

Editorial

Reminiscenses and the One Big Hope

The contributions of this issue relate to events of this year and may be regarded - at the same time - as a small collection of presentations of a longer history - the history of the aims of this journal since its beginning 23 years ago in 1974. Before we go deeper into the latter, let us first look at the former.

The first contribution - Douglas BENNETT's address at the U.S. Supreme Court on the evening of the first day of ISKO's 4th International Conference in Washington - summarizes the findings of a conference of the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) on the internationalization of its member's activities, including also our field of knowledge organization. In the ACLS some 56 member societies from the humanities and social sciences are assembled; thus it struck me that this Council can be seen as the counterpart, albeit at present on the national level only, of the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU) in which - with one exception - only the natural sciences are represented. Although not stated in the paper, I could well imagine an international expansion of the Council through the entry of learned societies from other countries, enabling it to serve for the humanities and social science function analogous to those served by the ICSU for the natural sciences.

If Bennett's paper suggests viewing knowledge as distributed in *space*, the second paper of this issue looks back in *time*, being concerned with our history. This contribution was received after a remarkable encounter in Washington on the last day of our conference mentioned above: Thomas WALKER's investigations into Ramon Llull's "Trees of Science" led him to recognize that the roots of Ranganathan's faceted classification can already be found in Llull's ideas, a half millennium before him. Although Ranganathan built also on the ideas of his forerunners, he surely would not have anticipated this possibility. This shows once more that apparently new human inventions have often already been considered in times much earlier than hitherto held possible. Should this fact not lead us to devote more time to the study of the work of great human thinkers and to compare their thoughts and works with the findings of our times - as this has so well been done, e.g. by Prof. Scheibe in his article on G.W. Leibniz in KO 96-2?

The next article by Winfried GÖDERT *Information as a Cognitive Construction* ... is a paper presented at the International Conference on Conceptual Knowledge Processing in Darmstadt, Febr. 1996. The proposed model combines the understanding of cognitive information processing with considerations of communication theory and claims that this approach can be of value for any system that is regarded as a knowledge system with an

intrinsic ordering structure. It shows not only the domains of reference for acquiring and storing knowledge but also the consequences for the design of information systems and for information ethics.

This highly theoretical paper is followed by a very practical one by two Chinese colleagues, Hong YI and Zhang JIN which describes the utilization of the DDC in China, its influences and adaptation, thus commemorating the 120th Anniversary of the first Edition of the Dewey Decimal Classification. This anniversary was likewise the reason for ISKO's move to the United States with its 4th international conference.

Last but not least, this issue includes the 3rd part of F.RIGGS's series on *Onomantics and Terminology* (this time on Formats, Borrowed Terms, and Unglossed Concepts) of which Parts I and 2 appeared in KO 96-1 and 96-3 respectively. A 4th part is to follow in KO 97-1. It is a functional paper arguing massively against some of the definitions found in ISO 1087.

Why did I refer in the beginning to the history of this journal and its aims? Well, to those of our readers who are not ISKO members - the members having already been informed - I need to say that this is my last issue as Editor-in-Chief (see also the Minutes of the Membership Assembly in ISKO News 25, KO 96-3). From 1997 on, this office will be passed on to Mr. Charles GILREATH, Gainesville, Florida, who will coordinate a team of 5 section heads for the journal. Thus it is only natural that I look back, recalling the challenge contained in the 1974 declaration of purposes listed in the first Editorial. They were presented under the following 4 headings:

1. *This journal is a Programme* - namely

- 1) to overcome the boundaries which still separate those interested in classification methodology from each other
- 2) to serve as a medium for knowledge exchange on the international level
- 3) to find a common basis for the classification methodologies having been developed in different subject fields: library science, information science, natural sciences, industrial administration, linguistics, and philosophy.

2. *The journal has a Programme*

- 1) to draw attention to the existence of a new autonomous field of knowledge
- 2) to provide a platform for the presentation of ideas and scientific discussion
- 3) to unite the specialists from various fields to develop a common basis for their efforts.

