

FID/CR News 37

Change of Name and Scope

At the FID/CR Business Meeting held during the 47th Conference and Congress of FID in Tokyo on October 5, 1994 the membership endorsed a change of name and scope of the Committee. Henceforth the Committee will be known as the **Committee on Classification Research for Knowledge Organization**. The acronym for the name of the Committee will continue to be FID/CR. In keeping with the change of name, the scope of the Committee's mandate was expanded to read as follows: *'To promote, sponsor and engage in research in the field of classification as it applies to all aspects of knowledge organization in storage and retrieval systems and all areas of information handling'*. These changes have been approved by the FID Management Board.

1994 Ranganathan Award for Classification Research

Congratulations to **Dr. Robert Fugmann**, chemist, documentalist and long-time member of FID/CR. At the FID/CR Business Meeting in Tokyo, the 1994 Ranganathan Award was presented to Dr. Fugmann 'for his long and distinguished contribution to classification research, in the field of subject analysis and indexing and, in particular for his work on the Five-Axiom-Theory of Indexing and Information Supply'. Dr. Fugmann is the 6th recipient of the award. The section committee included *Ingetraut Dahlberg, Ia McIlwaine, M.A. Gopinath, Elaine Svenonius and Nancy Williamson* (Chair).

Seminar on 'UDC and its Development Towards the 21th Century'

Prior to the 47th Conference, the Japanese Information Science and Technology Association (INFOSTA) and FID/CR organized a one-day seminar to update participants on activities relating to the UDC both in Japan and in general, and to introduce the recently published *Guide to the Use of UDC*. The proceedings were chaired by Professor Nancy Williamson, Chair of FID/CR, with Mrs. H. Uchida of JICST acting as moderator and Professor Y. Nakamura of INFOSTA translating those papers which were delivered in English.

The first presentation was delivered by Professor **T. Ishikawa** who outlined the usage of the UDC-MRF, the machine readable database of the UDC, which now constitutes the authorized version of the classification scheme. He described the format of the data based on Micro CDS/ISIS with an ASCII character code and consisting of more than 60,000 entries. He noted that the first hard copy version so far published was that issued by BSI (BS1000M:1993) and drew attention to the index which has been greatly enriched, by comparison with the previous edition. To date, there are not many Japanese users of the machine-readable database, largely because the principal users of the scheme come from the special libraries sector. **Mr. Ishikawa** identified two major

roles for the UDC: as a common indexing language for the exchange and distribution of information worldwide and as a basic system to represent the world of human knowledge. He perceived two weaknesses in UDC, the problem of retrieving a class description accurately because not all class descriptors were suitably phrased and the preference for free text searching by users which was hampered by the UDC's inability to cope with synonyms. He suggested the use of a thesaurus to resolve these problems. In conclusion, he recommended the use of UDC as a switching language to provide a concordance for users of different systems.

In the next paper, Professor **Y. Nakamura** described the present state of the UDC in Japan. He began by outlining the history of the scheme in his country, initially for use in the field of medicine. By the time of the Second World War the growth of scientific and technical literature in journal as well as monograph form was escalating and some system was needed to cope with the situation. UDC was deemed to be suitable for this and work began on a translation of the 3rd International Edition into Japanese, but wartime activities disrupted the undertaking and much of the work was irretrievably lost. After the War the work recommenced and an abridged Japanese edition was published in 1955 and a medium edition, based on the German Medium text, appeared in 1974. No later abridged version has been produced. UDC is used in a number of industrial libraries in Japan and for the classification of all Japanese standards. In the present day online environment, the JICST file, the largest Japanese database in science and technology, includes UDC numbers and users can search using either the classification or keywords. The classification is now maintained on a machine-readable database in Japan and the printed version and its index are generated by computer.

Professor Nakamura pointed out that Japan had co-operated in revision projects for a number of years, had sent a representative to the Central Classification Committee of the FID while it was in existence and was now an active participant in the UDC Consortium. For the future, he envisaged UDC as the basis for a multi-lingual dictionary covering all the principal languages of the world.

