

cation/thesauri found in these proceedings on the one hand, and matching them to those in other databases, resource guides, and WWW virtual libraries on the other hand.

Multilingual issues were again heavily addressed, representing a special feature of European conferences. In addition to the topics of classification, terminology, thesauri, software, and other tools, particular attention was given to environmental education programs and environmental networking on an international scale such as CEDAR (Central European Environmental Data Request Facility).

The limitation of this publication is that it was restricted to the available papers submitted to the conference. It was, therefore, not able to cover experiences and opinions from many other important environmental information services such as several major commercial database producers and encyclopedia editors. Most of the papers came from the leading organizations and services at national and international levels, lacking representation of smaller and lower level participants. Coverage of environmental sources appearing on the Internet in recent years is also lacking. Taking an example of several very well organized and popular Web sites, it is obvious that they have become more and more important in scholarly communication and information transfer in the environmental research community. Certain questions have not been addressed, such as: how have these electronic sources been organized and how are the theories and tools of knowledge organization applied to these dynamic services? The reviewer would suggest that in the future this series "Knowledge Organization in Subject Areas" break through the restriction of available papers from conferences. At some point, it will be useful to organize additional contributions beyond the conferences. The proceedings also suffered from the time limits that the first volume could only include those papers delivered early enough. This resulted in the separation of some papers from their abstracts, the absence of abstracts in some papers, and the duplicate listing of titles in both volumes. In addition, the second volume which was published several month later did not follow the subject grouping pattern used by the first volume. In spite of these problems, the proceedings are very successful and valuable.

A very important component of the proceedings is in the last section of the second volume entitled "*Recommendations*" which was produced at a final conference chairpersons' meeting. Ten points were summarized by the editors. Environmental and knowledge organization specialists call for:

- more coordination in environmental knowledge organization
- more harmonization of approaches to classification and knowledge organization tools such as in the environmental fields
- more support for creating multilingual tools
- more initiatives involving East-European countries in the process of creating and maintaining multilingual tools and terminology
- fewer initiatives and more fruitful results
- more attention to standards and legal aspects
- more balance in global thinking and local action

- more attention to the end user of the knowledge organization tools
- more forums and space for exchange of experiences and more coordination/harmonization meetings
- more efficient environmental systems with not only rich data but also with rich, easily retrievable information.

The value of the publication is not merely its rich and informative contents on organizing knowledge and information in environmental sciences. It is valuable also because it demonstrates a systematic approach and comprehensive methodology in dealing with knowledge organization problems in a particular subject area. The papers covered many aspects of knowledge organization, ranging from the understanding of the nature of the subject area, the exploring of conceptual frameworks and terminology, to the forming of classification schemes and thesauri, and the application of these tools in databases, catalogs, and networks, in single or multiple languages, in local or international organizations. It is recommended by this reviewer that people who work in the areas of organizing information, developing classification and thesauri, and doing subject indexing and cataloging, and who conduct research in such areas as environmental sciences, knowledge organization, informatics, terminology, and lexicography should read these two volumes and should pay attention to the methodologies presented. It is also hoped that the recommendations made by this conference and included in these proceedings will be noted by everyone who cares about our environment and our efforts in knowledge organization.

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I Taylor, R.S.: Value-added processes in information systems. Norwood, N.J.: Ablex Publ.Corp.1986.

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GARCIA MARCO, Francisco Javier (Ed.): **Organización del Conocimiento en Sistemas de Información y Documentación**. Proceedings of the First ISKO-España Meeting, Madrid, 4-5 Nov.1993. Zaragoza: Ministerio de Educación y Ciencia. Universidad de Zaragoza. Capitulo Español de ISKO 1995.

The first ISKO Conference held in Madrid, Spain, and co-sponsored by the International Society for Knowledge Organization, was attended by an important representation of university professors, professionals, researchers and advanced students in the field of information science, coming from all over the country. The main goals of the conference were two: the first one was to give the opportunity for the people interested in knowledge organization to meet and to offer for them a suitable ground to exchange ideas, research results, teaching experiences and practical approaches to different topics in the field. The second one was to create the Spanish Chapter of ISKO (ISKO-España). For all of this, the meeting was an important event for the Spanish informa-

tion scientists that had, for this special occasion, the presence of Ingetraut Dahlberg, representing the International Society for Knowledge Organization, who gave the opening paper on *Current Trends in Knowledge Organization*.

The papers included in the book under review dealt with the general topic of the meeting. The review follows the structure of the conference.

