

Obituary:

Hanne Albrechtsen

(9 March 1949 – 5 October 2024)



Hanne Albrechtsen, former president of ISKO, died on October 5th, 2024.

I first met Hanne as her teacher at the *Royal School of Library and Information Science* (RSLIS).

In 1990, RSLIS in Denmark introduced a 2-year Master of Library and Information Science (M.L.I.Sc. degree) as a two-year master's degree as a superstructure on the existing education in Library and Information Science (LIS). This was regarded as an important step in increasing the academic level of RSLIS and the candidates. Hanne Albrechtsen was a student in the first class taught, and I was among her teachers. Hanne became interested in the domain analytic approach to information science and wrote the thesis "Domain analysis for classification of software" as part of her degree. She became a staunch supporter of domain analysis and co-author of the seminal 1997 article "Toward a new horizon in information science: Domain-analysis." After completing her education in 1992, she became affiliated with RSLIS and focused on knowledge organization (KO). In 1996-1998, she functioned as president of ISKO, succeeding its founder, Ingetraut Dahlberg, who hoped to have found in Hanne a heir as a promoter of KO and ISKO. However, this engagement was terminated because Hanne focused on getting a PhD, which she did at the Department of Computer Science at Aalborg University in 2003 (PhD title *Classification Schemes for Collection Mediation: Work Centered Design and Cognitive Work Analysis*). In this period, she began cooperating with Annelise Mark Pejtersen, who had produced the "Bookhouse" system, which ran on a Mac computer and, among other qualities, provided innovative

approaches for the classification and indexing of fiction. Hanne changed her job from RSLIS to Risø National Laboratory, where Annelise was head of the *Cognitive Systems Engineering Center*. The change was motivated by Hanne's need for a more work-bench-oriented approach to KO. Unfortunately, for both Hanne and Annelise, the *Cognitive Systems Engineering Center* was closed down soon after, and they lost their positions. Hanne established a private company, the *Institute of Knowledge Sharing* (IKS), in Copenhagen and, in 2011, also worked as an external lecturer at the *University of Copenhagen*. After a few years, she retired and moved to Faaborg, Funen, where she lived for the rest of her life.

Her own description of her interests taken from Facebook and other places shows her many interests. They included singing, evolutionary astrology, genealogy (her family history) and the research fields of knowledge management, domain analysis, entrepreneurship, cognitive work analysis and HCI.

Hanne maintained her interest in KO. Her latest article was "This is Not Domain Analysis," published in 2015. In the last year, she expressed interest in writing a biographical article about Susan Leigh Star for the *ISKO Encyclopedia of Knowledge Organization*, a project that her medical condition unfortunately did not allow her to start. Hanne died after a long period of diabetes 1, which worsened due to the coronavirus and problems with dialysis.

Birger Hjørland