Following on the discussion of UDC activities and aspirations in Japan, **Dr. I. McIlwaine**, the Editor-in-Chief of UDC, introduced the *Guide to the Use of UDC*, which she has written, and demonstrated how it might be used in practice. She began by identifying the various ways and situations in which the UDC might be used, specifying in particular its suitability as a scheme for ordering shelves or files, as an enhancement to an online information service or for the arrangement of a bibliographical or indexing service. She differentiated between the needs of these various activities and emphasized the importance for indexers by first identifying their needs and then by familiarizing themselves with the scheme in some detail before attempting to apply it in a practical situation.

She drew attention to the outline of the classification, a feature lacking in many printed versions, and explained the various uses that can be made of the auxiliary tables, distinguishing those factors that are concerned with subjects from those which are concerned with the physical format of a document. She

stressed the importance of the clear analysis of a document's content before applying the classification and the need for consistency in the application of both the main and the auxiliary tables. She recommended the '*standard citation order*' as the starting point from which to base the organization of concepts and suggested that in order to maintain consistency it should be followed, or if another order were preferred, care should be taken to ensure that this was applied invariably. As a practical demonstration of some of the theoretical points that she had made, she took class 7 as an example and demonstrated how the various general and special auxiliaries could be used, how the citation order might be varied, so as to accommodate different interests and approaches and drew attention to some of the problems that might be encountered in practical usage through misunderstanding or misinterpretation of the instructions provided in the classification. She concluded her presentation by giving an indication of the improvements that are to be introduced into the scheme so as to eliminate some of the pitfalls that she had identified.

Mr. Alan Gilchrist next gave a presentation outlining the recent managerial developments relating to the UDC and identifying some of the problems that were faced by the publishers of the scheme. He explained that the UDC Consortium, a group of publishers, had been formed in 1991 and was now responsible for the classification. These publishers represented the organizations that were most active in promoting the UDC and who had seen the advantages of being in charge of the future direction of the classification. The major publishers of the classification are the British Standards Institution, the Belgian and Spanish standard organizations, INFOSTA of Japan, the Dutch publishers and FID itself. He reported on the interest that the completion of the Master Reference File had generated and listed the organizations who had applied for licences, either as publishers or for use in their local systems. He pointed out that one of the prevailing problems with the classification was shortage of funds, which tended to undermine a well-organized revision programme, but said that the appointment of an Editor-in-Chief, backed by an editorial board was seen as one way of stabilizing the programme and producing a more efficient system for the future. **Professor Williamson**, Chair of FID/CR, gave the concluding paper. She returned to the problems of revision and demonstrated that one of the ways in which UDC was attempting to cope with out-of-date classes, was to restructure the classification, using the framework of the Bliss Bibliographic Classification, which was much more up to date and better structured than the other general schemes. She reported that she and **Dr. McIlwaine** had, for the past eighteen months, been engaged in transforming the UDC class 61 into this new format and that they hoped to complete the project within the next year. The remodelled Medicine class in UDC would be accompanied by a thesaurus. The project had been reported in greater detail in **Extensions and corrections to the UDC 15**, 1993 and at the ISKO Conference in Copenhagen in June 1994.

I.C. McIlwaine

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FID/CR Business Meeting, Tokyo, October 5, 1994

An FID/CR business meeting was held in Tokyo during the FID Conference. The Chair of FID/CR, **Nancy Williamson**, welcomed members and guests to the meeting and reported briefly on recent activities of the Committee, focusing in the UDC Restructuring Project and indicating plans for the future to be discussed during the meeting. Her report summarized a written report which had been submitted to the FID Council at its meeting on October 4th.

Discussions stressed the importance of networking with other organizations including other FID committees and special interest groups. Following this, Professor **Williamson** presented the Ranganathan Award for Classification Research to **Dr. Fugmann**. It was noted that he is the 6th winner of the award and joins a distinguished company which includes **Derek Austin, Jean Aitchison, Jack Mills, Pauline Cochrane, and A. Neelameghan**.

