REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

12th FID/CR Meeting, Copenhagen

On Aug. 21, 1980 21 members and guests of 17 countries of the FID Study Committee "Classification Research" met at the Technical University, located at Lyngby, near Copenhagen in order to discuss the program of this committee in the four years to come. The meeting took place in a room not far from the office of the former chairman Rasmus Mölgaard-Hansen (1961–1973). The secretariat of FID/CR which was held by India, from 1973–1980, with Prof. A. Neelameghan aus Chairman and Prof. Bhattacharyya as Secretary will be taken over by the Federal Republic of Germany, beginning 1981. It will be located in Frankfurt at the same address as the secretariat of the Gesellschaft für Klassifikation e.V., Woogstr. 36a, 6000 Frankfurt 50. The name of the chairperson will be Ingetraut Dahlberg.

The discussions of the meeting centered on the organizational changes and the planning of projects within the general frame of the FID-Medium Term Programme (MTP), running from 1981–1984. The members present considered it very urgent to recruit new colleagues for the work and for the aims of the committee and to establish liaisons with other FID-Committees and interested groups. In order to avoid costly committee meetings on an international scale it was proposed to work mainly by correspondence. Besides there could be national or regional classification conferences organized by FID/CR members.

In this respect a second regional conference of FID/CR (the first one took place in Königstein, April 1979, together with the Annual Conference of the Gesellschaft für Klassifikation) will take place at Durango, Colorado, from May 11–12, 1981 on "Compatibility of Indexing Languages", organized by the Northamerican FID/CR Group together with ASIS/SIG/CR and FID/LD.

In 1982 the 4th International FID/CR Conference will take place in Germany (place and time not as yet being fixed under the general heading: "Subject Analysis and Ordering Systems".

Regarding FID/CR publications it was resolved to continue the FID/CR Report Series with country reports and research reports and to include the FID/CR Newsletter in International Classification starting 1981.

The following research topics were proposed for elaboration:

- Investigation into the common basis of all kinds of classification work, e.g. classification of products, of books, of information
- Determination of an optimal format for thesaurus description
- Methods and criteria for evaluation of classification systems
- Guidelines for the optimal use of the UDC and/or other systems of ordering
- Are there reasons to justify the preference of an international system as against a local system?
- Use and misuse of classification systems as against total rejection of the value of classification

The proceedings of the 3rd FID/CR Conference in Bombay (1975) were published in the beginning of 1980 and are available from FID Headquarters, 7, Hofweg, The Hague, Netherlands (hfl. 85.–) Recently the proceedings from the FID-Conference in Edinburgh were published also, containing an entire session (4) with 11 contributions on "New developments in classification and other systems for information retrieval". The book is available from Aslib, 3, Belgrave Square, London, England. (Taylor, P. J. (Ed.): New Trends in Documentation and Information. London: Aslib 1980, p. 203–325).

BSO Open Meeting in Copenhagen

The date for the Open Meeting of the BSO Panel (Broad System of Ordering) was fixed for the day after the FID Conference in Copenhagen, Aug. 22, 80. It. took place during the same time as the FID General Assembly with its important elections. Thus it happened that the three speakers and the chairman found only a very small audience.

Geoffrey Lloyd outlined the development of the BSO, Mr. Harada spoke about "Unesco and the BSO" and Eric Coates tried to answer the question: 'Has the BSO a future?"

At present the "switching"-feature of the BSO is being investigated. Geoffrey Lloyd reported on the planning of a test during which 250 very specificly indexed documents of a center A should receive its BSO codes by the BSO center and these should then be compared with the BSO-coded documents of indexations of a center B. Centers A and B should overlap only partly, as if one choses e.g. the fields "metallurgy" and "welding".

Coates figured that the administration of the BSO could be self-supporting in the future if 550 users would pay an annual amount of 350 Dutch guilders for systems maintenance and computer service. He presented 8 application fields for the BSO, namely

(1) to serve as a quasi-standard
(2) to provide a survey on existing knowledge
(3) to serve as an instrument in the switching between indexing languages
(4) to facilitate the switching between masses of documents
(5) to allow the switching between centers in general and
(6) between a certain center and another one
(7) to be an available system for shallow indexing (rough indexing) and
(8) to be utilizable as an indexing aid as such

During the discussion it was mentioned that the BSO is used also in the teaching program of an American library school. With this – the chairman Jens Friis-Hansen suggested – a possible 9th application field could be identified.

