ISKO News 5

Reactions to the First International ISKO Conference, Darmstadt, Aug.14-17, 1990

The echo in the journals of library and information science on ISKO's first international conference was encouraging. Also, ISKO General Secretariat received many letters of thanks showing that the first international conference had provided what it had been aiming at: the personal and scientific encounters and the atmosphere which allowed the mutual exchange of ideas and at the same time the learning of the progress in the field presented through the conference programme and its speakers. Here are a few comments:

Hanne Albrechtsen, Denmark: *"When Lene (Olsen) and I returned to CRI after the conference, we arranged a workshop for some of our colleagues in the company, where we presented some of the points that we found especially interesting for us, for instance Dr.Schmitz-Esser's talk on Second Generation Thesauri, Dr.Fischer's frame-based thesaurus tool and Prof.de Grolier's paper on universal systems. - This workshop was a great success, so we followed it up by a special workshop with Anne Lise Mark Pejtersen, who presented The Bookhouse and the underlying work of empirical systems analysis for our colleagues. - So you see, the ISKO conference was a very inspiring experience for us....."*

Eduard R.Sukiasyan, USSR: *"May I express my most appreciative thanks to you and your colleagues in the Organizing Committee for your wonderful organization of the Conference which I had the privilege to attend. I very greatly enjoyed the opportunity of visiting Darmstadt and of meeting colleagues with interests in the same field as my own. - I would like to inform you that I finished an article about the Conference for the Soviet serial "Librarianship and Bibliography Abroad". I have already spoken in the Lenin Library and I intend to tell about the Conference in other organizations (VINITI, INION, etc.)".*

H.Yamazaki, Japan: *"It had been a very useful and pleasant time when I joined in the first international conference of ISKO of last August at Darmstadt. The attendance of the conference and the talk with you all have brought me a new understanding of the way of thinking as a database designer and researcher of indexing which is my work and specialty. It would be an urgent need to build up an efficient and universally valid way for knowledge organization or ordering under the rapid progress in information and media technologies. It is not the task for computer engineers but for information scientists like ourselves. I really hope ISKO will play a significant role according to this point and will make a vivid development...."*

Ken Bakewell, England: *I really enjoyed the conference and the opportunity it provided for making so many new acquaintances. Very many congratulations on your mammoth efforts in bringing together so many people from so many countries..."* (Mr.Bakewell wrote a report on the conference for *The Indexer*).

The **second volume of the conference proceedings** could only go to press in early February and will be dispatched free of charge to all conference participants in March 1991. It was somewhat delayed on account of some latecomers as well as the preparation of an elaborate index which Dr.Fugmann did together with the establishment of a little thesaurus on the basis of the concepts contained in the papers published in the two volumes. Howewer, this and the resulting indexes could not be included because of lacking space. Thus there is only an alphabetical name index and a subject index in the second proceedings volume which is at the same time also the second volume of the new series "Advances in Knowledge Organization" (AKO-2). The entire set of indexes and an introduction with some observations will be published in Int.Classif.91-2/3 under the heading "A Navigational Index" by its author, Robert Fugmann.

Call for Papers: Cognitive Paradigms in Knowledge Organization. Second International ISKO Conference, Madras, Aug.26-28, 1992

The ISKO Executive Board received an offer from Dr.Suseela KUMAR, Madras, President of the Madras Library Association (MALA), saying: "The Madras Library Association, in collaboration with the Sarada Ranganathan Endowment, would be delighted to host this international event in Madras" prior to the IFLA conference in New Delhi, Aug.30-Sept.5, 1992. As we know, Dr.S.R.Ranganathan whose birth centenary is to be marked by this conference, started his activities in the field of library and information science at the Madras University Library, founded there in 1928 the Madras Library Association, and sponsored also a university chair in Library Science from his own personal savings. The ISKO Executive Board welcomed and accepted this offer with thanks. A Call for Papers has been issued and is being distributed to the membership soon. It includes two topics, viz.:

Area 1: Conceptual Models. Mathematical Models. Simulation Models. Models for Decision Support Systems. Models for Intelligent Knowledge Based Systems.

Area 2: Application and case studies of models in the Organization of Knowledge in particular areas: Natural Sciences, Humanities, Social Sciences, Formal Sciences, Interdisciplinary Sciences.

