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The Italian ISKO chapter

ISKO has had a chair for Italy since 1991, in the person of Giliola Negrini. She organized seminars and workshops in the 1990s together with the National Research Council, and has been working on applying terminology, concept analysis, and Dahlberg's Systematifier model to knowledge bases in the humanities. At the end of 2003, the chair charge passed to me, as Giliola is more involved with new research for the industrial sector.

The Italian Chapter of ISKO has only a few members, so far. However, encouraging results are coming from the reorganization of the national section through the creation of an electronic mailing list open to non-ISKO members, and a website with information on the society, its history, and useful links <http://mate.unipv.it/biblio/isko/>. Lorena Zuccolo is providing substantial help for this. Spreading information through the Net seems to be a key factor. Indeed, in 2004 we already passed the threshold of 10 members (including well-known librarians and LIS professors) to become a full ISKO chapter.

There is room for hope that we will further extend this basis, as many people seem to be interested in the domain of knowledge organization, while the main Italian institution devoted to subject indexing, GRIS, is being absorbed into a larger committee of the national library association. Developments in information and computer science also make it necessary to think of knowledge organization on a skyline broader than librarianship, as a cross-disciplinary field including contributions from information science, philosophy, linguistics, etc.

Therefore, the main aim of the Italian ISKO chapter, for now, is to provide a reference in the field of knowledge organization, by pointing to bibliographic and Internet sources, and linking interested people to KO activities and events in other countries, both by ISKO and other organizations. The website will offer a place for various reports, translations and other contributions in KO by members. Original research is also planned, on impulse of interests of single members, about classification theory, with special reference to the theory of integrative levels previously studied by the Classification Research Group and Dahlberg, and its possible applications in the digital environment. Anyone interested in more information about KO in Italy, and ISKO chapter activities, is welcome to contact the chair at <gnoli@aib.it>.

14th National Conference of the Association of Librarians in Education – Romania (Asociatia Bibliotecarilor din Invatamant – Romania – ABIR)

Victoria Frâncu
Central University Library, Bucharest

The 14th National Conference of the Association of Librarians in Education - Romania (Asociatia Bibliotecarilor din Invatamant - Romania - ABIR) was held at the Central University Library "Lucian Blaga" in Cluj. On this occasion the Cataloguing and Indexing Section of ABIR had a very active workshop under the general theme of the conference, the changes in the librarian's profession.
On the first day of the conference a new indexing tool was released: "Tezaurul interdisciplinar multi-lingv pentru uzul bibliotecilor - româna, engleza, franceza" (Multilingual interdisciplinary thesaurus for library use - Romanian, English, French) by Victoria Frâncu.

The range of subjects discussed was not limited to the theme but also included other topics including: the Romanian translation of IFLA's document Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records for which the permission was obtained in the meantime; the Romanian translation of Ia McIlwaine's "The Universal Decimal Classification: a Guide to its Use" as a result of the favourable answer to the survey organised by our section of the library association; the inclusion of Romanian as a language of the future multilingual UDC Master Reference File; and future activities.

The speakers, all specialists in cataloguing and indexing from the main university libraries of Romania, presented papers including subjects such as the following: the Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records, the use of RAMEAU authorities in a Romanian library environment, cataloguing of electronic resources, a well-documented user study on different user and document categories, the many

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facets of subject analysis as prior activity in subject representation, the necessity of exchange formats in information transfer.

Following is an overview of the subjects developed in those papers.

Bibliographic identities: a [small] contribution to the collocating function of catalogues
Dan Matei

Communication implies the reification of the bibliographic identities in a catalogue as a method of improving its precision, without significantly affecting its recall. In particular, the presenter discussed the way this reification is achieved in practice within the project Panizzi, i.e. the union catalogue of the national cultural heritage. Cases of personal identity and institutional identity were analysed. In the end, the problems which are still pending were presented.

FRBR: a practical approach
Victoria Frâncu

The Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records give the right solutions to many problems encountered by the library world nowadays. The entity-relation model provided by FRBR offers multiple possibilities to turn to better account the information otherwise hidden behind the traditional bibliographic records. The author made a short, yet necessary, description of the model and drew a parallel between a traditional catalogue record and the possible way the same library material can be treated according to the FRBR model. The focus was laid on the model's main function of collocating entities with shared attributes but also on that of making the necessary distinctions between different document types along with the relations between all those.