The Index: Access or Barrier to Information?

This was the topic of a panel session during this year's Joint Conference of Aslib, The Institute of Information Scientists and The Library Association (LA) which took place in Sheffield, England, 15–19 Sept. 1980. The panel, chaired by Virginia Berkeley, was sponsored by The Society of Indexers and the LA Cataloguing and In-

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dexing Group. Panel speakers were K. G. Bakewell, (Liverpool Polytechnic), Alan Wheatley (College of Librarianship Wales), and Christina Beale (Sheffield University). The following statements characterize the present situation: Many librarians or information officers, as well as publishers, do not appreciate the value of a good index or the skills involved in its compilation. Some indexers make insufficient use of specialized techniques and thesauri, which are themselves not faultless. There is a need for investigation of user's reactions to published indexes.

Classification Topics at 1980 ASIS Conference

The 43rd Annual Meeting of the American Society for Information Science took place in Anaheim, California at the Disneyland Hotel, Oct. 5--10, 1980. Among the 19 Technical Sessions, the 9 Special Sessions and the 49 Programs of ASIS/SIGs the following three should be mentioned as relevant for classification and indexing, namely (1) "Miniforum on Indexing", (2) "Classification of Questions and Indexing", and (3) "Vocabulary Control in Integrated Information Systems: Speculations for the Eighties".

At the Miniforum on Indexing panelists of the SIG/Education for Information Science (ED) A. N. Yerkey, Ch. W. Conaway, and M. E. Maron discussed with their moderator E. T. O'Neill problems of interaction and communication among information science researchers working in indexing.

The session "Classification of questions and indexing" was chaired by Harold Borko. The program presented the following speakers with their papers and terse abstracts:

Esther E. Horne: *Questions and communication.* – A functional analysis of questions is examined using models of cognitive behavior of individuals and analog models of an information system. – Tefko Saracevic: *A research project on classification of questions in information retrieval: preliminary work.* – Properties of questions that lend themselves to classification for information-retrieval applications are discussed, with the objective of developing and testing a scheme and procedures for such classification. – Jessica L. Milstead: *Indexing the news.* – Retrospective access to news information – including the impact of online access to indexes and full text – is explored. – Joyce D. Falk, Kenneth H. Baser: *ABC-SPIndex: a subject profile, rotated string indexing system.* – A computer-assisted rotated string index for abstracting services is described, including a subject profile index portion of a text-processing system for one-time analysis and one-time keyboarding of entries. – William H. Mischo: *Expanded subject access to library collections using computer-assisted indexing techniques.* – Subject access to reference and other library collections is enhanced by using computer-assisted techniques to produce rotated index entries from description and title strings.

The third session mentioned was sponsored by SIG/CR (Classification Research) and SIG-AOF (Automated Office of the Future). It had been organized by Irene Travis and was chaired by Henry Voos. The scope was described as follows: "Paperless information systems physically facilitate the integration of information from multiple sources and the use of information of multiple purposes. Only with continued improvement in techniques for intellectual access will these opportunities be beneficial. Basic problems in information description and control are appearing in new and challenging contexts." The speakers were: H. Voos: *Integrated information systems: a brief overview.* – I. Travis: *Use-oriented indexing in a multiple-use environment.* – E. Svenonius: *Vocabulary control in integrated information systems: the vocabulary compatibility problem.* – H. Shirley: *Vocabulary control in integrated information systems: a practitioner's view.*

At the Oct. 8 Poster Session the following single presentations were given: T. C. Craven: *NEPHIS. Index production from a general concept network.* An experimental general concept network structure has been developed for computer generation of various types of index displays. The permuted-index systems NEPHIS was selected for the first test. – J. McKee Laursen: *Effectiveness in using natural language in searching volcanic stratigraphy.* – Volcanic stratigraphy is a subject not readily searchable through machine-readable databases because its terminology is not well represented in controlled vocabulary. However, 51% of the titles in a bibliography on the subject were not retrieved through natural-language searching.

C. Grissom, Sh. Prosser, E. Brown: *Federal Energy Data Index.* – Statistical data on energy supplies and consumption can be retrieved rapidly using the database developed to describe not only all U.S. Energy Information Administration publications, but also tables and graphs within these publications.