Other items of business discussed at the meeting were related to the ongoing activities of the Committee. The membership of FID/CR had increased by 8 members over the past year and a rigorous membership and recruitment campaign is planned for 1994/1995 taking into account the changes in the membership policies of FID and the expanded role of FID/CR. Discussion of events surrounding the **1995 centenary of FID** considered possible involvement of FID/CR in any events related to the celebrations. Plans for a commemorative event are not yet formalized, but it is expected that the UDC Consortium would be involved in any such event. A decision was made to publish **Extensions and Corrections to the UDC**, Series 17 as a special commemorative issue. Invited authors will be asked to provide appropriate articles and it is hoped that results from the UDC Restructuring Project may be available in time for inclusion. Some time lines have been set for the various stages of the project to be completed. If these are met as meant, it would enable this to happen. Also, plans for a **6th International Study Conference on Classification Research** to be held in 1997 were discussed. This would be a three or four day conference to be held, if possible, in Dorking, UK. 1997 is the 40th anniversary of the 1st International Study Conference held in Dorking in 1957. The rationale for the 6th study conference would be the culmination of events leading up to Dorking II and the possible beginning of a new era in classification research for knowledge organization. The Chair of the Conference Organizing Committee will be **Dr. Ia McIlwaine** and suggestions were made as to potential members of the Committee. The timing of the conference is to be co-ordinated with the Annual Conference of IFLA, which in 1997 will be held in Copenhagen. So as not to be repetitive, the theme and content of the conference will take into account the next ISKO conference to be held in the United States in 1996.

In discussion of future projects for FID/CR, those present at the meeting recognized that it is highly desirable for FID/CR to become involved in projects which reflect its expanded

scope and some suggestions were made as to how this might come about. In this same context the development, expansion and dissemination of **FID/CR News** was addressed and several major decisions made about its future. Henceforth the content of *FID/CR News* will be published in the *FID News Bulletin* as well as in *Knowledge Organization*. The rationale for this decision is to give *FID/CR* and its activities a higher profile, both within *FID* and beyond, and to reach an audience of wider interest in the broad area of information handling, reflecting the changing role of *FID/CR*. The new publication will appear quarterly as a removable insert in the *Bulletin* and will alternate with the *ET Newsletter*. It will be a new publication with a new name and the content of the two *FID/CR* publications will overlap in part, but will not necessarily be identical.

In other business, suggestions were made for the appointment of a new Ranganathan Award Subcommittee. Following this, a major portion of the discussion centered on the change of name of the Committee. The subject of the change of name has been a recurring one over the past 10 years and there has always been a reluctance to replace the words 'classification research'. However, it had to be recognized that this terminology no longer reflects the overall interests of those engaged in research involving classification, while to those outside of *FID/CR* the name erroneously suggests a focus which is much narrower than it is in reality. In the light of past discussions it was important that the new name reflect the importance of the changing role of classification in all aspects of information handling, but also to retain the words 'classification research'. The result was a compromise in the name **Classification Research for Knowledge Organization**.

Publications on UDC

Geoffrey Robinson of the British Standards Institution (BSI) has prepared a nine page pamphlet entitled 'UDC in Brief'. This pamphlet will be useful for students and persons who are entirely unfamiliar with UDC. It is available free from BSI and from the FID Secretariat in The Hague.

A Japanese translation of 'Guide to the Use of UDC' has been prepared and was used at the Seminar in Tokyo. For further information please contact: Professor Yukio Nakamura, INFOSTA-NIPDOK 14-8 Nisikata-1 Bunkyo-ku, 113 Tokyo, Japan (FAX+81-3-3813-2378)

ASIS SIG/CR

At the Annual Conference of the American Society for Information Science (ASIS) in Alexandria, VA, the Special Interest Group on Classification Research (SIG/CR) held its 5th Classification Research Workshop on October 16, 1994 at the Radisson Hotel. This well attended Workshop was chaired jointly by **Raya Fidel, Clare Beghtol, Barbara Kwasnik** and **Philip Smith**. SIG/CR also presented one programme and co-sponsored a second one during the main ASIS conference.

