
Reports and Communications

IFLA Section on Classification and Indexing

(From the *Annual News No.13, June 94*)

Work continues in the Section on Classification and Indexing. The Section has eighty-two members and one hundred and forty-four copies of the Newsletter have been distributed. This has been a most successful year, mainly because of the publication of the Guidelines for Subject Authority and Reference Entries (GSARE), the Section's first international standard. Publication of the papers, presented at the August 1993 Lisbon Satellite Meeting, "Subject Indexing: Principles and Practices in the 90's," scheduled for later this year, will give us a second publication on two years. The Section will present three papers at its Open Programme in Havana (Aug.1994) and will participate in the Open Forum of the Division of Bibliographic Control. The Section's Working Group on Principles Underlying Subject Heading Languages made great progress at the 1993 meetings in Lisbon and Barcelona in preparing the Principles Underlying Subject Heading Languages (SHLs) and will present a draft document for discussion at Havana.

1. Presentations at the Open Meetings at the Havana Conference

The Open Forum of the Division of Bibliographic Control, will be held Monday, 22 Aug., 9:00 - 11:00. *Donna Duncan* (McGill University, Montréal, Canada), now Chairperson of the Section, will present a review of the Section's activities for the year. The Sections on Bibliography and on Cataloguing will also report on their activities. Members of the three Sections and participants will have an opportunity to ask questions and express opinions about the activities of the Division and the Sections.

On Thursday, 25 Aug., 9:00 - 13:00, the Division will hold the workshop, "Follow-up to the First International Seminar on Universal Bibliographic Control, Rio de Janeiro, March, 1993." It will include presentations on the work of the Universal Bibliographic Control and International MARC (UBCIM) Core Programme and the Division of Bibliographic Control, a review of the resolutions of the Rio Seminar: what has been and what remains to be done, and discussion of an action plan.

Three papers will be presented during the Section's Open Programme.

Gerhard J.A. Riesthuis (Vakgroepboek-, Bibliotheek- en Informatiewetenschap, Universiteit van Amsterdam, Netherlands) will speak on the "Sociological aspects of classification."

Sergio Apelian Valerio (Fundacao Biblioteca Nacional, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil) will speak on "El proceso de construcción de tesauros y de indexación automatizada de documentos fotográficos in la Biblioteca Nacional del Brazil."

Yolanda Arencibia (Asociación Cubana de Bibliotecarios (ASCUBI), Havana, Cuba) will speak on "Tendencias actuales de la clasificación y la indización en Cuba."

2. Report on Section Activities at the Barcelona Conference, Aug. 1993

The Section's Standing Committee held very fruitful meetings in Barcelona. Fourteen members attended at least one of the Standing Committee Meetings. The Section is in excellent financial condition and even acquired a profit from the Lisbon Satellite Meeting.

Approximately two hundred people attended the Section's Open Programme at which the following papers were presented.

"Clasificación e indización en las bibliotecas españolas," by *Pilar Benedito Castellote* (Biblioteca Nacional, Madrid, Spain).

"Sachkatalogisierung in einem OPAC," by *Joachim Dietze* (Universitäts- und Landesbibliothek Sachsen-Anhalt, Martin Luther Universität, Halle/Saale, Germany).

"UDC: the present state and future developments," by *Ia C. McIlwaine* (University College of London, UK).

The first presentation was a survey of classification and indexing in the host country. The second one, discussed free-text and subject searching in online catalogues. The third, reported on the completion of the machine-readable Master Reference File of the UDC and showed how it was compiled. It also discussed two recent editions, *Classification décimale universelle, édition moyenne, vol. 1* (1990), and *CDU: Clasificación Decimal Universal, edición abreviada española* (1991).

In addition, at the Open Forum of the Division, *Dorothy McGarry* (University of California, Los Angeles, USA), then Section Chairperson, reported briefly on the Section's activities, during the year, and *Julianne Beall* (Library of Congress, Washington, USA) gave a summary of the Lisbon Satellite Meeting.

The Section continues to cooperate on projects with other Sections of the Division. *Dorothy McGarry* is serving on the Task Force of Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records. She and *Donna Duncan* (McGill University, Montréal, Canada), Section Secretary/Financial Officer, participated in the seminars on Universal Bibliographic Control, held by the Division in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in March 1993 and in Bucharest, Romania, in August 1993. Section members will participate in planning the 1997 International Conference on National Bibliographic Services, and in the revision of the Names of Persons Project. *Pilar Benedito Castellote* represents the Section on the UDC Editorial Board.

