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Book Reviews

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as an inspiring work for those who would like to reflect on the situation of knowledge-management in their company. On top of that it can be used as an "how-to-do-book" for internal workshops dealing with management of knowledge.

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VOGT, Frank: **Formale Begriffsanalyse mit C++,** (Formal Concept Analysis with C++). Datenstrukturen und Algorithmen. Berlin-Heidelberg, etc.: Springer Verlag 1996. 323p., ISBN 3-540-61071-5

The first part of this book presents the mathematical structures of Formal Concept Analysis (FCA) as well as algorithms of the Formal Concept Analysis class library. This combined presentation of the theory of FCA and of its implementation in the ConScript and C++ languages has been very well done. As a result this first part can both be used as an introduction to FCA as such and as an embarcation on its practical application by means of the class library. The (both theoretically and technically) fully covered FAC Field is homogeneous in itself, and here the book constitutes a successful compromise between a broad presentation of the theory and a detailed presentation of individual aspects. Algorithmically ambitious problems such as the drawing of line diagrams are accorded the special room befitting their importance.

The second part, comprising nearly two thirds of the book, deals with the technical transposition of the Formal Concept Analysis class library. Unfortunately, Chapter 9, which presents a general overview of the class library, has turned out rather brief. While the idea of using FCA itself for representing the "used relationship" between the various classes of the library deserves in principle to be welcomed, the resulting line diagram is not too easily readable and hence is presumably less suited for beginners in formal concept analysis. The subsequent description of the various classes with their attributes and operations has been very carefully done and clearly presented, thus offering valuable assistance to the programmer. If page numbers had been indicated at cross-references within the documentation, working with it would have been simplified even more.

In summing up it may be said that the book (together with the class library) offers valuable support to programmers who wish to make use of FCA, even if they have not yet worked with FCA before.

Persons interested only in FCA itself, but not wishing to do any programming themselves, will likewise find the book interesting, but will be able to use it only up to a point. A minor fly in the ointment is the fact that the library, for all the author's efforts to keep it system-independent, cannot e.g. be readily used under MS Visual C++.

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NOHR, Holger: **Systematische Erschliessung in deutschen Öffentlichen Bibliotheken** (Classificatory Subject Analysis in German Public Libraries). Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz 1996. XI + 140 p., ISBN 3-447-03787-3.

With this further volume, again deserving to be termed well done, in the series "Beiträge zum Buch-und Bibliothekswesen" (Contributions to the Book and Library Field) published by Max Pauer, a volume constituting a supplement (p. IX) to Bernd Lorenz's "Systematische Aufstellung in deutschen wissenschaftlichen Bibliotheken" (Systematic Book Arrangement in German Scientific Libraries, 3rd completely revised and expanded edition, Wiesbaden, Harrassowitz, 1995), Holger Nohr does not intend to present a textbook (p. X), although his book might in large parts well be used as such. Rather, his intention was to "present an overview and situational description of classificatory subject analysis in public libraries" (p. X) and to indicate relevant framework conditions, particularly against the background of a changing catalog situation (P. XI). Such presentation is supplied "primarily from the point of view of a catalog-assisted content analysis" performed to serve the "pre-eminent task of classification as an ordering means for book arrangement purposes" (p. 1). As basis for the work serves the - correct - statement that "for public libraries, classificatory subject analysis of the stocks is and remains an absolute necessity" (p. 1).

Remaining outside this overall theme is, however, a classific-atory subject analysis of belles-lettres (fiction) (p. 2) and the development of a "comprehensive classification theory" (p. 75), although modern classification theory does find attention (p. 73-87).

Among over things, heterogeneity of the body of users (p. 2 et seq) and a largely absent cooperative subject analysis (p. 3) are found to be the "usual" problems of public libraries. In this connection, classification work is, as the author sees it, impeded by having