3. *The journal implements its Programme*

- 1) with original articles dealing with theory and practice
- 2) with critical comments on articles
- 3) with a "Terminology Corner" (dealing with the specific terminology of our own field)

4. The Programm of issue 1.

(In place of the Programme for the first issue, I list here the aims of the present issue, which is - counting all issues published one by one - No. 73, namely):

- 1) overcoming national boundaries by internationalization of our activities
- 2) bridging the past and the present, recognizing the value of historical contributions
- 3) including philosophical and theoretical papers guiding us to reconsider accustomed practices
- 4) accepting descriptions of past and current practice, and - not to forget -
- 5) recognizing the value of the close relationship with Terminology as the field for the Representation of Knowledge.

In reviewing the purposes for this journal which our small editorial team had presented in 1974 - that team consisted of the late Professor Dr. Dr. Alwin DIEMER, then president of the Féderation Internationale des Sociétés de Philosophie, Prof. A. NEELAMEGHAN, then Chair of FID/CR, and Prof. Jean M. PERREAUXT, my colleague from Florida Atlantic University, with whom I had had the precious chance to work on *Categories and Relators* at the first university library of the world which had a computer at its disposal (in 1964/65) - I realize that only some of our goals have been achieved and that there is still very much left to be done, especially in the area of education, which was not thematized in that first issue.

Fortunately, the journal no longer rests on the shoulders of a few individuals but has become, in fact, the organ

of an international society. Thus I can confidently leave my position, trusting that there is now an editorial group big enough to continue the bold *Programme*, which began modestly with but two, then expanded to three and, since 1989, to four issues per year.

Concludingly, I would like to thank first of all Dr. K.G. SAUR of the Verlag Dokumentation (now: K.G. Saur Verlag, Munich), for having had the courage to start this journal with us; secondly, all our authors throughout the past 73 issues, and thirdly our readers, who have borne with my many inadequacies and mistakes as a non-native speaker of the English language. Also I would like to thank Dr. Robert FUGMANN for his invaluable assistance in reviewing papers and also my son, Dr. Wolfgang DAHLBERG, for his help in finalizing the KO-issues via PageMaker for printing.

Although I heard recently that there are some who have had reservations about the religious appeals in my editorials, I do not apologize for them. Quite the opposite! It is not only my sincere conviction that nothing in our lives works without GOD but that HE, as our dearest Heavenly Father, has given me HIS wonderful help and guidance for and in every single issue; thus it is only natural that with such an experience one can only be full of thanks and praise to HIM. I am therefore expressing herewith my *One Big Hope* that this help and guidance will continue in the future (but it must be asked for!) to the benefit of Editors, Authors, Readers and also the new Publisher involved, Dr. H.-J. DIETRICH from the ERGON Verlag, Würzburg!

Ingetraut Dahlberg

Continued from p.228

Compatibility and Integration of Order Systems

The proceedings of the Research Seminar held at Warsaw, Sept. 13-15, 1995 have now been distributed to authors and participants and to those who indicated their interest in receiving them. A few extra copies are still available and may be ordered from INDEKS Verlag, but only until Feb. 28, 1997. The proceedings contain the opening addresses as well as 20 papers, an annotated bibliography of 450 titles and the Recommendations of the Seminar.

The volume was published as „Propozycje i Materiały No.6“ by the Polish Librarians Association, ul. St. K. Hankiewicza 1, PL-02-103 Warszawa. It can be ordered at this address for 15 Zl.

SCIRE. Vol.1(1995)Number 2

ISKO's Spanish Chapter publishes its own journal called "SCIRE. Representación y Organización del Conocimiento" - *Knowing* - as already announced in an earlier issue of this journal. Recently No. 95-2 was distributed. The papers are in Spanish with abstracts also in English. The journal appears twice a year and is edited by Prof. Dr. J. García Marco. The price is 2.500 ptas (US \$ 21) for personal and 5.000 ptas (US \$ 42) for institutional subscription. It can be ordered at: Área de Bibliotecas y Documentación, Facultad de Filosofía y Letras, Universidad de Zaragoza, C/Pedro Cerbuna 12, E-50.001 Zaragoza, Spain. Tel.: +34(9) 76551647, Fax: -76567834. Email: scire@msf.unizar.es