the 19th century (Psychology classed as part of Philosophy, Electrical engineering as a subdivision of Mechanical engineering, History far removed from Sociology, the smoking habit classed as "abnormal behavior", and so on). Are beginning classifiers to hit upon these subjects purely by intuition? I believe that not even Satija's patron, saint Ranganathan, (who once recommended meditation as a last resort in finding an appropriate class mark) would quite agree, not to mention the fact that Melvil Dewey himself considered the Relative Index to be the most important part of his scheme.

As usual in a book written by an Indian author, the language used is florid, and peppered with unusual idioms (possibly literal translations from Hindi?). Thus, by implication we learn that the DDC seems to be flourishing in Antarctica, since Satija claims that it is being used "across the seven continents" (p.VII) in a "puck-like girdle" (the allusion to *A Midsummernight's Dream* remains unexplained).

<div align="right">Hans H. Wellisch</div>

1 Bloomberg, Marty; Weber, Hans: An introduction to classification and number building in Dewey. Littleton, CO: Libraries Unlimited 1976.

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HARROD, Leonard Montague: **Harrod's Librarians' Glossary of Terms Used in Librarianship, Documentation and the Book Crafts and Reference Book. 6th ed.** Comp.by Ray Prytherch. Aldershot, Hants.: Brookfield, Vermont: Gower 1987. X,855p., ISBN 0-566-03538-3

Only three years have elapsed since the fifth edition and a new edition of Harrod's Glossary has been published. M.P.Satija appreciated the story of the striking success of this classical reference book in his review of the fifth edition (Int.Classif.12(1985)No.3, p.164). Whereas L.M.Harrod, the originator of the work, still acted as an advisory editor of the fifth edition, Ray Prytherch alone prepared the sixth edition, Mr. Harrod having died in 1984.

In the preface to the fifth edition, Mr.Prytherch noted his belief "that in the middle to late 1980s a fundamental re-appraisal of the Glossary will take place" as an "inevitable result of advancing technology and professional development". The author, however, dropped his consideration of a radical re-structuring of the Glossary, for example by removing the book craft and printing terms. He now sees the advantage of a reference book presenting "in one volume historical and current information, the older but still relevant terms, with the newest".

Why then a new edition after no more than three years? Mr.Prytherch justifies it with the rapid developments in many of the fields relevant to modern library and information work, causing him, as he says, to include a variety of terms from peripheral, non-traditional fields. Over 600 new entries have been added, and over 400 terms from the fifth edition have been revised or removed, so are the statistics in the preface. The extent of the volume, however, has practically

remained the same (861 pages in the fifth edition, 855 in the sixth edition).

Does the author keep his promise of taking into account the many terms from the new fields having become important for librarianship and documentation? He does it only to a very limited extent.

In his preface to the sixth edition, Mr.Prytherch refers to a paper of the Library and Information Services Council on the wide range of skills now appropriate to library and information work. Of the terms that Mr. Prytherch quotes from the paper mentioned, only about a half has been included into the Glossary. I missed authorship, primary publishing, collection management, system design and management, management of resources (resource sharing is lacking, too), information analysis and repackaging (information analysis centre is included), question and answer services, marketing, signposting, consultancy (library consultant is included).

Of the terminology in connection with information technology and pertinent to librarianship and documentation only some fragments have been included. I admit that the big problem here is to keep boundaries. But I think that terms having found their way into the professional vocabulary of a librarian or a documentalist should be included. In this respect I missed bibliographic utility, computer-assisted instruction (CAI), compatibility, compiler, data flowchart, data acquisition, communication format (with its synonyms), data carrier (data medium), data compression, data conversion, data element, interface, inverted file, line mode, page mode, printer (as a computer-output device), impact printer, non-impact printer, daisy wheel printer, ink-jet printer (laser printer and matrix printer are included), record label, record length, record number, record status, serial access, direct access, subfield, and numerous others.

Many of the terms from the fields of information technology contained in the sixth edition were to be met already in the fifth edition. When comparing a number of corresponding pages in the fifth and the sixth edition I found out that only a relatively small quantity of terms from information technology has been added in the sixth edition. Agood deal of the additions I met consisted of abbreviations of corporate names and of new corporate names.

I think the big and difficult work of updating the Glossary by including all the important terms from modern information technology and from other fields of new relevance to librarianship and documentation has still to be done. And the principal question again arises: Can it be done without driving out the historical terms? I think it could be done, even with the risk of getting a two-volume Glossary in the near future. But then a pocket dictionary, a short version of the Glossary, containing the current terms of modern librarianship should be created, available at a reasonable price, within the means of a student and a small library.

What about the terminology of classification, being of special interest to the readers of this journal? I checked 66 of the more fundamental terms in this field and found out that only 5 of them were lacking. This result confirmed the reviewer's opinion that in the more traditional fields pertinent to librarianship, Harrod's Glossary is a rich source of information. I have very often and intensively used it and my experience is that it only seldom fails.

