

ISKO News 27

Edited by Hanne Albrechtsen
President of ISKO

French ISKO Chapter founded

At a special meeting on Dec.20, 1996 the French ISKO Chapter was founded. Eight of ISKO's actual French members (and 3 would-be members) attended as well as the Chairman of ISKO's Scientific Advisory Council, Prof. Dr. W. Schmitz-Esser.

The Board of the French Chapter was elected unanimously as follows:

Chairperson: Dr. Widad MUSTAFA ELHADI (Université de Lille 3), 53 rue Roland, F-59000 Lille, Phone 03-20 09 93 79, email: mustafa@univ-lille3.fr

Deputy Chairperson: Danièle DEGEZ (consultant in documentation), 24 rue des Combattants, F-92370 Chaville, Phone 01-47 50 66 70, Fax 01-47 50 93 32, email: docuges@calva.net

Treasurer: Dr. Jacques MANIEZ, 61 rue de la Corvée, F-21000 Dijon, Phone 03-80 41 35 40, email: 106407.1371@comuserve.com

Several topics were discussed among which also the plan for a combined French-German study, exploring at length a method of collecting and later on standardizing all semantical relationships, in order that the result can once be used as a reference tool by lexicographers, terminologists and information officers.

3rd Russian ISKO Conference, Sudak, Crimea, Ukraine, June 97

One of the events of this year's 4th International Crimea Conference, to be held from 7-15 June 1997 at Sudak, Republik of Crimea, Ukraine, will be the 3rd Russian ISKO Meeting, as already announced in Knowl.Org.96-3, p.179 at more length. For more information on the program, etc. write to Dr. Eduard Sukiasyan, Russian ISKO Chapter, Russian State Library, ul.Vozdvizhenka, 3, RU-101000 Moskva, Russia. Fax + +7-095-200 2255.

5th German ISKO Conference, Berlin, Oct. 1997

Knowledge Organization with Multimedia Techniques is the topic of the 5th German ISKO Conference to be held at the Humboldt University in Berlin, from 7-10 Oct. 1997. A one-page call for papers had been published already in Knowl. Org. 96-3, p.190 (in German) asking for contributions in the

areas of *Multimedia Knowledge Organisation, Electronic Publishing, Pictures as Media in Multimedia Documents, and General Foundations and Methods of Knowledge Organization*. There will again be a Preconference Workshop on *Thesaurus Research* and a Tutorial this time on a *Research-oriented Theory of Science*.

Proposals for papers can be handed in until May 15, 97 to Prof. Dr. H. Czap, Universität Trier, FB BWL Wirtschaftsinformatik, D-54286 Trier, Phone: 0651-201 2858, Fax: 0651-201 3959.

Contributions by Ingetraut Dahlberg to the Field of Knowledge Organization

1. Preparatory Period in the Sixties



Dr. Ingetraut Dahlberg started her career in the information sciences as a compiler of bibliographies at the Gmelin Institute for Inorganic Chemistry in Frankfurt, Germany, Atomic Energy Documentation Center, then directed by the late Prof. Dr. Erich PIETSCH. Prior to this, Dahlberg studied at the universities of Frankfurt and Würzburg the subjects history, philosophy, theology, and English from 1946-1948 and biology (including physics and chemistry) from 1949-1952, with an intermittent Junior Year at Mary Manse College, Toledo, Ohio (1948/49). In 1963 she became head of the Library and Documentation Center of the German Documentation Society (until 1970) and established her first thesaurus (in the field of documentation). In between, from 1964-1965, she accepted an invitation by the late Prof. Dr. Ray PEPINSKY to work at his Groth Institute for Crystallographic Data Documentation at Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, FL, where she was also privileged to collaborate with Prof. Jean PERREAUXT at the university library on *Categories and Relators*. Both had investigated intensively Eric de GROLIER's seminal work: *A Study of General Categories Applicable to Classification and Coding in Documentation*, Paris: UNESCO, 1962. The results of Perreault's studies

were published in the final issue of FID's journal *Revue Internationale de la Documentation*, 1965-4, whereas Dahlberg's paper *Relation and Classification* was never published, unsure as she was of having adequately covered all relevant matter. Some results of her work at the Groth Institute were published in German as *Ergebnisdokumentation in der Kristallographie* (Data documentation in crystallography) in *Nachr.Dok.*, 1965-3, and subsequently also in Russian in *Nauchno-Tekhn.Inf.*, 1966-9.

