FID/CR NEWS 2

1. FID/CR Terms of Reference

At the FID Council Meeting on April 23–24, 1981, in The Hague, the following "Terms of Reference" which had been corrected and extended by the FID/CR Membership were presented for approval.

Year of creation:
1946 FID/CA General Theory of Classification.
1962 FID/CR Classification Research

Scope of Committee:
To promote, sponsor and engage in research in the field of classification and indexing.

By 'classification' is meant
(1) the overall field of study concerned with the organization of knowledge by investigating concepts (e.g. through concept analysis, recognition and establishment of relationships between concepts) and their terms (in natural and/or artificial languages) and comprising also the activities mentioned below (suggested term: 'classification science'),
(2) the methods and procedures of relating concepts and of establishing classes of concepts and thus of constructing classification systems and indexing languages (e.g. documentary thesauri, descriptor languages) of all kinds (suggested term 'to classify'),
(3) the products of (2), the systems and languages for classification and indexing as such (suggested terms 'classification system', indexing language),
(4) the methods and procedures used in applying such systems of (3) when analysing and relating items of reality (e.g. documents and their surrogates, realia, products) (suggested term 'to class') and the results of these activities (suggested terms 'classates' and 'indexations'),
(5) the production and organization of files of classed items, e.g. in the form of catalogues and indexes, shelved or machine-held files (suggested term 'classed arrangement')

By 'indexing' is meant
(I) the description of the essential contents of a document, by extraction and/or assignment of significant terms with or without syntactic relationships and with a sufficient degree of fidelity and predictability for retrieval demands,
(2) the establishment of indexes.

General Programme:
1. Sponsor and plan periodical international conferences, symposia,
2. Collaborate with regional and national classification groups, promote the creation of such groups and assist in their establishment
3. Establish and maintain active liaison with all the other FID Committees dealing with questions of classification and terminology,
4. Keep track of the terminology of classification and indexing and sponsor research in this field and the publication of glossaries,
5. Keep track of the documents published in this field and sponsor the publication of pertinent bibliographies,
6. Publish the FID/CR Report Series,
7. Publish the FID/CR Newsletter (in the journal Internatl. Classif.),
8. Co-sponsor the journal International Classification,
9. Maintain a card file and publish a directory of names of persons interested and engaged in classification research and classification and indexing activities.

Frankfurt/The Hague, April 1981

The terms were approved, however, with the following modifications:
1) to delete the sections defining the terms "classification" and "indexing" and to leave under "Scope of Committee" only the sentence "To promote, sponsor and engage in research in the field of classification and indexing".
2) under the heading "General Programme" to omit in item 7 "(in the journal International Classification)" and to completely omit item 8 "Co-sponsor the journal International Classification", and item 9 then to become item 8.

2. Who's Who in Classification?

In order that those interested in classification and indexing get to know each other faster and better, a Who's Who in Classification and Indexing is being prepared. The compilation of such a directory on all persons and institutions concerned with Classification Research and/or otherwise active in the field or classification and indexing including teachers of these subjects was approved by the FID-Council too. The collection of data via a short questionnaire will be started soon. The national members of FID/CR have been asked to supply addresses or address lists. All those wishing to be included but having been missed to be asked through a national body, are asked to please contact the FID/CR Secretariat directly. (Woogstr. 36a, D-6000 Frankfurt 50). The directory should be available at the beginning of 1982, if the necessary cooperation of all concerned can be achieved.

3. The 4th International Study Conference on Classification Research

In cooperation with the host of this Conference, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Dokumentation (German Society for Documentation), the FID/CR Secretariat and the Gesellschaft für Klassifikation (Society for Classification) formulated a Call for Papers. It is reprinted on the inside of the back cover of this issue. The date of the conference was fixed for June 28–July 2, 1982, in the middle of the summer in order that interested persons

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could perhaps combine a participation with a summer vacation in Europe. With the topic "Universal Classification, Subject Analysis and Ordering Systems", not only universal classification systems are to be dealt with, it also suggests that classification should be approached from a universal point of view, even when using special classification systems and thesauri.

