which will be marked by special letters indicating what distinguishes them from the UDC. The Institute intends to utilize this system with the help of a computer.

The report "Towards a Classification of Pastoral Theology" submitted by *Maria Teresa Tavassi La Greca,* a member of FID/C2 (Religion), was concerned with the scientific and historical problems that led to the reorganization of the field of question as well as with the guiding criteria and the work method employed. After several stages, a synthesis pattern has been achieved which bears witness to the efforts of the IRADES (Istituto di Ricerche Applicate Documentazione e Studi, or Institute for Applied Research on Documentation and Studies) institute to cooperate with the experts in that field. The pattern developed still needs some further expert evaluation.

Ms. Tavassi La Greca's paper was followed by several other ones which, although describing different kinds of experience gathered with the UDC, were all concerned with the use of computers, hence with the problems involved in mechanizing the UDC.

A. Ferrari Toniolo's report on "Certain Experiences in the Use of the UDC in Telecommunications and Applied Electronics" illustrated the activity of the Ugo Bordoni Foundation, which has been engaged for 20 years in research and documentation in these sectors and has been employing the UDC for this purpose. At present the Foundation is striving, on the one hand, to reorganize its own structure by means of computers and, on the other hand, to become part of a supranational network by contacting those documentation centers whose services it needs.

In his paper "Examples of UDC Utilization, Especially with Respect to Thesauri", *Francesco Chiappetti* listed several such utilizations and remarked in conclusion that the UDC Decimal Utilization Density (DUD) index was low: there were too many spare numbers for which no use has been found yet. It was absolutely necessary, he stressed, to fill in these gaps, thus increasing the UDC utilization density and reducing at the same time any waste of memory capacity.

Pinuccia Soriano and *Paolo Terzi* of the "Istituto di Documentazione dell' Associazione Meccanica Italiana (IDAMI = Documentation Institute of the Italian Mechanical Engineering Association) submitted two interesting reports. Soriano's paper "Possibilities Offered by Computers for Wider Use of the UDC" first described those possibilities of this nature which have already been tested by the Institute itself and then pointed out two major initiatives. The first one, as explained in Terzi's paper "Mental and Descriptive Relations in the UDC; The IDAMI Experience", pertains to a plan for providing the UDC with a class that, besides including all ideas constituting the knowable, also arranges the mental relations contained in the UDC. The second initiative, already nearing completion, aims at providing many UDC numbers with a thesaurus of keywords to highlight the correspondence existing between topics and classification symbols. This project was expected to greatly stimulate documentary research, a field in which, in the author's opinion, the structure linking all ideas and concepts together, i.e. the very functioning of the human mind, is more important than these ideas and concepts themselves.

With this final paper, which added a touch of sorcery to the Rome meeting, the seminar closed on a note of Great Expectations. In fact, working out a classification scheme and using it properly are philosophical actions linked to the age-old need of knowing and setting forth. An action, however, which touches upon the results of the most recent and disquieting disciplines, from biological engineering to genetics. Marta Ricci

LAAKE, M. v. d., PORT, P. (Bearb.); Deutsche Gesellschaft für Dokumentation eV (DGD) (Hrsg.): **Deutscher Dokumentartag 1977.** Saarbrücken 3.10.–7.10.1977. München/New York: Verlag Dokumentation 1978. 486 S., ISBN 3-7940-3656-5.

At the Annual Conference of the German Documentation Society 1977, one Session was devoted to a series of six papers on "Intentions and methods of indexing". It was introduced by the Chairman of the DGD-Committee on Classification and Thesaurus Research, Prof. Dr. N. Henrichs (1).

Based on the classing vs. indexing dichotomy (in contrast to indexing, classing is understood as establishing a relationship of a document to some present framework of a classification or another conceptual scheme), *I. Dahlberg* (2) evaluates a number of typical document indexing procedures. She advocates author participation in indexing and the combination of a classification-oriented, syntax-controlled phrase-indexing method with free term indexing in order to relate new knowledge to already existing one (as contained in a classification system) on the one hand and to preserve the author's own wordings and intentions in the choice of topical words on the other hand.

R. Jansen (3) treats the background considerations of the DIN 31623 standard on document indexing being drafted by a special working committee of the Fachnormenausschuß Bibliotheks- und Dokumentationswesen of the Deutsches Institut für Normung (DIN) in cooperation with other national and international institutions. Its structure is envisaged to incorporate a discussion of the most important indexing principles and methods in part 1 with part 2 being dedicated to coordinate indexing. Exposition of further indexing methods (notably that of syntactic indexing) might follow later. In R. Jansen's view, essentials of coordinate indexing hold true for syntactic retrieval methods as well. He warns against a tendency to overestimate the universal applicability of syntactic methods.