The conference is planned for 60-75 participants, both from India and abroad. A local Organizing Committee has been set up comprising Prof.A.Neelameghan, (Chair)

Prof.S.Parthasarathy, Dr.Suseela Kumar, Prof. M.A. Gopinath, Prof.K.S.Raghavan, Mr.S.N.Kumar.

Replies are requested by 1 June 1991. Registration fee: US$200 to be payable before July 1, 92. All correspondence should go to: S.N.Kumar, Conference Secretariat, 5 Sivaganga Road, Madras 600 034, India. Tel.: (044)47-3533. Fax: (044) 8250988.

NISKO'91. International Conference on Knowledge Organization, Terminology and Information Access Management, 14-15 May 1991, Bratislava, CSFR

NISKO is the name of the National Chapter of ISKO in Czechoslovakia which was founded in the fall of 1990 as one of the Scientific Technical Society bodies by the activities of Dr.Pavla Stancikova. In cooperation with ISKO as well as with the International Institute for Terminology Research (IITF), Infoterm, ÖGDI, and TermNet, Vienna, Austria, an invitation and Call for Papers for the above named conference has been sent in January 1991 to all European ISKO members and other colleagues interested. The following keynote lectures are listed in this Call: I.DAHLBERG: Knowledge organization in the 90ies. - Ch.GALINSKI: Terminology and knowledge engineering, recent results of research and applications. - G.BUDIN: Knowledge in texts - knowledge in databases. - W.SCHMITZ-ESSER: New approaches in thesaurus application. - P.STANCIKOVA: Multilingual thesauri construction by CDS/ISIS software applications. - O.SECHSER: Repackaging data in database publishing. - C.RITZLER: PC supported thesaurus software, comparative study. - E.WEIHS: Environmental thesauri construction, categories and function in the Bavarian Land Information System.

The conference language will be English. Abstracts were due by Jan.15, papers are due by March 31, 1991, preferably on floppy disk 5,25" for PC IBM compatible in ASCII code. Proceedings are to be prepared in advance for the invited and the accepted submitted papers. - For further information please turn to: NISKO, attn: Dr.Pavla Stancikova, Michalska 3, CS-814 86 Bratislava.

Wissensorganisation'91. "Kognitive Ansätze zum Ordnen und Darstellen von Wissen".

The second conference of ISKO's German Section (the first being held together with the international conference at Darmstadt, Aug.90) will take place at Weilburg, Hessisches Institut für Lehrerfortbildung, from Oktober 16-18, 1991. A Call for Papers has been distributed in the beginning of January 91 inviting papers for the following five sections:

A: *Grundlagen und Methoden der Wissensorganisation:* Gestaltungsprinzipien und Anforderungskataloge für universelle Ordnungssysteme. Erkenntnistheoretische Grundlagen für Wissensordnung und -darstellung. Theoriebildung als Mittel zum Ordnen und Darstellen von Wissen. Begriffliche Ordnungen und Wissenssyste-

me, Begriffsbeziehungen. Möglichkeiten und Grenzen der maschinenunterstützten Wissensorganisation. Konzepte zur Aus- und Weiterbildung in der Informationswissenschaft.

B: *Neuronale Paradigmen in der Wissensorganisation:* Neuronale Netze als Wissensspeicher. Information Retrieval mit assoziativem Zugriff. Auffinden von Wissen als Erkennung/Vervollständigung von Mustern. Klassifizieren mit neuronalen Netzen. Strukturbildung/ Redundanzreduktion durch abstraktive Prozesse.

C: *Wissensorganisation in Informationssystemen:* Darstellung und Nutzung von Allgemeinwissen in Informationssystemen. Objektorientierte Datenbankmodelle und Wissensorganisation. Terminologische Wissens- und Datenbanken, Thesauruskonstruktion auf terminologischer Basis. Data Dictionaries. Computerunterstützte Entwicklung (multilingualer) Thesauri. Kognitive Probleme der Indexierung. Automatische Inhaltserschließung durch maschinelles Textverstehen. Graphische Aufbereitung von gespeichertem Wissen. Wissensorganisation bei der Verwaltung von Archiven. Erstellung und Pflege von Software für Thesauri und Klassifikationssysteme.

D: *Wissensorganisation im Bibliothekswesen:* Einsatz von Multimedia/Hypermedia für Online-Kataloge. Online Bookshelf Browsing. Intelligente Online-Anleitungen (Objektorientierte Navigation, Strukturierte Suche). Online-Zugriff auf elektronisch gespeicherte Zeitschriftenartikel. Inhaltliche Erschließung von Nonbook-Materialien. Konzepte zur Harmonisierung und Pflege der in Ost- und Westdeutschland verwendeten Systematiken.