The claim of the author that the Glossary also includes important European terms may rise hopes that cannot be filled. I found only a few terms from the German library scence, they seemed to have got into the Glossary more by accident than by careful consideration. And when they were so fortunate to be included then it happened to be in the English translation (if they are not entered under their acronyms). So the Deutscher Bibliotheksverband is entered under German Library Association, but no reference is made from its original name. Mention is made of the Prussian Instructions, but I looked in vain for the Regeln für die Alphabetische Katalogisierung (RAK) which have superseded them. The same is true of the other countries of the European continent.

A problem is the alphabetization word by word. As in English orthography the spelling of compound terms often varies between spelling in two (or more) words, hyphenation and spelling in one word the user of the Glossary must not forget to look up such terms in the various possible ways of spelling if he does not succeed at the first attempt. Even the author could not wholly avoid the pitfalls of his filing order. The material pasted on the inside of the spine of a book is entered under back lining and backlining. A special problem are the hyphenated words. Sometimes the hyphen ranks as a blank, sometimes hyphenated words are treated as if they were one word. My recommendation is to change over to filing letter by letter.

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PANYR, Jiri: **Automatische Klassifikation und Information Retrieval.** Anwendung und Entwicklung komplexer Verfahren in Information-Retrieval-Systemen und ihre Evaluierung. (Automatic classification and information retrieval. Application and development of complex procedures in IR systems and their evaluation). Tübingen, FRG: M.Niemeyer Verlag 1986. 416 p., 358 refs., ISBN 3-484-31912-7; = Sprache und Information, Bd.12

The title of this book is too broad. This is a dissertation on a specific procedure for automatic classification called STEINADLER. This procedure is a component of CONDOR (COmmunication in Natural language with Dialogue-Oriented Retrieval), a system developed by Siemens in Munich from 1973-1981. There is a very condensed review of some methods for automatic classification in Chapter 2, but the methods are simply described without giving their rationale; the interested reader should look for a good book on the subject. Chapter 11 gives a superficial literature report on retrieval system evaluation without much analysis. Chapter 12 on the role of automatic classification in combination with other techniques in a retrieval system is rather opaque.

The real contribution of the book is the description of the STEINADLER system in Chapters 3 through 10. The chapters are: 3. Principles of the STEINADLER approach; 4. Thesaurus structure; 5. The determination of the levels of hierarchy in the classification (formation of priority classes); 6. Cluster analysis within the individual hierarchical levels of the classification; 7. Linkages between neighboring levels of hierarchy in the classification; 8. Possibilities for updating the classification (dynamic classification); 9. Interpretation of the classification results (relevance feedback).

This may very well be a good and useful system, but the book offers no evidence of its usefulness. There is no report of, or even reference to, results of retrieval experiments, even though such experiments have been carried out. There is no cost data. There is no indication of whether the system is in practical use anywhere, and if so, what experience has been gathered in such use. The reader therefore, cannot judge whether the complexities in the procedure being described really serve a purpose or whether indeed the effort needed to understand these complexities is worthwhile.

The description is by no means easy to read. It makes quite heavy use of symbols, subscripts, and superscripts, even when that is not necessary.

What is called a thesaurus in the book is a list of word stems extracted from a corpus of text with relationships among these stems derived through automatic classification. Given that synonym control is *not* guaranteed in such a thesaurus - as the author very usefully points out - it seems unwise to refer to these word stems as "thesaurus concepts" (Thesaurusbegriffe) (p.135).

On page 142 one finds the following assertion: "The descriptors which occur infrequently in the collection of documents when used in retrieval lead to higher precision (with accordingly smaller recall), while retrieval with general terms may lead to higher recall with a large number of unwanted documents". This generalization, however widespread it may be and however attractive it may seem to mathematicians, is not tenable; a narrow search with a narrow term and a broad search with a broad term will both have acceptable recall and acceptable precision. Recall and precision are not defined in terms of the large or small number of documents found but in terms of the relationship between what is found and what is wanted. At least the author recognizes the value of broad terms for further narrowing a request that uses more thematically focussed terms (p.146).

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CAPURRO, Rafael: **Hermeneutik der Fachinformation** (Hermeneutics of special-subject information). Freiburg-München: Karl Alber 1986. 239p., ISBN 3-495-47593-1

Naturally, not every fact man finds himself confronted with is understandable by its very nature. Man's "being-in-the-world" has always been conditioned by a "pre-understanding" which he necessarily introduces into his every concrete understanding action.

To Rafael Capurro, any such pre-understanding has its roots in what, following Hannah Arendt, he defines as the fundamental characteristic of "human existence": the communication among and actions by people in their common world. Denying thereby the existence of an "encapsulated psyche" (Medard Boss), Capurro's hermeneutics - despite a terminology indebted to Heideggerian thinking - approaches Marxist dialectics (cf.