The world-wide application of International Patent Classification (IPC) in patent documentation with the inherent concepts, procedures, and organization are shown by *H. Franz* (4) as a factor of reliable searches. However, due to the paramount importance of retrieval results in patent documentation, additional special retrieval procedures may be reasonable in certain areas (for instance in chemistry).

R. Fugmann's paper (5) deals with phenomena important generally in all retrieval systems but of vital urgency in systems with very large volume of documentation files. Two variables affecting retrieval are ex-

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plained in detail: predictability (Vorausselibarkeit) and specificity (Wiedergabetreue) of indexing terms. The level of term predictability (one of factors controlling recall) and that of specificity (critical for precision) are demonstrated to depend on one-time measures (e.g. selection of suitable indexing terms to be adopted in the thesaurus) but even more on steps with impact on the usage of indexing terms in indexers' everyday activity. Anything fit to make the retrieval language easier to use as well as any contribution to its uniform and consistent usage improve the overall performance of retrieval. Limiting the number of indexing terms and a standard of obligatory patterns of their usage belong into this category. Evidently, the less the volume of the controlled vocabulary the easier an indexer can be expected to use it accurately and uniformly. Some kind of syntax (for example links) may serve to offset the small size of indexing term vocabulatory. Many semantically complicated technical terms (pro-coordinated or pre-combined) can be decomposed into simpler components. To some extent, elementary syntactical means can prevent them from adding to false combinations which have adverse effect on precision in retrieval.

R. G. Henzler (6) investigates the merits of several document information services in biomedicine (CANCERLINE, CANCERNET, etc.). Statistical material and procedures are employed to analyze indexing term distribution in document descriptions and search specifications, indexing consistency and other factors bearing upon retrieval efficiency. CANCERNET combining the use of a thesaurus with the advantages of free indexing is found to provide the optimum ratio of input processing and search effort.

In the contribution of *W. Schmitz-Esser* (7), terminology is analyzed as a means of controlling the retrieval efficiency by keeping the work spent on processing of incoming data and that of subsequent searches at an acceptable level. The examples relate to the data base servicing journalists (Gruner + Jahr, Hamburg) with its terminological peculiarities.

There are several topical issues of general concern that are referred to in the reviewed papers.

In some way or another, practically every contribution is concerned with the efficiency of document retrieval. Both components (processing of incoming documents, retrieval) are seen to be important for the overall efficiency. Low precision (and high ballast) of searches are important (Henzler) and may become prohibitive for large systems (Fugmann). Realistically, doubts are raised as to the unconditional necessity of very high recall as the chief criterion.

There is a wide range of factors shown to control the efficiency of retrieval systems: indexing method adopted, control of usage of indexing terms, number of terms in controlled indexing vocabularies organization of the indexing process, depth of indexing, terminology control, etc.

No paper believes in a panacea of an indexing method or a classification scheme as a remedy to all efficiency problems. Prof. Henrichs' words about the necessity of pluralism of theoretical approaches, methods and procedures must be stressed in this connection. They remain valid in the somewhat emotional discussion about syntactic indexing.

One-time decisions and measures (choice of methods, organization patterns, etc.) are no longer considered as the only important factors. Inconspicuous and detail-oriented effort is essential for any system adopted, to cope with practical limitations of every activity in documentation (limited amount of time, limited patience, concentration, and memory capacity) and not to fall short of the theoretical expectations, expecially in the case of large systems (Fugmann).

Being indicative of the current practice, the discussion is not concerned with the economic repercussions of the advent of on-line retrieval systems in the not too far-off future.

Another sensible issue involved is the DIN indexing standard. It is not only the question of the methods to be covered and whether any of them (e.g. coordinate indexing) should have a privileged position (cf. conflicting ideas of Dahlberg, Jansen, Fugmann).

States with centralistic management of documentation centre network tend to use standards or directives as elements in a mosaic of measures to finance, manage and control the whole national information systems. There is much to be said in favour of the centralistic approach. On the other hand it manifests a certain inflexibility and goes hand in hand with a sort of political and economic background, which is not characteristic of Germany.

In our view the real question in this discussion is, in Germany, what degree of consensus must be reached for a national standard of this kind to be justified.

Otto Sechser

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WAHRIG, GERHARD (Hrsg.): **dtv-Wörterbuch der deutschen Sprache.** (Dictionary of the German language). München: Deutscher Taschenbuch Verlag 1978. 943 S. = ISBN 3-423-03136-0,DM 16,80

Ähnlich wie Johann Christoph Adelung im Jahre 1793 mit seinem „Grammatisch-Kritischen Wörterbuch der Hochdeutschen Mundart", steht Gerhard Wahrig heute mit seinem „dtv-Wörterbuch der deutschen Sprache" in

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