The Russian and German Classification Standards - Contents and Comparison", and two papers on classification issues in the host country. We hope also to present the Ranganathan Award at the Madrid meeting. A business meeting will be held at which there will be a report on status of UDC and the groundwork will be laid for a "UDC Users Club". An agenda with the precise date of the meetings will be mailed to the membership shortly.

## ASIS/SIG/CR

The ASIS Special Interest Group on Classification Research has had a very active year as signified by its conference participation. At the 1991 Annual Meeting of ASIS in Washington, DC, October 27-31, 1991, SIG/CR participated in 9 programmes, 4 Sig/CR sessions and 5 programmes in which the group participated as a co-sponsor.

One SIG/CR programme concentrated on the *"Indexing of Hypermedia"*. Moderated by Raya FIDEL, a panel of speakers focussed on several questions relating to the differences in indexing of hypertext nodes and documents, the implications of the hierarchy of nodes for indexing, types of access points needed for different types of nodes (text, pictures, etc.), those aspects of hypertext indexing which could be automated and the linking mechanisms required to assist user in navigating the indexing languages. Panelists included Elizabeth LIDDY, Dagobert SOERGEL, Gary MACHIONINI; and Peter LIEBSCHER.

In a more theoretical programme moderated by Edie RASMUSSEN and panelists Lawrence HUNTER, Caroline EASTMAN and Stephen HIRTLE discussed the *"Cognitive Aspects of Classification"* with emphasis on the relationship between recent cognitive science research and applications of classification. Precise topics for discussion were abstract schemata for information retrieval, levels of abstraction of information, and tech-

niques for uncovering mental models used in specific domains.

Finally, SIG/CR presented two sessions on *"Computer-Based Tools for Indexers"*. Session I, moderated by Philip SMITH, included presentations by Ronald BUCHAN on the history of "Computer-Aided Indexing", by Susanne HUMPHREY on "Computerized Assistance and Knowledge-Based Management for Indexing" and by Michael GENUARDI on "Machine Indexing and Thesaurus Construction for the Analysis of Natural Language Text". Session II, moderated by Raya FIDEL, focussed on "A Reference Materials Access Tool for Indexers" presented by Philip SMITH, "Tools for the Indexers' Workbench" described by Lorraine NORMORE and "Computer Support for Indexing at Petroleum Abstracts" was examined by John BAILEY. The purpose of the two sessions was to provide a general overview of current and future applications of computers in providing assistance to indexers.

The importance of classification in information systems of all kinds is underlined by SIG/CR's participation in programmes which it co-sponsored with a wide range of other ASIS/SIGs including Arts and Humanities, Automated Language Processing, Human Computer Interface, Information Analysis and Evaluation, Library Automation and Networks, Medical Information Systems and Numeric Data Bases. "Are there Principles for Organizing Images?" was a programme which focussed on the application of cataloguing, classification and indexing techniques being used in the disciplines of art history and the history of medicine. Of major importance was the programme on "The Unified Medical Language System" (UMLS), a long-term effort to build an increasingly intelligent automated system that understands biomedical terminology. The goal of the system is retrieval and integration of retrieval of information from a variety of computerized information sources including biomedical literature, clinical records, factual databanks and medical knowledge bases. The system is not intended to impose on one standard vocabulary but is an attempt to compensate for differences in language in these systems. Specifically, the presentations concentrated on two aspects of the system, the Metathesaurus released to researchers in the fall of 1990 and the semantic network which supports the mapping of user terms to appropriate controlled vocabularies.

Three other sessions dealt with diverse topics. A programme on "Interfaces for Geographic Information Retrieval" was a brief introduction to geographic information systems, with emphasis on the problems associated with geographic indexing and retrieval from online databases. "Electronic Document Delivery" was directed at design issues in storage on optical disks, accessing images from remote locations and automated retrieval and transmission via FAX or Internet. Significant for the future of classification was a programme "Tools for Navigating Large Data Spaces" which recognized that "the only way that users are going to be able to navigate

[in large databases] is if some order and structure is imposed, possibly by an underlying classification scheme". Expert systems to manage the process of guiding end users to the information at the correct level of specificity were also recommended. Many tools are needed and this session reported on research which is underway on the development of such tools. Three papers were presented on "Interface Design Issues in Intelligent Computerized Intermediary Systems", "A Sense of Where You Are: Navigational Problems in a Large Full-Text File" and methods of "Delaing with the Problem of Very Large Retrieved Sets: Alternatives to 'Brute Force' Keyword Searching".

## News from the American Library Association

A proposal is under consideration by the USMARC Advisory Group for a change in the *USMARC Format for Bibliographic Data* to accomodate classification systems other than those currently provided for in the USMARC format. Specifically, this proposal is responding to the Library of Congress move to extend its coverage in the distribution of the bibliographic records it receives from non-North American sources. The immediate need is to provide for national classification systems of France and Germany.