Classification Topics at Deutscher Dokumentartag 1980

This year's German Documentation Conference held at Berlin, Sept. 29–Oct. 2, was devoted mainly to Documentation and Standardization." Therefore, a number of papers were concerned with those standards presently being elaborated which are meant to serve indexing and classification tasks. Thus, *K. W. Neubauer* spoke on "Formal and subject analysis of documents with special regards to problems of national standardization" and *J. Eggert* on the same topic with special regard to international standardization. *W. Zwirner* presented the state of elaboration of a standard on "Classification systems, elaboration and further development".

In a separate section of the conference the Committee on Classification and Thesaurus Research of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Dokumentation dealt with "New technologies and their documentation language aspects". *Prof. N. Henrichs*, the new director of the GID in Frankfurt who has previously – in 1968 – started the first on-line retrieval system of Germany in the field of philosophy, in chairing this meeting admonished to invest more interest into the new technologies such as viewdata, and to look for cooperation in this regard among librarians and archivists. *Prof. M. Scheele* lectured on his experience with the input of his Deutsches Institut für wissenschaftliche Information (DIWI) into the German viewdata system (Bildschirmtext). The tree structures used for searching in this system were elaborated to a large extent by himself. *D. Strauch* outlined the state of

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development of approaching Bildschirmtext by descriptors. *H. G. Körner* showed, supported by slides, what requirements determine the optimal forms of indexes in print on the one hand and on the screen on the other hand. *Dr. W. Schmitz-Esser* was concerned with he "lingual convergency" of public and subject-oriented information systems and drew his information largely from his experiences with newspaper data banks.

U.S. Information Center for the UDC

The College of Library and Information Services (CLIS), University of Maryland is pleased to announce the establishment of a *U.S. Information Center for the Universal Decimal Classification (UDC).* The College is one of the few American library schools which has included the teaching and use of the UDC in its curriculum, as a result of the interest of several members of its faculty. The UDC is the world's largest and most detailed classification scheme (originally based on the Dewey Decimal Classification), and is sponsored and developed by the International Federation for Documentation (FID). The system is used by about 100,000 organizations and individuals for the indexing and retrieval of information, and is now widely applied in computerized information retrieval because of its highly faceted structure. It is constantly kept up to date by a large number of experts and committees around the world, and its schedules are available in more than 20 languages and special subject editions.

The Center will work in close cooperation with the U.S. National Committee for the FID at the National Academy of Sciences-National Research Council, and will be administered by an Advisory Group on the UDC, at present consisting of Mr. Malcolm Rigby (Editor, Meterological and Geoastrophysical Abstracts), Chairman; Dr. Hans H. Wellisch (CLIS), Secretary: Mr. David Batty (CLIS), and Dr. John P. Comaromi (Dewey Decimal Classification Division of the Library of of Congress) ex officio.

- It will serve as a central repository in the U.S. for UDC schedules, the periodically issued Extensions & Corrections, and other material relevant to the use and development of the classification. It will hold a complete and up-to-date collection of schedules in English, as well as editions of the UDC in other languages, as they are published.
- It will also receive and check all *P-Notes* issued by the Classification Department of the FID, which contain proposals from individuals or organizations for new UDC codes or for changes and corrections of existing ones. The Center will invite subject experts to check the validity of new proposals, to amend and improve on them if necessary, or to submit new proposals.
- It will serve as a referral center for inquiries about all matters related to the UDC: its structure, organization, and development; its proper use; availability of schedules for specific subject areas; application to printed documents as well as non-print materials, etc.
- It will also seek to stimulate interest in the UDC among wider circles of users in the United States.

All inquiries about the UDC should be sent to Dr. Hans H. Wellisch, Associate Professor, College of Library and Information Services, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742. Phone: (301) 454–3785.

Numerical and Non-Numerical Classification Between Theory and Practice.

Tentative Program.
5th Annual Conference, Gesellschaft für Klassifikation, Hofgeismar, Germany, 7–10 April 1981

The purpose of this conference consists in reporting on progress and activities in the classification field, especially with regard to the two aspects "Numerical Procedures" and "Practical Application". The following 34 papers mainly received in response to a call have been grouped into six sessions of two parallel sessions each with two relating to numerical classification, two to library and information science aspects, one to product classification aspects and one to application of classification in several specialized fields of knowledge. All papers are in German except the one by A. Vasiljev.

Opening lecture:
H. H. Bock: Correspondence analysis for structure recognition and its relation to cluster analysis.

