Editorial

10 Years of International Classification - could you do without it?

We are looking back on 26 issues of International Classification, 8 of which appeared in the years 1974–1977 and 18 in the years from 1978–1983. Guess how many items were published in these 26 issues altogether? We did some statistics and found the following:

Articles	127
Reports	91
News items	120
Book reviews	131
Editorials	22
Letters to the Editor	15
Terminology Corner	4
Obituaries	9
Infoterm News	19
Termdok Bull.	9
COCTA News	11
FID/CR News	9
Indexes	3
	580

The Newsletters (FID/CR, Infoterm, COCTA) included in Int.Classif. were counted only once, without regard to the fact that they were composed of many single items.

There are also two current bibliographies in Int. Classif., one called "Classification Literature", which was started in the very first issue and had reached at total of 9999 references by the end of 1983, and one forming part of the FID/CR Newsletter, called "Classification and Indexing Research. Current Bibliography of Projects", it has listed 108 items so far.

Indexes were supplied only every three years and only — so far — to the main body of the journal, not to bibliographies — with the exception of the author indexes to Classification Literature, of which the first one covering the years 1974–1977 appeared in Int. Classif.77–2 and which have been regularly supplied with the issue since 1981, when the bibliography was first put on floppy discs as well.

How international was International Classification? There was of course a strong bias from the German part, which accounted for 144 contributions — somehow out of necessity — but then look how many other countries our authors of articles, reports and book reviews represent:

USA	48	Brazil	4
Great Britain	29	Japan	3
India	16	Switzerland	3
Austria	14	Australia	2
Belgium	9	France	2
Canada	8	Netherlands	2
Italy	8	Argentina	1
German Dem. Rep.	6	Luxemburg	1
Soviet Union	6	Norway	1
Denmark	5	Poland	1
Sweden	5	Yugoslavia	1

Here, the contributions by several co-authors were counted only once. Six contributions by corporate authors were not counted.

Of greatest interest should be the answer to the question: what was actually covered in terms of contents in this journal? We tried to class the articles according to the outline used for Classification Literature and obtained this result (please check the full outline):

Notation	Class description	Number of articles
28	Compatibility between CS&T	12
48	On other universal systems	8
11	Order and classification	7
25	Numerical taxonomy	7
21	General questions of CS & T	6
26	Notation. Codes	6
31	Theory of classing and indexing	6
77	Gen.problems of terminology	6
39	Evaluation of classing & indexing	5
12	Conceptology in classification	4
22	Elements of CS&T	4
41	On universal CS & T in general	4
43	On the DDC	4
57	On taxonomies in Area 7	4
93	Organization on a natl.& int.level	4
19	History of classif.& indexing	3
24	Relationships	3
67	On CS&T in the Area 7	3
76	Lexicon/Dictionary problems	3
16	Development of science & classif.	2
23	Construction of CS & T	2
29	Evaluation of CS & T	2
32	Subject analysis	2
38	Index generation and programs	2
42	On the UDC	2
44	On the LCC and LCSH	2
78	Subject-oriented terminology work	2
95	Education and training in C&I	2
14	Systems theory in classification	1
15	Psychology of classification	1
17	Problems in classification	1
18	Classification research	1
34	Automatic classing and indexing	1
65	On CS & T in Area 5	1
66	On CS & T in Area 6	1
68	On CS & T in Area 8	1
71	General problems of language	1
99	Standardization in C&I	1

Now, one could ask the question: why does this list look the way it does? The classes most frequently occupied are those belonging to the first four groups, namely

1	Theoretical foundations	17
2	Classif.syst.& thesauri, structure and construction	42
3	Classing and indexing methodology	16
4	On universal classification systems	20

Obviously such articles are of greated research interest. The other five groups are less occupied:

5	On special objects classif.systems (taxonomies)	4
6	On special subjects classif.systems	6
7	Classification and language	12
8	Applied classing & indexing	...
9	Classification environment	7

What catches the eye, of course, is the fact that so many articles were devoted to questions of compatibility. It is indeed the problem No.1 in our world of

increasing mutual interdependence and the necessary cooperation and much more insight is needed for the subsequent development and implementation work which must follow the theoretical, preparatory studies.

As the editor of this journal I must confess that most of the articles have been sent in unsolicited, except in the very beginning. A very few, – some 4 or 5 – articles were reprints, or translations into English, of excellent papers delivered at the classification conferences of the (German) Society for Classification. Thus, the random configuration depicted in the figures above may give a first impression of what has been in the focus of interest in classification theory and practice during the past 10 years.

It might also be interesting to compare this result with the picture evolving from the Classed Subject Index of research projects in classification and indexing, given in this issue of IC at the end of FID/CR News.