At the **Classification Research Workshop**, 9 papers were presented. In the first segment of the programme there were four papers which dealt with the innovative use of classification beyond the domain of library and information science. In

his paper '*On the Relevance of Classification Theory to Database Design*' **Jeffrey Parsons** discussed a stream of research which applies classification research principles to database design. A data model was presented and the implications of the model for handling the class requirements for a domain were examined, for developing methods and techniques to design databases, and for implementing structures which support dynamic classification. In her paper on '*Information Technology Standardization: A Classification Process?*' **Carol Hert** explored standardization as a classification process. Through a comparison of definitions and an examination on several standards she suggested that if the classification process were made explicit it could provide a useful model for the development of future standards. A paper by **Lynne Bowker** and **Timothy Lethbridge** on '*Code 4: Applications for Managing Classification Schemes*' discussed a software tool called Code 4 (Conceptually Oriented Design/Description Environment, version 4), as a general purpose knowledge management system designed to assist users to create, modify, store or retrieve knowledge in the form of networks of related concepts. Examples used in the paper were taken from a knowledge base in the subject field of 'optical storage technology'. *Relationships and Divergence of Vegetation and Mapping Classification* by **Douglas Muchoney** uses the remote sensing-based mapping of vegetation classification to provide an analysis of the relationship between ecological classification and mapping, and the development of functional remote sensing-based classification to support landscape level categorization.

In the second segment of the programme there were also 4 papers. These dealt with research into classification in and classificatory structures within the domain of library and information science. **Nancy Williamson**'s paper on '*The Universal Decimal Classification: Research to Determine the Feasibility of Restructuring UDC into a Fully-Faceted System*' described the nature and progress of exploratory research using the facet framework of the Bliss Bibliographic Classification, Class H as the basis for restructuring Class 61 Medical Sciences in UDC. The research has implications for major changes in UDC and could provide a model for the development of new classification systems on specialized subject domains. *Object-Oriented Representation of DDC and the Number-Building Process* by **Mark Giguire, Steven Shadle** and **Jeanne Galbraith** experiments with the rule base and number building process in the Dewey Decimal Classification. The research examines a small portion of the DDC schedules using an object-oriented approach. The authors suggest that full-scale implementation of their prototype could be used to develop a decision support system for entry level cataloguers, and that the research has implications for the enhancement of user interfaces in online public access catalogues (OPACS). **Dagobert Soergel**'s paper on '*Software Support for Thesaurus Construction and Display*' described '*advanced functions*' for thesaurus construction using a software package called 'TermMaster' which is under development at the University of Maryland and which has been used already in developing his AOD thesaurus. The software supports multiple thesauri. Each thesaurus can be

processed separately but the author suggests that major benefits are achieved by combining data from several thesauri or comparing a target thesaurus with other thesauri. In the final paper in this segment, Marsha and **Michael Lustigman** described research carried out on the *Bibliographic Classification of Documents Dealing with the Subject 'Holocaust'*. In this research using the 'Holocaust' as the domain, the authors examine distinct ways in which this historical event is handled in a number of national libraries across the world. Through an analysis of bibliographic classification practices the study enquires into procedures by which national libraries work to promote and sustain the vision which each state has of itself. In essence this research examines the problems of providing systems which may be interrogated for the same subject by users with different languages, nationalities and cultures.

The final segment of the programme consisted of a discussion paper and a panel. A paper presented by **Hanne Albrechtsen** and **Birger Hjoerland** addressed *Understandings of Language and Cognition: Implications for Classification Research*. It advocates a 'domain-analytic' approach to information science based on the sociology of knowledge and philosophy of science as an alternative to individualistic views such as cognitivism. It argues for more interpretative epistemologies, more emphasis on discourse analysis and a more historical orientation and draws implications for classification research. A panel, chaired by **Elin Jacob** and consisting of **David Dubin**, **Caroline Eastman**, **Barbara Kwasnik**, **Michael Ranney**, **Chatpong Tangmanee** and **Janice Woo** responded to the paper with audience participation.

Participants in the Workshop had received preliminary proceedings which contained the papers presented together with some additional papers and abstracts. This version of the proceedings is to be edited and published in final form for wider distribution.

