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INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION

A Journal Devoted to Concept Theory, Organization of Knowledge and Data, and to Systematic Terminology

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McDonell, D. J.: Classifications and their keys.
In: Intern. Classificat. 5 (1978) No.1, p. 3–7, 6 refs.

According to David Wiggins a classification is acceptable if it is explanatory, and it will be explanatory if it establishes law-like relations between its members. Applying Hempel's formal criteria for classification of Foucault's example, it is shown that it does not meet Wiggins' requirements because this classification is without a key. However, examining some of Paracelsus' classifications it is shown that even though, at first glance they are as strange as Foucault's example, they are explanatory within their system of thought, because the specific system of thought provides the key to understanding them. (Author)

Raghavan, K. S., Hemalata Iyer: Structuring of compound and complex subjects in social sciences: a users' survey.
In: Intern. Classificat. 5 (1978) No.1, p. 8–14, 2 refs.

Presents an analysis of the detailed survey on facet-analysed subject strings in the field of Social Sciences. Subject-strings of four types were administered as a stratified sample of responses to identify the gaps in semantic connotation of terms. This survey has helped to identify the possible aberrations in the semantic connotations due to the presence or absence of terms. It was found that use of prepositions, conjunctions and other role indicating terms give semantic clarity. The syntax of speciator terms may have to be varied according to the respondent groups. It was found that if the number of component terms in a subject string increases beyond a certain limit it gives rise to problems in interpretation of ideas. This indicates a breakeven point for formulating subject headings. (Authors)

Nocetti, M.: Agricultural soil science in universal classification systems. A comparative analysis.
In: Intern. Classificat. 5 (1978) No.1, p. 15–20, 21 refs.

This comparative analysis for the field of agricultural soil science in the DDC, BBC and LCC discusses presentation, structure and material relationships in these systems. Inconsistencies from several points of view are pointed out. A new structure is created using the elements of all three systems, grouping them in several facets and arranging them in an order facilitating their citation order. Some application examples show the applicability of the proposed system. (Author)

Henzler, R. G.: Free or controlled vocabularies. Some statistical user-oriented evaluations of biomedical information systems.
In: Intern. Classificat. 5 (1978) No.1, p. 21–26, 15 refs.

Based on CANCERNET (a literature information system, formerly called SABIR-C) a quantitative comparison of free text and controlled vocabulary used in indexing and retrieval is given. The advantages of free text search are compared with the convenience of searches using controlled vocabulary. An indexing consistency text of 683 double indexed articles is commented on. The results are evaluated with regard to loss of information from the author to the user. They show the necessity of both free text and controlled vocabulary in an optimum combination. (Author)

Ostarhild, K.: Problems of commodity classification.
In: Intern. Classificat. 5 (1978) No.1, p. 27–29

The classification of commodities must be seen as a subarea of the general structure of economics. Its objects of concern being both commodities and data on commodities, yielding material characteristics and management data. The "service life" of the commodity monitored by data is marked materially by function and organizationally by "agencies". Concludingly the weak spots in a commodity's "service life" are pointed out. I. C.

Carpenter, A. M., Jones, M., Oppenheim, Ch.: Consistency of use of the International Patent Classification. – Studies on Patent Classification Systems I.
In: Intern. Classificat. 5 (1978) No.1, p. 30–32, 5 refs.

Report on the result of a small-scale test of the consistency of use of IPC for the same invention by two sets of examiners in the USA and UK in two different subject areas: inorganic chemistry and biochemistry. Reasons for inconsistency are given and conclusions for the use of Derwent's and INPADOC's services are drawn. I. C.

Zingel, H.-J.: Experiences with TITUS II.
In: Intern. Classificat. 5 (1978) No.1, p. 33–37

Description of the international cooperative documentation system called TITUS (Textile Information Treatment Users' Service) in its previous and present form (TITUS II). It uses a special linguistic way of automatic translation of abstracts and index terms (with a controlled vocabulary and a controlled syntax) in order to supply users of the English, French, German or Spanish language with abstracts in their native language from inputs in one of the other languages. I. C.

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