From 1965 on, Dahlberg was Secretary of the DGD/KTF, Committee on Thesaurus Research (later on renamed into Committee on Classification and Thesaurus Research) of the German Documentation Society, an office she held for 12 years until 1976. In 1967/8 she became a member of the *UNISIST Working Group on Indexing and Classification* chaired by D.J. FOSKETT and A. van der LAAN, where she was engaged in preparing the necessary input for the UNISIST Programme of UNESCO, as published in its report of 1971.

From 1967-69 she was elected Chair-Lady of the new UDC Revision Committee for 03/04. Her proposal for the classification of documents became a publication of her Documentation Center at the DGD: *Proposal for a Classification of Kinds of Documents and Documentology*, Frankfurt, 1970, 37p. Although her Center did not use the UDC, it did require a survey on the notations pertaining to the information sciences, resulting in an *UDC Code for Documentation*, Frankfurt, DGD 1969, 58p. This was soon to be followed by the publication of *A Descriptor System for the Information Sciences as the Basis for an Area Thesaurus*, Frankfurt: DGD 1971, 61p.

Based on the insights she had gained during her revision work on the UDC, Dahlberg thereupon worked out a proposal for a complete revision of the UDC, publishing it in German in *Nachr.Dok.*, 70-4 and in English in *J.Doc.*, 71-1, under the title: *Possibilities for a New Universal Decimal Classification*.

2. The Important Seventies

From 1971-1972 Dahlberg served as a Consultant to the *Interministerial Working Group Databank Systems* of the West German Interior Ministry, Bonn. During these same years, she also completed her university studies in Düsseldorf, majoring there in philosophy and obtaining her PhD degree under the guidance of Prof. Dr. Alwin DIEMER (with general linguistics and history of the sciences being her minor subjects). Her dissertation later became the book *Grundlagen universaler Wissensordnung. Probleme und Möglichkeiten eines universalen Klassifikationssystems des Wissens*. (Foundations of a Universal Organization of Knowledge: Problems and possibilities of a univer-

sal classification system of knowledge), published by K.G. Saur, München, early in 1974. Its contents are summarized as follows:

Chapter 1 contains a new approach to the understanding and definitions of the basic concepts in classification, such as *concept*, *characteristic*, *category*, *class*, *classification*, *knowledge*, *knowledge element*, *knowledge field*, etc. In *Chapter 2* the history of universal classification in the fields of philosophy, education/didactics, encyclopedias, library science, information science, administration (of research and science, economy, civil service) is summarized, and the need for a universal classification system in each of these fields and areas was stressed. In *Chapter 3* the basics of any classification system (CS) are treated, followed by a presentation of the six universal CS (DDC, UDC, LCC, BC, CC, and LBC) in current use. These systems were also evaluated, and their inadequacies shown in each case. From these insights a number of construction postulates for a new system were formulated. *Chapter 4* discusses the science-theoretical problems involved in determining the criteria for disciplines (Diemer), for knowledge fields, and for the conditions determining the possible integration of new knowledge into the totality of already existing knowledge (Storer/Parsons). *Chapter 5* outlines how a possible new CS could be constructed if its elements are to be used for the composition of informative assertions. Based on the findings of the preceding chapters, *Chapter 6* contains a proposal for the structure and arrangement of a new universal CS and shows its application in classing the contents of monographs. *Chapter 7* discusses the implications of such a system and its possible use in various areas and for various needs. The findings of the volume were summarized in 30 theses. In the Appendix, 27 historical and contemporary classification schemes used as examples are presented. The book closes with a bibliography of 581 references and an index.

The year 1974 marked also the beginning of the journal *INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION*, which was launched by Dahlberg with A. Diemer, A. Neelameghan and J. M. Perreault (see the Editorial of KO 96-4) and which was published by the K.G. Saur Verlag, Munich.