E: *Wissensorganisation in speziellen Fachgebieten:* Fachspezifische Klassifikationsprobleme. Wissensorganisation im beruflichen Alltag. Wissensorganisation und betriebliches Management. Anwendung von Klassifikation in Wirtschaft und Verwaltung. Anwendungssoftware.

Poster sessions, entitled 'Streitgespräche' (as a topic-independent exchange of opinions on controverse arguments in the field of knowledge organization) have also been foreseen. The conference will be chaired by Prof.W.GÖDERT. The conference fee (including the proceedings volume) amounts to DM 120.- for members and DM 160.- for non-members. Abstracts are due by March 15, 1991, to be sent to Dr.P.Jaenecke, SEL Alcatel, Ostendstr. 3, D-7530 Pforzheim.

Copies of the Call for Papers are available - for the time being - from the ISKO General Secretariat, Woogstr.36a, D-6000 Frankfurt 50.

5th FID/CR International Study Conference on Classification Research, Toronto, June 24-28, 1991

Called the ISSCR'91, this Conference is also co-sponsored by ISKO. A preliminary conference programme has been dispatched in December 1990 and is

presented in more detail in the FID/CR News section of IC 91-1. Earlier conferences of the Classification Research Committee of the Federation International de Documentation took place at Dorking (1957), Elsinore (1964), Bombay (1975) and Augsburg (1982). The conference is chaired by the FID/CR chairperson: Prof.Nancy WILLIAMSON, Fac. of Library and Information Science, 140 St.George Street, Toronto M5S 1A1, Canada.

Documentary Languages and Databases, Rome, 3-4 Dec.1990

The conference with this title, organized in Rome from 3-4 Dec.1990 was a great success indeed. Dr.Giliola NEGRINI of the Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche. Istituto di Studi sulla Ricerca e Documentazione Scientifica is to be congratulated for her well-chosen programme and the 460 colleagues in the auditory, among which only three guests from abroad for whom simultaneous translation into English was provided! ISKO was represented by its still few Italian members, its president and its French coordinator, Dr.Jacques MANIEZ. The program, published already in IC 90-3/4, saw only one change: A replacement for Marlène Choukroun from France by Angelo ROSSI MORI, also an ISKO member, from the Istituto Tecnologie Biomediche, CNR, who spoke on computerized thesauri production. There was unanimous agreement that such a conference had never been held in Italy before; both participants and organizers were very happy about the high standard of the papers and their discussions. The papers will be published in an Italian proceedings volume by the Institution mentioned above (Via C.de Lollis, 12,I-00185 Roma) in the course of 1991. Negotiations with the Indeks Verlag concerning the publication of an English version in the summer of 1991 have started.

Knowledge Representation, Thesauri, and Classification

In IC 90-1, p.34, a workshop was announced to be held May 17/18, 1990 in Bonn. It took place with a very good attendance and with many more papers than listed in IC. From Nov.29-Dec.1, 1990 it was repeated in Schloß Garzau, near Berlin with participants mostly from the Eastern part of Germany. ISKO was again one of the co-sponsors and was represented by many of its members. There were some changes, though in the program of the second workshop: Instead of Peter Ingwersen, Irene WORMELL, Copenhagen, spoke on "Information science as a cognitive science". The problem of cognitive abstracting was treated by Hans-Jürgen MANECKE and Heidrun CLAUS, Ilmenau, in "Abstracting on the basis of text relationships" (Referieren auf der Basis von Textrelationen). Alfred KOBSA and Ernst LUKAS repeated their lectures. An additional paper was presented by Roland HJERPPE from Linköping: "Knowledge organization in information systems". The organization was in the hands of Dipl.Soz.

Matthias HERFURTH, from the IZ Sozialwissenschaften, Bonn and as chairperson served, again masterly, Prof.Brigitte ENDRES-NIGGEMEYER who also plans to publish the papers in a separate volume.