Indexing with RAMEAU: advantages and difficulties
Monica Lazãr, Nina Botez, Dana Crisan, Eva Maister

The paper revaluated the remarks of the indexers' team at the Central University Library "Lucian Blaga" of Cluj regarding their practice in using RAMEAU subject authorities. The decision to accommodate RAMEAU authorities in subject indexing was necessitated and facilitated by the acquisition of Aleph 500, a library system able to cope with UNIMARC formats. Additionally, RAMEAU's wide coverage was appreciated as convenient to a univer-

sity library with collections from all fields of knowledge. Moreover, the linguistic side of the work was thought not to be troublesome given the common language family of French and Romanian. However, from theoretical considerations to practical application the way is not always smooth and many difficulties appeared in the daily indexing work of which the lexical, syntactical and semantical ones were dealt with in the paper.

From catalogue cards to the online catalogue, databases on CD-ROM and the Internet: a comparative study in information retrieval
Olimpia Curta

The study is based on a survey investigating the opinions and experience of different categories of information searchers over four years, made by the author at the same university library. The questionnaire was meant to give feedback on four methods used in information retrieval and, specifically, it provided data on the following issues: category of users, identification of the domain of interest, evaluation of the frequency of use of the different IR tools, evaluation of the relevance of the information retrieved, evaluation of the need for assistance in IR, identification of the users of the computer, evaluation of the need for instruction in using the modern equipment, collecting the opinions on the information services offered, and making suggestions for improved services. The conclusions were drawn on each category of users (students, faculty, researchers and others) with the most important being the growing preference for the online retrieval of information (online catalogue and Internet) and the use of CD-ROM databases, particularly in the case of students.

Interdisciplinary techniques in information processing
Dana Dinu

Re-integrating librarianship into information and communication sciences, this paper is not aiming to solve the controversial topic of discipline identity, but to prove the common nature of methodology - taking as different just the perspective approach. The basic technologies of the catalogue were analysed, the catalogue being regarded as the essential tool of any library activity whose main purpose is the availability of information to users or, in other words, the fulfillment of the information need. Document bibliographic description, classification and indexing –

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as developing in most of Romanian libraries – were systematized by logical and technological criteria. The results point to some discipline interferences dealing with concept and its linguistic materialisation (logic, epistemology, semiotics, semantics, terminology) requiring managerial research and professional development re-evaluation.

Is cataloguing of CD-ROM's problematic?
Sia Fodorean

Until recently, The Central University Library "Lucian Blaga" of Cluj was not confronted with cataloguing of electronic documents. The acquisition of this type of document through legal depot imposed the re-consideration of the cataloguing rules to be followed and required the answering of many other critical issues such as: which rules should prevail in cataloguing: MARC or ISBD(ER); should the electronic documents be kept in a separate database; should they be catalogued even if the technical re-

quirements are lacking, making the document unreadable; should a template be made on the server for consistency purposes; should the electronic documents be lent out; should the optical sound recordings be differentiated from CD-ROM's? All these questions were argued and answered in the paper.

The advantages of the UNIMARC format in making a national database
Ilona Gurka-Balla

The author presented the advantages of the UNIMARC format and those of using the same format in cataloguing at the national level. She remarked in a critical manner the variety of library systems used in Romanian university libraries and public libraries. Likewise, she strongly argued in favour of concentrated efforts directed towards unified cataloguing rules and a national catalogue.

Agenda for the

9th ISKO
General Assembly

8th ISKO International Conference

London, England
Thursday 15 July 2004, 4.45pm

1. Opening
2. Election of 9th General Assembly Chair and Secretary
3. Additions to and approval of Agenda
4. Minutes of 8th General Assembly, July, 2002, Granada, Spain
5. President's Report
6. Treasurer's report and fees
7. Election of 3 members to Executive committee
8. Discussion of President's and Treasurer's reports
9. Topics for 9th International ISKO Conference, Vienna, Austria (G. Budin)
10. AOB