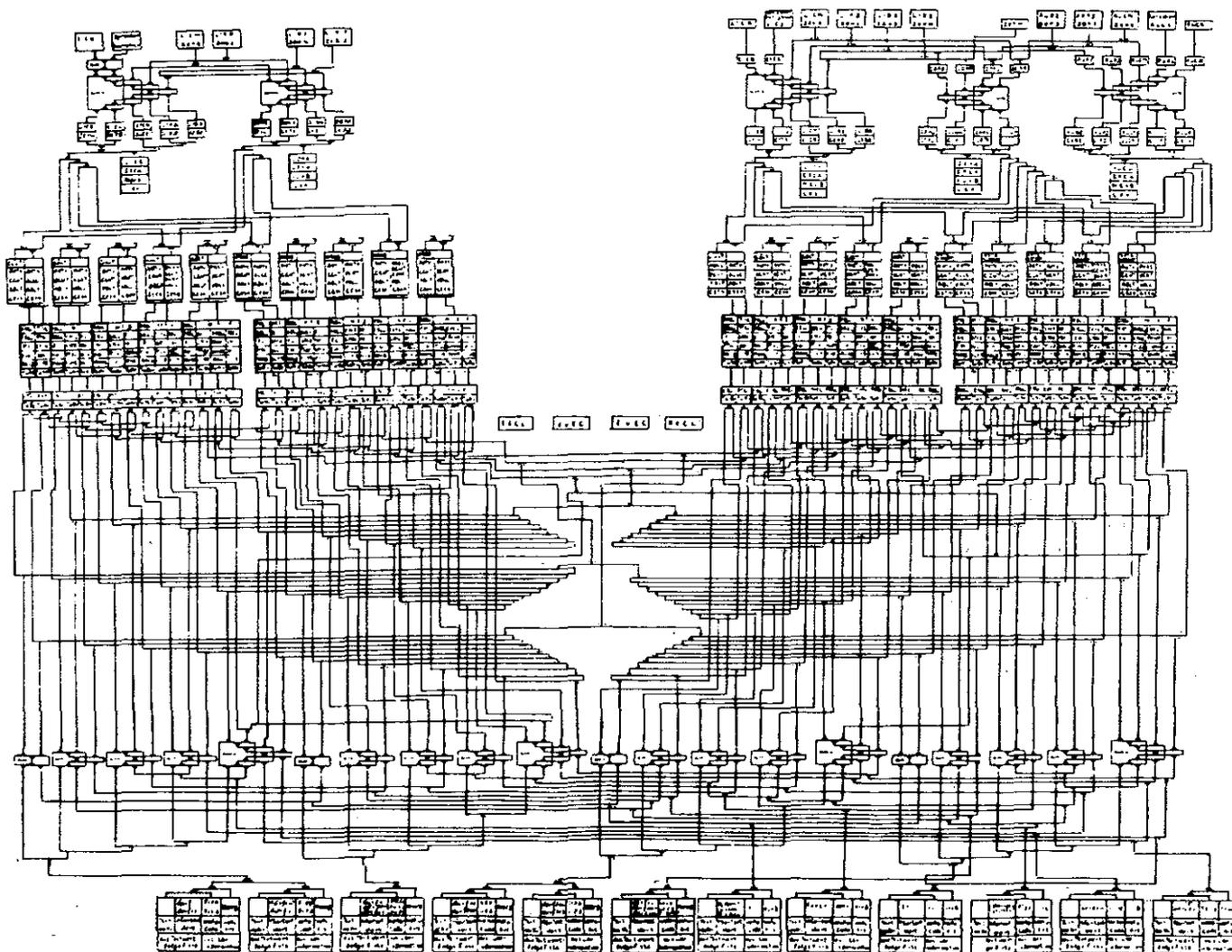However, here also the number of items is relatively small.

A much better result could be obtained by checking the entire classification literature, e.g. by going through the current bibliographies in Int.Classif., Classification Literature (some 10 000 titles) or – but not before the end of 1984 at the earliest – checking the material included in the next ICIB volumes (International Classification and Indexing Bibliography Vols.II–IV, 1950-1982), some 16 000 titles.

May you, dear reader, become curious and perform such statistics yourself on the basis of the issues of Classification Literature published so far or wait for the next 3 volumes of ICIB to appear soon.

The research activities in our field will determine the contents of IC in the future. May it become exciting and worthwhile – to benefit our readers and to present challenges to our much esteemed authors!

Ingetraut Dahlberg

See article by Alfred Hoppe: "Communicative Grammar and Machine-Assisted Contents Analysis", p. 9–12 of this issue.

Draft design (very much reduced) of a verbal formulation process to be used on a microprocessor.