This 4th International Study Conference is combined with the 6th Annual Conference of the German Classification Society. Its Special Interest Group on Numerical Taxonomy will organize additional sessions devoted to Numerical Methods in Classification; Mathematical and Statistical Classification Procedures, Structuring and Analysis of Data, Comparison and Evaluation of Classification, etc.

4. Argentina: Working Group on Indexing Languages

This group is composed of information specialists from different institutions, and is coordinated by Mónica Allmand de Gallo of CAICYT.*

Objectives:
Its objectives are:

- To realize studies on indexing languages.
- To diffuse the use of thesauri for the retrieval of specialized information.
- To advise those persons elaborating thesauri.
- To get in touch with organisms, institutions and persons from other countries in order to interchange experiences and to join efforts.

Functions
The group is in charge of the following functions: teaching, investigation, diffusion, normalization, collaboration and advice.

Activities
The group has fulfilled the following activities:

1) *Training Package of a Course on Indexing Languages: Thesaurus Construction*
Its objective is to give the elements to not so experienced teachers in Spanish-speaking countries, for the training of specialized librarians and other information specialists responsible for classification and indexing. The package includes precise indications and transparencies to be used as teaching materials.
The edition will be sponsored by UNESCO, in 1981.

2) *Inventory of Spanish and/or Portuguese non-traditional documentary Languages*
At the Conferencia Iberoamericana sobre Información Científica y Tecnológica, REUNIBER (Iberoamerican Conference on Scientific and Technological Information), Madrid, 1978, the Working Group on Documentary Languages has been established. One of its objectives was the elaboration of the Inventory.

As the coordination of this group of regional scope, has been adjudicated to Celia Molina, who is a member of the Working Group on Indexing Languages of the CAICYT, the composers of the latter assumed the responsibility of realizing the Inventory. By means of surveys they gathered information on 215 Spanish and Portuguese documentary languages which are presently being elaborated or already edited. (See also Intern. Classif. 8 (1981) No. 1, p. 28--29). The Inventory will be published in 1981.

3) *Compatibilization of Indexing Languages*
The FID Latin American Commission (FID/CLA) has delegated to the CAICYT the responsibility of coordinating a Working Group on Indexing Languages (FID/CLA/LI) at a Latin American level. Ana M. Sanllorenti, who is a member of the Working Group of CAICYT was charged with this task.

Information specialists from other Latin American countries are being incorporated in FID/CLA/LI.

The activity areas of this group are: 1) Compatibilization of specialized indexing languages; 2) Terminology.

A methodology and an activity programme are being elaborated.

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5. United Kingdom: Meetings of CRG

(Short summaries of the latest meetings of the Classification Research Group)

CRG-231, Oct. 9, 1980
Discussion on problems of subject analysis in sociology using examples from British National Bibliography (BNB), especially with regard to differences in approach between professional sociologists and professional subject analysts. It was suggested that "central cataloguing services should employ indexers and classifiers who are fully trained in their profession and are subject specialists" at the same time. The discussion centered also around the indexing of names and of aspects. Mr. Mills introduced the latest outline of Class K (Society . . .) of the revised Bliss Classification (BC2).

CRG-232 (Dec. 11, 1980)
Mr. Gopinath from Bangalore attended the meeting and gave a progress report on the 7th edition of the Colon Classification. Mr. Langridge circulated a paper on the logical structure of main classes and Mr. Mills introduced the discussion of Class K in BC2 which he described as a 'phenomenon' class to which individual disciplines had been subordinated. In the discussion, however, doubts were voiced on the wisdom of treating Class K as a phenomenon class.

CRG-233 (March 5, 1981)
The discussions on the paper by Mr. Langridge (on the logical structure of main classes) and on the Class K of BC2 were continued. Mr. Mills stated that he had outlined this arrangement of a detailed schedule for the phenomena 'environment', 'culture', 'social process' and 'structures and institutions in general'. He also explained the Class KPQ Food, Shelter, Clothing (according to the BSO) and KQB Collectivities. The new draft outline of Class K in BC2 was attached to the minutes.

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