Already in the very first issue of this journal she published an extended version of her concept theory in German. An extended version was delivered at the 3rd International Study Conference on Classification Research, at Bombay in Jan. 1975 (see the proceedings of this conference, Bangalore, 1979). This theory was later on (in 1978-1981) extended still further and has recently been updated and summarized in the IFID Journal 1995-3. It can be regarded as the basis for any work in classification.

In 1969, when devising the classification system for kinds of documents, Dahlberg thought of a way to establish a recurrent series of subdivisions as, for instance, used in the form of the so-called Special Auxiliaries in the UDC. However, in the UDC these special auxiliaries are not used recurrently, as shown in her article in *J.Doc.* 1971 mentioned above. Thus, Dahlberg presented the idea of a recurrent subdivider, called *Systematifier*, at the 1971 Ottawa Conference on *The Conceptual Basis of the Classification of Knowledge*. (The proceedings were published by K.G. Saur Verlag in 1974). It so happened that Dr. Ganesh BHATTACHARRYA from Bangalore was in the audience, wondering whether Dahlberg had been influenced by Ranganathan on this idea, which she had not. However, alerted by his remark, she went on in further investigating and applying this idea, especially in her later rounding-up and systematizing fields of knowledge in a number of projects. She realized that the idea could be applied successfully in every subject area, subject group, and subject field, which would imply a possible generalization. The investigations began in 1972 with a project of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Dokumentation (DGD) called *Ordnungssystem der Wissensgebiete* (Order System of Knowledge Fields). Further occasions for such tests presented themselves when, in 1972, she became a member of the FID Committee for a Subject Reference Code (FID/SRC), later called *Broad System of Ordering*. She contributed substantially to the development of this system until 1974, when it was decided to hand over the task of elaborating the BSO to a three-man-panel, headed by Eric COATES.

In 1975 she was asked to revise for the Deutsche Hochschulverband (Federation of German University Teachers) its 1973 *Fächerkatalog* (Catalogue of Courses). The 2nd edition of 1977 – although containing the results of her work compiled through correspondence with hundreds of German university professors – was rearranged by the publisher and given an impossible notation, so much to her dismay that she refused to have her name mentioned in the Foreword to this publication.

In 1976 she was granted a research project of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft to elaborate a dictionary based on her identification of about 12,500 terms denoting knowledge fields, in collaboration with the late Prof. G. WAHRIG, Mainz University. These definitions were collected from about 500 special glossaries and 4 universal encyclopedias. Using the definitions found, she was able to recognize the synonyms in her collection and could also identify each term without further reference. Subsequently the terms collected could be reduced to some 6,500 and systematized according to the *Systematifier*, mentioned above. This project, called *Logstruktur*, again

requiring her to correspond with about 200-300 university professors, could not be finished within the scheduled time. It ended in 1979 shortly after Prof. WAHRIG died. Fortunately, all the data had then already been typed into a text processing machine, the first forerunner of the IBM PC.

A fifth occasion to test her systematification of subject fields and the use of the *Systematifier* arose in 1979 with a project of the Deutsche Bibliothek (German National Library), requiring her to investigate the possibilities of elaborating a universal thesaurus on the basis of the indexing terms used at this library. Although she worked out and described a way of doing this (see her publication: *Die Pilotstudie DB-Thesaurus*, Frankfurt: Deutsche Bibliothek, 1980. 74p. = BMFT-FB-ID 80-015), her proposals apparently were not understood and hence not accepted.

Towards the end of 1976, Dahlberg invited a number of colleagues to join her in founding the *Gesellschaft für Klassifikation* (Society for Classification) in Frankfurt which then took place on February 12, 1977. Right on its founding date, the Society scheduled its first nationwide conference to take place on June 4, 1977 at Münster/Westphalia, where it was successfully held on the scheduled date; its proceedings marked the beginning of the Society's series of conference proceedings which appeared from 1977 onward under the title *Studien zur Klassifikation*. Dahlberg chaired this Society from 1977 until 1986, organized during these years altogether nine annual conferences, published its proceedings and compiled their indexes. In 1986 the chair was passed on to Prof. Dr. H.H. BOCK who successfully developed this Society into a mathematically-oriented one from then on. Soon (1987) it became one of the pillars of the *International Federation of Classification Societies* (IFCS), Prof. Bock having been also the first IFCS president.