Personal News

We should like to congratulate the Indian ISKO coordinator, Mr.Mohinder Partap SATIJA, on having been awarded the Doctoral Degree by Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, India. His dissertation supervisor was Prof.Dr.K.Navalini, and his dissertation topic: "*An Investigation into the Research Methodology of S.R.Ranganathan and His Style of Writing*" with the following abstract:

Padmashri Shiyali Ramamrita Ranganathan (1892-1972), a mathematician-turned-librarian stands in the first array of seminal thinkers in the library and information science world. He has been the foremost amongst the statesmen of Indian librarianship, and may aptly be regarded the father of the Indian library movement. Social obligations prevailed upon him to assume many a varied role simultaneously. This study investigates the development of his thoughts and his career as a writer on library matters. The main thrust is on his "approach" to the study of library problems - which has been objective and innovative. He was a freak of nature endowed with intense intuitive vision. At the same time, he was industrious and an indefatigable worker. It explains to some extent the amazing amount of writings he produced. He combined quality with quantity.

Making a survey of literature on Ranganathan, the work begins with a brief biography of Ranganathan endeavouring to trace the elemental environmental and inspirational influences on Ranganathan to understand his personality and makeup of his mind. He could not reconcile with the contents and methods of teaching library science. He found the situation dismal, and there was no tradition of research in library science before him. He found little of science in what he was taught. He became rebellious and wanted to write anew the whole gamut of the discipline. His views on the nature of science and scientific research have been culled and collated with a separate chapter on his famous spiral of scientific method. His power and method to discern new problems and invent ideas have been discussed with a debate on the "originality" of some of his theories - *especially in classification*. His empirical studies which form the bedrock of most of his theories have been given a full chapter followed by his methods on processing data. His five Laws of Library Science for which he is deservedly famous, have been studied in detail explicating their nature, status and wide implications and their continued relevance in the informaiton age. Practicability of his theories, and the rapid revision of his ideas are also discussed. His application of the scientific method to study library science and its branches has been illustrated by drawing examples from his writings.
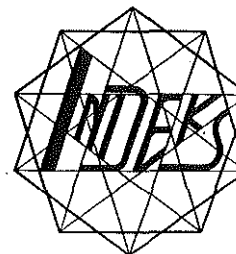
Lastly comes his debatable but inimitable style - both loved and hated simultaneously. He duly emphasized the importance of communication, and always wanted to be precise, with his perfectionist aim of a one-to-one communication. He used words without extra tones and extra-shades of meaning. He was an apostle of terminology and he coined new terms in large numbers. His division of text into paragraphs and subparagrapphs - sometimes called 'decimalized ladder' - is an innovative method which muliplies the reference convenience of the text at the risk of awkwardness. This method is very useful for comprehending contents and preparing the index at the time of press copy.

The study reveals that Ranganathan possessed uncanny insights to observe and discover details. His mind-large reservoir of ideas worked on the Vedic principle of *Ekavatyta* and could momentarily relate very far-fetched ideas. Its synthetic capacity was enigmatic. Intuition played a key role to spark new and key ideas. He abundantly applied tools of deductive logic to deduce theories by an *a priori* method. His aim was to create research in library science; for this he resorted to objective and empirical methods. It is as a great teacher to train the minds that he may be remembered most. Like Sokrates, he trained his students in the art of thinking by putting them to think from fundamentals. He created research in Indian librarianship and taught and inspired others to solve problems by objective and systematic methods as applied to other branches of the social sciences.

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TKE´90: TERMINOLOGY

and

KNOWLEDGE ENGINEERING

Proceedings of the 2nd International Congress on Terminology and Knowledge Engineering, 2-4 Oct.1990, University of Trier, FRG, organized by the Association for Terminology and Knowledge Transfer, and the International Information Centre for Terminology (Infoterm). Edited by Hans Czap and Wolfgang Nedobity
2 Vols., together 696p., ISBN 3-88672-204-X, - 205-8; together DM 125.-

Vol.1 contains the seven keynote lectures and the 34 papers of sessions I-III, Vol.2 the 39 papers of sessions IV-VIII and a list of the authors with their addresses and page numbers. The keynotes are by A.Dzhincharadze; A.M.Tjoa and R.Wagner; W.Rauch; A.Melby; S.Miike, S.Amano, H.Uchida and T. Yokoi; M.Schaar; G.Engel and H.Picht. The session topics are: Terminology, knowledge theory, and knowledge engineering: New applications; Knowledge-based systems; Natural language processing and knowledge engineering; Documentation languages and ordering of knowledge; Electronic dictionaries; Information management in organizations; Computer support in technical communication; Terminology and knowledge transfer tools.

There are still some left-overs of the proceedings volumes of the first TKE-Congress in Trier in 1987. INDEKS Verlag offers both volumes, amounting originally to DM 125.- now for only DM 75.-