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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.

Ewald Kiel

Dr. Ewald Kiel, Institut für Interkulturelle Didaktik, Waldweg 26, 37073 Göttingen

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++.

Stephan Düwel und Wolfgang Hesse

Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Hesse, FB Mathematik und Informatik der Universität Marburg, Hans Meertwein-Str., D-35032 Marburg

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

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to cope with persistent failure (p. 16), not in the last place because of the vain efforts to arrive at a universal (standard) classification (p. 11-17), which most certainly "no longer is a topic" (p. 17, cf. 20). The cause of this failure to realize a standard classification is seen by H. Nohr in deficient theoretical work (p. 13) - certainly an argument carrying weight, but by no means the only one.

Here the problematical development has come about that, on the one hand, the classifications used in public libraries "so far do not play any part" in expert discussions (p. 5) - regrettably so -, but that on the other hand the "developments in international classification research are hardly given any attention" (p. 6) - which is just as regrettable. At the same time, verbal subject analysis (Excursion on p. 91-98) has meanwhile become pre-eminent (p. 16, 91).

The core of this valuable work is formed by a presentation of the "five most important classifications in the German public library field" (p. 19-66):

* the "Allgemeine Systematik für öffentliche Bibliotheken" (ASB = General Classification for Public Libraries),
* the "Klassifikation der Sachliteratur und der Schönen Literatur" (Classification of Non-Fiction and Fiction), formerly the "Systematik der Stadtbibliothek Duisburg" (SSD = Classification of the Duisburg Municipal Library),
* the "Systematik für Bibliotheken" (SfB = Classification for Libraries),
* the "Klassifkation für Allgemeinbibliotheken" (Classification for General Libraries), formerly the "Klassifikation für Staatliche Allgemeinbibliotheken und Gewerkschaftsbibliotheken" (KAB = Classification for General Public Libraries and Labor Union Libraries),
* the "Sachbuchsystematik für Katholische öffentliche Büchereien" (SKB = Nonfiction Classification for Catholic Public Libraries),

all described according to a scheme, uniform in large measure, with main classes, typical examples of in-depth arrangement (subdivision), and references to secondary literature (p. 19). For each of the five above classifications, its history and development as well as its structure and contents are thus competently presented. Deserving of special mention here is the positive outline of the "Schlagwortindex zu ASB, SfB und SSD" (Alphabetical subject index to the ASB, SfB and SSD classifications, p. 67-72) as well as the index to the newly revised KAB and the SKB classifications (pp. 54-56 and 64 respectively), but equally the remarks on the revision of the ASB classification (pp. 24, 29, 119, 121 et seq) and the - very brief - reference to the SfB classification network (p. 38). Regrettably, however, the examples for in-depth subdivision have

been taken from different subject fields in each case, thus depriving the reader of the possibility of a genuine comparison.

The author rightly deplores the inadequate scope and the inadequate depth of subdivision (p. 65), but also the largely lacking "permanent revision" (continuous updating, p. 66) of these classifications.

Likewise important and stimulating is the concluding part "Katalogsituation: Der Online-Katalog" (Catalog situation: The online catalog, pp. 99-120). For "the current adaptation of library catalogs to modern computer technology has implications for classification systems as well as for the shaping of the subject description process as a whole" (p. 116), in which connection H. Nohr rightly reminds the reader that a data bank is not an ordering system (p. 117).

Commendable, too, is the detailed biography (pp. 126-138) as well as the - very brief - index (p. 139 et seq).

Such a fine book of course invites to continued discussion, for which only two suggestions be made at this point:

* Should it really be viewed so negatively as H. Nohr does when both "systematic book arrangement and systematic catalog management" are achieved by the same classification (pp. 4, 8, 123)?
* Just in how far can the subdivisions used by these classifications be justified from the point of view of contents? Why - to mention just one example out of many - do ASB and SSD, honoring an old (but bad) custom, divide language and literature from one another, with the SfB even assigning them to different subject fields: language to the "Geisteswissenschaften" (humanities) and literature to the "Musische Fächer" (fields of arts), whereas KAB and SKB place language and literature into one and the same context? What do such stipulations suggest as to the "modernness" or "up-to-dateness" of a classification?

Bernd W.J. Lorenz

Dr. Bernd W.J. Lorenz, Universitätsbibliothek Regensburg, D-93042 Regensburg, Germany