A semi-annual publication from 1974-1977, the journal *INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION* started to appear 3 times in 1978. From 1977 to 1989 it served as the official organ of the *Gesellschaft für Klassifikation*.

3. Manifestations in the Eighties

In 1979 Dahlberg founded an indexing company, called INDEKS GmbH, acronym for *Gesellschaft für INDEXierung und Klassifikations-Systeme*. For some years, orders for incidental indexes could be acquired from German publishers, but the market was rather small because publishers in Germany, unlike their Anglo-Saxon colleagues, generally require their authors to deliver the back-of-the-book-indexes themselves. Thus, the INDEKS company was not very successful and would not have survived if it had not also been active as a publishing house that soon

started publishing the annual proceedings volumes for the Gesellschaft für Klassifikation. Somehow timely in this context, the K.G.Saur Verlag gave notice in 1980 of its intention of discontinuing the publication of the journal IC. Thus it was possible to incorporate this journal into the program of the INDEKS Verlag as of 1981.

From 1981, Dahlberg also served as chairperson of FID/CR, which from 1972-1980 had been held by A. NEELAMEGHAN. The FID/CR quarterly newsletter, launched by the latter was continued by Dahlberg who started publishing the *FID/CR NEWS* in *International Classification* 8(1981)No.1. Dating back to the time of the Danish chair of FID/CR, Rasmus MÖLGAARD-HANSEN (1962-1972), there also existed a series called *FID/CR Reports*. Dahlberg continued this series as a publication of the INDEKS Verlag and the Reports No.19, 20, and 21 could appear during her tenure which lasted for 7 years until 1987 when Prof. Nancy WILLIAMSON, Toronto, took over.

In 1980 the INDEKS company secured a contract from a subordinated agency of the German Ministry for Research and Technology (BMFT) for establishing a bibliography of the literature on classification and indexing from 1950-1982. This involved a great amount of work in searching, compiling, systematizing, indexing and inputting into the word processor. Of the five-volume bibliography originally planned, only vols.1-3 have been published so far, in 1982, 1984 and 1985, respectively.

Entitled **INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION AND INDEXING BIBLIOGRAPHY (ICIB)**, the first volume covered *Classification Systems and Thesauri* and included some 2300 titles in systematic arrangement with annotations; the second one, *Reference Tools and Conferences in Classification and Indexing*, had some 4000 references; and the third one, *Classification and Indexing Systems: Theory - Structure - Methodology*, contained some 5000 references. The three volumes are presented in systematic arrangement with several indexes and cover the period from 1950-1982. The two volumes still missing are: (4) *Literature on Universal and Special Classification Systems and Thesauri* and (5) *Linguistics and Terminology in Classification and Indexing and on Applied Classing and Indexing*, both of which are ready for publication.

As a current bibliography (in machine-readable form) it is contained in the journal *International Classification* – now called **KNOWLEDGE ORGANIZATION**. It is organized in the same way as the three ICIB volumes, so the updating (for the period 1982-1996) and subsequent publishing can be accomplished very easily once time and money are available for this purpose.

In 1983 Dahlberg edited and published – with support from the FID (Fédération Internationale de

Documentation) – a *Who's Who in Classification and Indexing*. It contained the data on some 700 persons working in 45 countries, mostly members of national and international classification and indexing societies and groups. A second edition has long been planned and preparatory work almost finished, but the required time for its publication has not been available.

