

# ISKO News 34

Edited by Clare Beghtol

## Sixth International ISKO Conference

The 6th International ISKO Conference will be held at the Faculty of Information Studies, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada on July 10-13, 2000. The general theme of the Conference is Dynamism and Stability in Knowledge Organization, and paper proposals on specific themes are invited. The specific themes are: Cognitive and Linguistic Foundations; Theories of Knowledge and Knowledge Organization; Information Policies and Management of Knowledge Structures; Global Users and Uses of Knowledge and Knowledge Organization; and New Information Technologies for Knowledge Organization. The full Call for Papers appears in this issue of *Knowledge Organization*. Please address enquiries to [isko@fis.utoronto.ca](mailto:isko@fis.utoronto.ca).

Theoretical and Formal Aspects of Indexing; Indexing and its Content; and Indexing and Users Studies. Papers will be in French or English. Further information is available by email from [isko@enssib.fr](mailto:isko@enssib.fr) or at <http://enssibhp.enssib.fr/Enssib/actu/isko99>.

## Formation of Czech ISKO Chapter (ISKO-CZ)

A new ISKO Chapter in the Czech Republic is in the process of being formed. The Preparatory Board of ISKO-CZ met in Prague in June, 1999 to draft its mission and statutes. The Chapter plans to convene at least one conference a year and possibly other meetings. More detailed information can be obtained from Josef Schwarz, Protestant Theological Faculty of Charles University, email [schwarz@ruk.cuni.cz](mailto:schwarz@ruk.cuni.cz).

## Sixth National German Workshop

The German Chapter of ISKO will host its 6th National Workshop, entitled Globalization and Knowledge Organization, on September 23-25, 1999. The Workshop, which contains a strong program of 50 papers, will take place at the Fachhochschule in Hamburg. More information and the full Workshop program for each day can be found at <http://www.bonn.iz-soz.de/wiss-org/HHprog.htm> and a poster is also available at <http://www.bonn.iz-soz.de/wiss-org/HHplakatOH.ppt>. Please direct other enquiries to the convenor, H. Peter Ohly, at [oh@bonn.iz-soz.de](mailto:oh@bonn.iz-soz.de).

## Second ISKO-France Conference

Indexing in the Age of the Internet will be held in Lyon on October 21-22, 1999. This interdisciplinary Conference is sponsored by ISKO-France, ENSSIB and ERSICO-Université Jean Moulin Lyon 3, and specific topics include Metadata; Traditional Indexing and Classification Tools; Multimedia and Hypermedia Documents; Natural Language Processing; Indexing and Multilingual Information Retrieval; Indexing and Image Retrieval; Pattern Recognition Techniques;

## IN MEMORIAM: Eric de GROLIER

Eric de Grolier passed away on February 21, 1998, at the age of 86, and his brilliant and deep insights will be sadly missed in our field. His research and publications on classification problems have covered most of this century, since he first published at twenty and carried on up to his last years. Summarizing his contribution to a better understanding of knowledge organization is a difficult task, in that he explored so many scientific domains (classification science itself, of course, but also linguistics, semantics, sociology, philosophy) and had such varied social activities (an advocate for popular reading, book seller, librarian, translator, terminologist, teacher, researcher, expert in classification schemes and in information management!). It seems that the hallmarks of this outstanding intellectual were an encyclopaedic curiosity and a powerful synthetic mind, the very qualities of his self-professed intellectual guide: Diderot, the philosopher of the Enlightenment.

As a researcher in the field of classification, he authored a number of publications, among which was the well-known 'Study of General Categories Applicable to Classification and Coding in Documentation' (1962). He was also recognized as a respected expert

in the international organizations which asked him for reports and advice (Unesco, FID, IFLA). Unfortunately, his prospective views on the necessary development of Information Science as a new field of education and research did not receive the support they deserved in his own country, although he did receive an award from the French National Center for Scientific Research.

Eric de Grolier enjoyed teaching. He taught courses in several Colleges or Universities in France, Morocco, Canada, the USA, and many of his former students still remember the brilliant and humorous style of his lectures.

When Ingetraut Dahlberg decided to create 'Knowledge Organization' as a new international society, she naturally asked him to become a member and consulting editor, which he accepted in an enthusiastic letter. One year later, he participated in the first ISKO conference in Darmstadt (1990) both as a speaker and as a summarizer – a task at which he excelled. On his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday, in June 1991, Ingetraut Dahlberg kindly devoted a special issue of *International Classification* to him, in order – she then wrote – "to honor him ... for all his 'fighting' for the recognition and future of knowledge organization throughout the past 60 years".

Eric de Grolier, many of whose writings were never published, has bequeathed his archives to the French National Higher School of Librarianship (ENSSIB). Let us hope that young researchers will study them extensively and prolong the influence of his vigorous and fruitful insights.

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#### ISKO Member No. 1

Prof.Dr.med.Otto Nacke was the first to join ISKO after its foundation on July 22, 1989, ten years ago. Recently, on May 18, 1999, he decided to celebrate his 84<sup>th</sup> birthday by inviting his colleagues, friends and relatives to his home in Bad Salzuflen near Bielefeld for an additional reason: 50 years ago he founded, together with six other medical doctors, a *Committee for Medical Documentation and Statistics* within the *German Documentation Society*. A few years later this Committee became a society of its own that has about 2000 members now. Prof. Gustav Wagner (82), the only one still living of these six others, was the first speaker and gave an account of the founding and the development of this society. After

Nacke, Wagner had become the Editor of the journal *Methods of Information in Medicine* (also founded by Nacke), and still is active for it. Other speakers mentioned Nacke's activities as director of the Bielefeld *Institute for Social Medicine* and his interest in organizing relevant conferences, such as one on UDC development ("Experts meet Experts", 1975), since he had chaired the UDC Committee 61 Medicine, and another one on "Documentation and Mathematics". Prof. Nacke was also a member of the German *Society for Classification* and contributed in a lively way to its development until ISKO was founded.

After his retirement Prof. Nacke devoted himself to studies in science-theoretical topics in medicine and became a member of the Board of Editors of the relevant journal which Derek de Solla Price had founded. Thereafter, on the basis of insights he got from establishing a major bibliography on "Error-research in medicine" some 30 years ago, his inventive spirit detected a new field of interest. In his own, essentially academic lecture on the occasion of this birthday invitation, he defined, explained and described this new field, which he had named "*Veritology and Error Research*". He showed to the quite astonished audience what he had developed in the past seven years concerning the contents and structure of the "Science of Truth – Veritology". And he was absolutely up-to-date in demonstrating the use of his lap-top to bring his findings onto a large screen. He surprised in this way not only his old and young friends but also his relatives, his children and grandchildren. ISKO can really be proud of its very first member. Let us hope and wish that his great desire, to organize an international conference on this topic and to establish "*Veritology and Error Research*" as an autonomous field of science in the universities, may come true – possibly still in his lifetime!

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#### IN MEMORIAM: Julius Shrejder

On August 24, 1998, Juli Shrejder, one of the first two Russian ISKO members passed away. In the 1960s I became „acquainted“ with him by documenting his relevant articles for the German periodical *Nachrichten für Dokumentation* from the Russian NTI, and in 1974 I was pleased to sit next to him at a conference in the large office of Prof. Michailov from VINITI. When, later on, scanning the *Referativnyi Zhurnal* for the bibliography in *International Classification* and reading the excellent abstracts he had writ-