The subject of the first session was *Theoretical approaches and perspectives for knowledge organization*, papers dealt with conceptual structures, terminology, scientific paradigms for information retrieval and knowledge organization in special settings. The six interesting papers presented in this session allowed the attendants to learn about other colleagues' basic research lines and their field-theoretical framework.

Teaching knowledge organization was the topic of the second session. Eleven papers were presented, many of them referred to the teaching of indexing languages in general and the UDC in particular. These contributions were of special interest for the attendants who worked at universities, because different methods of teaching the same subject were discussed. Some of the proposed methods were actually used in schools of librarianship and information science in Spain, and, in some cases, an evaluation of them had been undertaken, thus the effectiveness of the methods could also be examined. This session gave also the opportunity of discussing the curricula of different Spanish universities with respect to this subject. Since most of the faculties and schools of librarianship and information science in Spain are quite young - on the average only ten years - teaching methodology and curriculum development are important issues.

Applied research was the topic of the third and last session. In five papers the results of actual research projects taking place in different Spanish institutions were presented and discussed. Topics covered were of a wide range: computer-assisted document generation, indexing terms as indicators of scientific knowledge, occurrences of indexing terms in the ISOC bibliographical data base, bibliographic arrangement and ordering systems, construction of indexing languages for small and medium educational centers and planning of information systems for museums.

The closing talk was given by José M. Izquierdo on the topic *Conceptual structures for documentary representation*. The book includes also a presentation to the conference proceedings by Emilia Curras.

Although not contained in the book, a remarkable event at the end of the conference was the creation of the Spanish Chapter of ISKO. Taken as a whole, there is no doubt that the ISKO-España meeting was a great success, regarding the fact that for the first time the interested colleagues could get together from all over Spain and regarding also the valuable papers presented as shown in the proceedings volume. Since its creation, the ISKO-España chapter has become a very active body. Members of the executive body were elected later on with *Emilia Curras* as president, *Javier García Marco* as Vicepresident, *Miguel Angel Estéban* as Treasurer, *Rosa San Segundo* as Secretary, and *Constanza Espelt*, *Pilar Ortega*, *José M. Izquierdo*, *M. José López-Huertas*, *Adelaida Román* and *José Luis Udriondo* as board members.

One of its main tasks will be to continue to organize conferences of the kind of the Madrid meeting. As a result, the second ISKO meeting, organized by the Spanish chapter, had already taken place in Madrid on Nov. 16-17, 1995.

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HUSAIN, Shabahat: Library Classification: Facets and Analysis. New Delhi: Tata McGraw-Hill 1993. 367p. ISBN 0-07-4601149-0

Shabahat Husain is an experienced teacher in many fields, known for his writings on classification and broader areas of knowledge organization. He claims to have written this book in reaction to having not found „even one textbook which covered the subject adequately“ (Preface). He is mostly correct as far as Western books are concerned for Indian course contents, though „at home“ one finds Krishan Kumar's encyclopaedic textbook on classification (1), although now a bit dated. Consequently his aim was to write a comprehensive text especially for Indian students.

Indeed it is an A/Z textbook touching upon every facet of classification (cf. the subtitle of the book), be it basic or advanced. Indian library classification syllabi are still heavily dominated by Ranganathan, both in concept and in terminology, so most of this book has also a deliberate bias towards Ranganathan's theories and no wonder, Ranganathan has been quoted verbatim especially from his *Prolegomena* (1967). The debt to Ranganathan has been duly acknowledged in the Preface and in the references.

There are sixteen chapters in all with some chapters having (chapter size and format) sections. The book is initially structured to Ranganathan's planes of work, viz. Idea plane, Verbal plane, and Notational plane - but this plan is now becoming difficult to sustain. Chapter 13 "Species of classification schemes" could have been better placed after chapter 4, "Development of a theory of classification".

A (chapter length) section each has been devoted to discussion of the DDC, the UDC, and the CC, but the Bliss Classification, ed.2 and the Library of Congress Classification are visibly absent. The chapter on designing depth schedules is too brief and without examples. The book closes appropriately with a chapter on recent trends in library classification which mostly emphasizes the work of the British Classification Research Group in the field of thesaurus construction, the Broad System of Ordering, and the role of classification in OPACs. There is nothing, however, on the use of classification principles in vocabulary control, otherwise there is hardly any topic which has not been touched.

The author has successfully endeavored to encapsulate all the riches in a small volume so much so that at times one is left gasping for details. On the other hand, at places the book touches the research level — Chapter 8.2 Capacity of a notational system, and Chapter 10 Growing universe of subjects, have already been published in international journals of repute.