During the main ASIS conference, Oct. 17-20, 1994 on *The Economics of Information*, the SIG/CR presented a programme on **Information Science and Terminology Science: Interconnections for Increased Research Efficiency** chaired by **Clare Beghtol**, a topic which has implications for cross-fertilization between the two research areas. In this session a terminology scientist, **Lynne Bowker**, presented a paper on *Faceted Classification in Terminology: A Knowledge Engineering Approach*. In it she discussed the application of knowledge engineering to multi-dimensional classification in terminology. In the second paper, *The Thesaurus Connection*, **Michèle Hudon** discussed the development of thesauri using terminological principles, standards and methods. In a second programme sponsored jointly with SIG/FIS (Foundations of Information Science) and moderated by **Patric Wilson** four papers were presented. These included *Historical paradigm in the Philosophy of Classification* by **Ingetraut Dahlberg**, *A Classification of Some Prerequisites for a Modern Philosophy of Classification* by **Hanne Albrechtsen**, *The Dewey Decimal Classification as Technobureaucratic Discourse* by **Bernd Frohmann** and *Cognition and Classification: A Cross-Disciplinary Approach to a Philosophy of Classification* by **Elin Jacob**.

Dewey Decimal Classification Research

In October 1994 OCLC Forest Press announced a draft research for the Dewey Decimal Classification in the Electronic Age. Four research goals are set forth with a list of potential projects. Research licenses for subject of the database are available from OCLC Forest Press for approved projects. Inquiries, additions and comments concerning the agenda are welcomed and should be addressed to: OCLC Forest Press, 85 Watervliet Avenue, Albany, NY 12206, USA (518 489-8549). The research goals and the text of the agenda is as follows:

Goal 1: To improve cataloguer productivity in the electronic environment by including decision support features and improved data displays in Electronic Dewey. Potential projects would:

1. Support point-and-click number building, and verify component parts of built numbers;
2. Propose candidate DDC numbers based on an analysis of the subject headings and description;
3. Develop effective presentation strategies for tabular data (e.g. add tables, tables of preference, formatted Manual notes).

Goal 2: To improve the index to DDC to enhance its use in classification and subject retrieval. Potential projects would:

1. Add records for build numbers and personal names with high posting in the OCLC Online Union Catalog;
2. Add reviewed LCSH terms in a designated index (in addition to the statistically mapped terms);
3. Integrate terminology from other thesauri and classification systems.

Goal 3: To explore the use of DDC to enhance subject retrieval in online catalogues and databases. Potential projects would:

1. Develop an end-user version of Electronic Dewey;
2. Explore the use of DDC as a switching language in multilingual catalogues and between databases;
3. Decompose DDC numbers to allow retrieval of facets of a topic;
4. Study the impact on subject retrieval of the addition of multiple facets or multiple full numbers to bibliographic records. Introduce coding to show relationships among topics represented on individual and multiple DDC numbers.

Goal 4: To explore the use of DDC as a general organizing device in the electronic information environment. Potential projects would:

1. Investigate the use of DDC as a tool for organizing front-end systems (e.g. gophers) and retrieving information across the Internet;
2. Explore the use of DDC as an organizing device for electronic files (e.g. corporate information files);
3. Explore the potential of using DDC to organize knowledge bases in expert systems; and
4. Investigate the use of DDC in automatic indexing and thesaurus construction as a tool to discover hierarchies and relationships.

IFLA Section on Classification and Indexing

At the 1994 IFLA Conference in Havana, Cuba, the Section on Classification and Indexing presented a programme in which three papers were presented. **Yolanda Arencibia** (Cuba) presented a paper on *Current Trends on Classification and Indexing in Cuba*. Her presentation provided an overview of the principal trends in the country with examples of libraries and documentation centres that maintain bibliographic exchange with libraries in the region and described what is currently happening in other national institutions in