In anticipation of the publication the NISO Z39.19 "Standard Guidelines for the Construction, Format and Management of Monolingual Thesauri", the ALA/ALCTS Subject Analysis Committee has planned two programmes for the next two ALA Annual Conferences. At the 1992 Conference in San Francisco, on Sunday, June 28, ALA/ALCTS/SAC and the Association of Research Libraries (ACRL) Art Section will jointly sponsor a programme on "Gearing Up for the Future: the Art and Architecture Thesaurus, Model for Subject Access". For the ALA Annual Conference in 1993 a programme is planned on "What's Another Word for Thesaurus?" A panel of speakers will discuss thesauri as information retrieval tools and investigate the impact of the NISO standards on existing and proposed thesauri. Such programmes recognized an increased interest in the use of thesauri by the American library community.

In response to a request from the Decimal Editorial Policy Committee (DEPC), the ALA/ALCTS Subject Analysis Committee has set up two subcommittees to aid in the work on DDC21. One subcommittee will review and comment on the proposed revisions to the schedules for 350-354 Public Administration, while the second subcommittee will aid the DEPC in deciding whether schedules 560-590, the Life Sciences, should be revised for DDC21 and if revised, what approach should be taken.

## Dewey Decimal Classification

The 1992 issue of DC&, to be published in March 1992 will include updates for DDC20 as follows: A full development for the Persian Gulf War: the relocation of

Cyprus from 956.45 to 956.93, development of Greece to reflect administrative changes, and the relocation of the Aegean Islands and Crete. In response to requests from the library community, shorter numbers for 394.26 Holidays will be published in the March 1993 DC&.

Drafts for the new schedules for 296 Judaism and 297 Islam will be under consideration by DEPC shortly.

A CD-ROM version of DDC has been issued to 8 libraries for field tests. The disk contains the full schedules of DDC20, tables, indexes and the manual. Also included are related Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH) and a sample of biliographic records, as well as the updated information from the first two issues of DC&, volume 5. This version of the schedules permits online searching and windowing techniques, indexing of every word in the schedules and a personal "notepad" for library decisions. Hopefully this product will demonstrate the viability of an electronic DDC. The field tests are intended to identify problems in design and use which might require adjustments before this product is made available to libraries.

## IFLA Section on Classification and Indexing

Over the past several years, a working Group of the Standing Committee on Classification and Indexing has been developing "Guidelines for Subject Authority and Reference Entries". These Guidelines have been submitted to the international library and information science community for review. Persons who wish to participate in this review should contact the Chair of the Working Group, Werner STEPHAN, Deutsche Bibliothek, Central Bibliographic Services, Frankfurt/Main, Germany.

The Section on Classification and Indexing presented a half-day programme during the 57th Council and General Conferenc of IFLA in Moscow in August 1991. Three papers were presented. Olga LAVRYONOVA, Russian State Library, spoke on "Thematic Search in the Automated Library System on the Basis of the Library Bibliographic Classification (BBK) with Subject Entry" and Maroetpit DIONGUE-DIOP, Bibliothèque Centrale de l'Université Cheikh Anta Diop, Dakar, Senegal, presented a paper on "Les problèmes de classification et d'indexation dans les bibliothèques africaines". Nancy WILLIAMSON presented an overview and analysis of the 5th International Study Conference on Classification Research held in Toronto, Canada, in June 1991.

<div align="right">Nancy Williamson</div>

## U.K. CRG 283

The 283rd Meeting of the British Classification Research Group took place on Oct.24, 1991 at the University College London with 8 members present.

With respect to the Ranganathan Centenary the meeting agreed that an open meeting of the CRG should be arranged after the ISKO Conference in Madras in August.

The dates of the meetings for 1992 were set: Febr,27, April 30, July 2, Oct.15 (Ranganathan Open Meeting),

and Dec.10, always on Thursdays at 2:15 PM at University College London except for Oct.15 at the Science Museum.

The discussions were opened by circulation of Mr.MILLS' revised BC2 "proposal for all sciences and technologies", containing the "Common Subdivisions for physical form and presentation and those of subjects". Mr.Mills had found that "many of the Common Subject Subdivisions were relationships rather than facets". He presented draft schedules for common subdivisions for 'law' and for 'technology'. He stated that they do not contain retroactive elements, their citation order depending on the relationship concerned (e.g. Education - History).

## U.K. CRG 284

The 284th CRG meeting took place on Dec.12, 1991 with 9 members present. Regarding the finances of the Group it was agreed that those members who had not paid their subscriptions for 3 or more years should cease to receive the minutes.

The Group welcomed the publication of Bliss Class A/AL (Philosophy and Logic); AN-AX Mathematics and V Fine Arts would be the next to be published.

It was reported that the librarian of the College of Librarianship Wales would take the file of CRG Minutes and associated papers, once the Bliss Library gave up responsibility for them.

The discussions continued on the topics of the previous meeting, especially with regard to the common subdivisions of persons and organizations as well as "general facilitating operations", as e.g. 'investigation', 'instrumentation', 'standardization'.

The topic of the next meeting was announced as being on "New Age" classification, to be introduced by Mr. Langridge.

*(Both CRG notes are based on the Unconfirmed Minutes).*