4. Interest and Work in Standardization and Terminology

In the sixties and seventies Dahlberg also collaborated in committees of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), especially TC46 and TC37, and of the German Standardization Institute, e.g. the Committee for Documentation, the Committee for Classification and the Committee for Terminology. She chaired one of the working groups of the Committee for Classification for some time and for the Committee for Terminology she prepared a revised version of the German Standard DIN 2330 (*Begriffe und Benennungen*) [*Concepts and Terms*], which was later published in *Muttersprache*, 1976-2. Her aforementioned concept theory and her interest in terminological problems were among the reasons why Prof. Wahrig asked her to teach courses and seminars in this field at the Mainz University (1976-1978) and why Prof. Dr. WILLS of the Saarbrücken University did likewise in 1982-1984. Later, from 1985-1987, Dahlberg taught courses in classification, indexing, logic, data documentation, science of science, et al. at the Polytechnic of Hannover. She also lectured on classification and indexing at the Polytechnic of Darmstadt (1988-89) and at the Archivists School in Marburg, Germany (1990). In addition, she taught courses abroad on classification theory – altogether four in Brazil (1975, 1976, and 1984) and one in India (1977), where she also lectured at several places.

Her interest in terminology brought her to the first Infoterm Symposium in Vienna in 1975, where she presented her terminological findings as embodied in the DGD-Project *Order System for Knowledge Fields*. A UNESCO official at this Symposium, Dr. MSHVENIERADZE, invited her in May 1977 to attend a meeting on terminological problems in the social sciences at the UNESCO Headquarters, Paris. From this event two activities and two special friendships have arisen, one resulting from her encounter with Prof. Fred RIGGS and his COCTA Group (Committee on Conceptual and Terminological Analysis in the Social Sciences) and the other from her meeting with Mr. A.J.N. JUDGE, Union des Associations Internationales (UAI), Brussels. Her collaboration with the COCTA Group, a Committee of two international societies (ISA and IPSA) and of the International Social Science Council in Paris led to

the organization by Dahlberg of a seminar in Hattenheim, Germany, in 1978. It also resulted in a conference in Bielefeld, Germany, in 1981, with the proceedings volume of this (CONTA) Conference being subsequently published by Dahlberg's INDEKS Verlag. Also, for a number of years the journal *International Classification* contained a section called COCTA News. As COCTA was supported by UNESCO, Dahlberg was invited to participate in UNESCO meetings at Paris and elsewhere for COCTA purposes and received several grants for the elaboration of guidelines – including her *Guidelines for the Establishment of Compatibility between Information Languages*, Frankfurt, 1980, 25p.

When in 1987 the series of congresses started on Terminology and Knowledge Engineering (TKE) in Trier (organized by the newly founded International Association for Terminology and Knowledge Transfer, as well as by Infoterm), the INDEKS Verlag was asked to publish the proceedings volumes, with Dahlberg preparing also the indexes of these volumes (TKE'87, TKE'90, TKE'93).

5. The Founding of ISKO

In 1989 it was found that the Gesellschaft für Klassifikation had become overly mathematically oriented, employing the formal methods of numerical taxonomy (cluster analysis, etc.) rather than the contents-related, conceptual approach. Thus, on the advice by Dr. Robert FUGMANN, a new society was conceived of – this time with international orientation – and founded on July 22, 1989, as the *International Society for Knowledge Organization* (ISKO), again in Frankfurt and entered into the Frankfurt Court Register as an e.V. The broader term 'knowledge organization' was chosen a) in order not to create conflicts with the several numerically oriented classification societies and b) in order to comply with the widening scope which had developed in the meantime. Dahlberg was elected president and the secretariat went again to her office as during the period when she chaired the Gesellschaft für Klassifikation e.V. The journal *International Classification* became the new society's official organ, and was, from 1989 onward, included in the ISKO membership fee. In 1993 the journal's name was changed to KNOWLEDGE ORGANIZATION according to a decision by the membership. Not wasting any time, ISKO held its first international Conference in Darmstadt in 1990 at the Technical University, with almost 200 participating. It was followed by a second conference in 1992 in Madras, a third one in 1994 in Copenhagen and a fourth one 1996 in Washington, DC. In between there were regional conferences in Bratislava, Slovakia (2); Varna, Bulgaria; Weilburg (2) and Trier, Ger-