the field. **Arencibia** mentioned UNESCO's INFOLAC programme, presently located in Venezuela, one of whose fundamental objectives is the establishment of standards for information exchange in Latin America and the Caribbean. An important tool in information exchange in the area is the use of UNESCO's Micro/ISIS software by 7000 subscribers. The paper also outlined the activities in classification and indexing in 10 agencies including the library of the 'Casa de las Americas', the Cultural Heritage Inventory Network of the Ministry of Culture of Cuba, the Library of the Higher Institute of International Relations (ISRI), the Cuban Board of Central Planning's Information Centre (JUCEPLAN), the National Network of Medical Science Information, the Scientific/Technical Information and Documentation Institute of the Academy of Sciences of Cuba (IDICT), the Documentation Centre of Unesco's Regional Cultural Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ORCALC) and the National Library of Cuba. In her conclusion **Arencibia** stated that in terms of classification in Cuba the Dewey Decimal Classification predominates and there is some use of UDC. In indexing there is a balance between subject headings and descriptors. A paper by **Gerhard Riesthuis** (Netherlands) discussed the *Sociological Aspects of Classification*. He defined classification and discussed bibliographic classifications in general in the light of the various aspects presented by these schemes - subject, form, geographic and time aspects. In terms of social phenomena **Riesthuis** emphasised and discussed their role in subject classifications in three ways. With respect to subject classification he addressed three factors - subject mentioned in classifications, the ordering of subjects in classifications, and the use of classifications. Literary warrant is identified as the most important factor in which subjects are included in schemes, and faceted classification is seen as a possible answer to problems of order. He concluded that the choice of a classification to be used is determined more on the bases of sociological and economic reasons than on information science considerations. The final paper *El Proceso de Construcción de Tesoros y de Indexación Automatizada de Documentos Fotográficos en la Biblioteca Nacional del Brasil* was prepared by **Sergio Apelian Valerio, Monica Carneiro Alves and Graziella de Castro Pigozzo**. This paper has not been translated into English, but as the title indicates it dealt with the construction of a thesaurus for the automatic indexing of photographs in the National Library of Brazil. The paper outlined the history and background of the project, the problems of indexing and building a suitable thesaurus in the Portuguese language and emphasised the problems of subdivisions. The system is LCSH-like and draws on LCSH and the LC Thesaurus for Graphic Materials.

Allerton Institute on New Roles for Classification in Library and Information Networks

This institute, held at the Robert Allerton Park and Conference Center, Monticello, Illinois, was a follow up on an institute on the *Role of Classification in the Modern America Library* held at the same venue 35 years ago, in 1959. There

were approximately 100 participants from a number of countries. The purpose of the institute was to reconsider the role of classification in the light of changes in technology, the emergence of large information networks and the development of electronic text systems. It was organized by **Pauline Cochrane** (USA).

The institute opened with keynotes addressed by **Lois Chan** (USA), **Pat Molholt** (USA), and **Ingetraut Dahlberg** (Germany) who focused on the broad issues which must be faced by classification in information systems in the future. A second segment of the conference focused on *Preparing Traditional Classifications for the Future*. There were 5 speakers, each focusing on one of the major schemes. Speakers included **Joan Mitchell** (USA) on the Dewey Decimal Classification, **Ia McIlwaine** (UK) on the Universal Decimal Classification, **Eric Coates** (UK) on the Bliss Bibliographic Classification and the Broad System of Ordering, **Rebecca Guenther** and **Jan Herd** (USA) on the Library of Congress Classification, and **Christa Hoffman** (USA) on the National Library of Medicine Classification. Each spoke about current projects and future developments of the respective systems. These two sessions were followed by four panel discussions which focused on the *Critical Appraisal of the Use of Classification in the Future*. Each panel presented a particular segment of the information community. The focuses of the panels were non-traditional uses of classification, classification viewed by library administrators, classification viewed in libraries and networks abroad and researchers' views on the role of classification. Each panel member gave a short presentation and the views expressed among panel members and across panel were, as might be expected, very divergent, making for lively discussion. The final half-day of the institute dealt with 'What lies ahead?'. Presentations were made focusing on the various types of libraries. **Sarah Thomas** (USA) spoke on national libraries, **Roland Hjerppe** (Sweden) on special libraries, **Philip Bryant** (UK) on research libraries, **Eliza Dresang** (USA) on school libraries and **Jan Ison** (USA) on public libraries. These speakers were followed by a panel on *What Lies Ahead for Classification and Information Networks?*. This was an international panel which included participants from Germany, the UK, Canada, and the USA who described the network situations in their own countries. In the final session of the institute **Marcia Bates** and **Sarah Thomas** (USA) presented summary papers in which they endeavoured to summarize and provide some insights into *What May be Needed to Improve the Role of Classification in the Future?*. Because the organizers of this institute were striving for spontaneous and fruitful discussion, there was no distribution of papers or panel members' comments prior to or at the conference. Participants expressed a desire to have the contents of the institute published and consideration is being given to this, although plans are not yet firm.

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