First plenary session:
H. Niemann: Pattern recognition and structuring.
A. Hoppe: Synergetic functions of conceptual classes presented with respect to their linguistic relationships.
P. Ihm: Numerical procedures and data banks.

Session A: Numerical classification I.
J. Hansohm: Identification of data of different levels.
E. Godehardt: Random multigraphs: a mathematical model as an aid for the retrieval of structures.
L. Fahrmeir, A. Hamerle, G. Tutz: On the choice of a model and the selection of variables in non-metric classification problems.
J. Krauth: Ranking classification procedures.
H. Pape: Classification by likelihood estimates in mixing distribution and participation procedures.
H. J. Trampisch, W. Dott, H. Schäfer: Experiences in the application of numerical classification procedures to larger quantities of data.

Session B: Library and information science aspects of classification I.
J. R. Bieberstein: Handling and further development of a detailed systematized shelving system.
A. Vasiljev: Thesaurus project of the Delft University of Technology Library.
I. Dahlberg: The pilot project "DB-Thesaurus" (General thesaurus for libraries).
A. Mathy: Experiences in the elaboration of a thesaurus for German federal statistics.
H. Haendler: Special problems of a thesaurus for data documentation.
R. Marczinski: A classification system for audiovisual media in the education area.

Session C: Classification applications
W. Dahlberg: Ordering principles as exemplified with reference to the world wide energy concept 'Solar hydrogen plantations'.
C. L. Naumann: Classification of verbal sequences using the example of computer processing of words for language maps.

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M. Thaller: Classificatory prerequisites for the analysis of historical sources by means of formal procedures.
B. Roseman: Numerical classification in educational psychology.

Session D: Categories and characteristics in product classification
A. Kutzelnigg: Product categories: unsolvable problems?
H. Gasthuber: The concepts 'property' and 'characteristic' in commodity description and classification.
Schiffels, R.: Categories of the International Patent Classification, with special regard to the classification of products.
G. Potkowik: Characteristics as employed in German statistical product classification.

Session E: Numerical classification II
K. Ambrosi: Similarity coefficients of qualitative characteristics.
P. Degens: Weighting of the number of objects of a cluster with the aid of some quality functions.
M. Schader: An exchange procedure for hierarchical classification.
P. Jaenicke: Non-numerical wave-form analysis of a periodical signal with a two-component language.
H. L. Kaufmann, K. Engelhardt: On class number determination in the mixed distribution procedure.

Session F: Library and information science aspects of classification II.
O. Nacke, O.-H. Eisenhardt, W. Gerdel: Experiences in implementing a classification system for informetry on a micro-computer.
H. Fangmeyer: The automatic indexing system of the Ispra Research Institute for the Gesellschaft für Information und Dokumentation (GID), Frankfurt.
F. Jochum: Effects of a knowledge representation of differing depth on the performance of information retrieval systems.
G. Rahmstorf: Linguistically determined concept systems and classification.
E. König: Controlled indexing versus free choice of terms.

Second plenary session:
Reports by the session chairmen on the sessions A-F and reports of the SIG-chairmen on the work in their groups.

The meeting will take place at the Evangelische Akademie Hofgeismar, Germany. This locality is situated 30 min. by train north-west of Kassel. For a definite program and any further information, please write to: Gesellschaft für Klassifikation e. V., Woogstr. 36a, D-6000 Frankfurt 50.

IDT 81: Information – Documentation – Telematique
Versailles 13–15 May 1981

4ème Congrès organisé par l'Association Française des Documentalistes et des Bibliothécaires spécialisés (ABDS) et l'Association Nationale de la Recherche Technique (ANRT).

Thèmes:

- Banques de données textuelles et factuelles.
- Architecture des réseaux d'information.
- Impact des nouvelles méthodes d'édition sur la documentation.
- Nouveaux produits pour l'information et la documentation.
- Accès aux documents primaires.
- Education et formation des utilisateurs.
- Le marché de l'information.
- Les systèmes d'information du futur.

Les propositions de communications ou de présentation de réalisation devront parvenir au Comité Scientifique IDT 81 – 5, avenue Franco-Russe 75007 PARIS avant le 15 octobre 1980 accompagnées d'un résumé en français d'environ 200 mots.

Pendant tout le déroulement du congrès, une vaste exposition aura lieu dans les salles du Palais de Congrès de Versailles.
Organisation du congrès et de l'exposition:
ACTUAL BP 306-16 75767 PARIS CEDEX 16 – Tél.: 720.71.86

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