many; Moscow (2), Russia; Bangalore, India; Rome, Italy; Madrid (2), Spain; and Warsaw, Poland, with Dahlberg participating and presenting papers in almost all meetings. Among these regional conferences, two were devoted to special topics: the First European Conference on *Environmental Knowledge Organization and Information Management* at Bratislava, Sept.1994, and the Research Seminar on *Compatibility and Integration of Order Systems* in Warsaw, Sept. 1995. By 1996, the ISKO membership had grown to more than 600 members from 54 countries, although in the meantime some members had also left the Society again. A Scientific Advisory Council was established and a number of coordinators and Chapter chairs have become active in 21 countries. The Society has launched four book series, the *Advances in Knowledge Organization* (5 vols.), *Fortschritte in der Wissensorganisation* (4 vols.), *Knowledge Organization in Subject Areas* (1 vol.+ Suppl.vol.), and recently *Textbooks in Knowledge Organization* (2 vols.), all published by the INDEKS Verlag.

6. The Information Coding Classification (ICC)

In recent years Dahlberg has included in her conference papers here and there her Information Coding Classification (ICC) that, as a result of the development work from 1969-1976, she had publicly introduced in Bangalore at her Ranganathan Endowment Lectures (December 1977). Her system was greatly appreciated by her Indian colleagues, who recognized at once its simplicity, power, and ease of use. (The lectures resulted in the monograph *Ontical Structures and Universal Classification*, Bangalore, 1978). A second presentation (in German) was given at the 4th Conference of the Gesellschaft für Klassifikation in Salzburg (April 1980). However, this one met with very strong criticism (visible in the relevant proceedings volume SK-9) which discouraged her so much that she did not take up this topic again until 1991 in Toronto at the 5th International Study Conference of FID/CR. Finding this audience less critical, she tried at several later conferences to bring this new universal classification system to the attention of her colleagues. So far only a few colleagues have recognized the potential value of this system, whose main classes are built on categories of being, with the subject groups and subfields based on general form categories. She has used it to indicate subject fields in all her bibliographies and in the *Who's Who in Classification and Indexing*. However, only a few colleagues (e.g. Dr. Giliola NEGRINI and her colleagues in Italy and Mr. ALVES in Portugal) use it for further elaboration and translation. In the latest paper which was presented recently in Washington, DC (July 1996) it was proposed that the system be used in the Internet for

switching purposes among general classification systems referring to their cataloguing data of library holdings.

Thus it was excellent timing, when Ingetraut Dahlberg received the International Ranganathan Award in October 1996, at the FID meeting in Graz, Austria, for seminal and outstanding work in classification research.

7. The Heritage

Although Dahlberg is still full of ideas of things to be accomplished in the field of knowledge organization, she thinks the time has come to let others do the necessary work, as she feels the need to be obedient to a sign that she received from above in 1995. Thus she decided to stop her work and to retire altogether from her professional activities, which included: (1) the Presidency of ISKO (now served by Prof. Hanne ALBRECHTSEN of Copenhagen), (2) the management of ISKO's General Secretariat (now located at the Royal School of Librarianship in Copenhagen), (3) the editing of the journal *Knowledge Organization* (now done by Mr. Charles GILREATH in Gainesville, FL), (4) the editing of the ISKO News (also done by H. ALBRECHTSEN), (5) the huge job of compiling the current bibliography in the Literature section of *Knowledge Organization* (now done by Drs. RIESTHUIS in Amsterdam), and finally (6) the management of INDEKS Verlag (the production of which has been transferred to the ERGON VERLAG in Würzburg).

In the past 37 years Dahlberg has published some 10 monographs, about 250 articles and reports, many book reviews, many Editorials and thousands of abstracts. In addition, she has compiled about 30 book indexes and has edited many books and 74 journal issues with their annual indexes. Now she has but one hope: that her special library of classification, indexing, terminology, linguistics books, dictionaries and directories, her archives with many journal holdings and reprints, and her numerous card files and diskettes will be found an asset by some interested institution so that perhaps many students of the field of knowledge organization may profit some day from these collections.

In looking back, Dahlberg recognizes the wonderful guidance she has received in the almost 40 years of her professional activities. She is convinced that whatever she was able to accomplish was not done by her but by Him Who does all the good in us if we are His obedient children. In leaving her field of knowledge she will not disappear altogether but has prom-

ised to help in the next two years in every way possible – God willing – all those who will continue what she was able to get started.

Wolfgang Dahlberg

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