3. International Developments in Classification and Indexing during the Year

France: *RAMEAU* is now universally adopted in France and has been accepted by the new Bibliothèque National, as well as by university, public, and special libraries. The agreement has been renewed for three years with l'Université

Laval in Quebec, Canada to finance the RAMEAU database. Interest in using RAMEAU has been expressed in Belgium, Switzerland and North Africa. Portugal and Spain have translated portions of it.

Germany: *The Regeln für den Schlagwortkatalog (RSWK)* have been adopted for university libraries in Germany and regional library networks in Bavaria and Nordrhein-Westfalen. Also in Germany, discussion is underway to investigate a new classification scheme for Die Deutsche Bibliothek.

Spain: A second edition of the SIPORbase Manual has been issued. Work is in progress on instructions for the subject indexing of rare books, cartographic material, philosophy, history, and culture. PORBASE, the National Bibliographic Database, can be accessed for free using the Portuguese database number.

4. Guidelines for Subject Authority and Reference Entries (GSARE)

After a nearly unanimous vote of approval by Standing Committee Members in June, the Guidelines were published as UBCIM Publications - New Series Vol. 12, in the autumn of 1993. *Werner Stephan* (Die Deutsche Bibliothek, Frankfurt/M, Germany) and the Working Group on "Guidelines for Subject Authority Files" are to be congratulated for their diligence and hard work in producing the Section's first international standard. It can be ordered from the UBCIM Office.

5. Lisbon Satellite Meeting, 17-18 August 1993

Sixty-eight participants, half of them from Portugal and Spain and half from other countries, attended the Satellite Meeting, "Subject Indexing: Principles and Practices in the 90's," organized by *Ines M. Lopes* (Instituto da Biblioteca Nacional e do Livro, Lisbon, Portugal) and *Donna Duncan*. The first day of the meeting covered "Systems and Practices Today: An Overview," with papers on Brazil, Canada, Croatia, France, Germany, Iran, Poland, Portugal, Spain, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Papers presented on the second day were on "Current Issues in Subject Indexing" and discussed complementarity of natural and controlled languages in indexing, pre-coordination or not, international trends in terminology and indexing, and standardization and subject descriptor systems. These papers, under the editorship of *Robert Holley* (Wayne State University, Detroit, USA), are at press and will be published as UBCIM Publications - New Series Vol. 15, this autumn.

6. Working Group on Principles Underlying Subject Heading Languages

Using valuable resource information provided by the presentations at the Lisbon Satellite Meeting, the Working Group, chaired by *Elaine Svenonius* (University of California, Los Angeles, USA), prepared a document of Back-

ground, Purposes and Application Principles. It was decided that before wider distribution, rules from different subject systems that exemplify the various underlying principles should be added to the document that will be reviewed in Havana. *Elaine Svenonius* is thanked for her efforts in directing the work on the Principles so successfully. *Ines Lopes*, the new Chairperson, will now direct the project to its fruition. The Working Group will be broadened to include more representation than the original roster of members.

7. Requirements for a UNIMARC Format for Classification Data

The Working Group on the UNIMARC Classification Format, chaired by *Joan S. Mitchell* (Dewey Decimal Classification, OCLC Forest Press, Washington, USA), distributed a draft document to members of the Standing Committees of the Sections on Classification and Indexing and Information Technology in June. The Section's Standing Committees will review it during meetings in Havana. *Julianne Beall*, and *Nancy Williamson* (University of Toronto, Canada) represented our Section on the Review and Advisory Committee.

8. International Workshops and Seminars

Dorothy McGarry participated in a Seminar on Universal Bibliographic Control and UNIMARC, held in Vilnius, Lithuania on 2-4 June 1994. It was much the same as the ones held last year in Rio de Janeiro, Bucharest, Budapest, and Dakar but included for the first time presentations on ISBNs and ISSNs. Planning is in progress for a similar seminar in Accra, Ghana in February 1995.

9. Elections Results

Donna Duncan and *Dorothy McGarry* were elected Chairperson / Financial Officer and Secretary of the Section respectively. *Ross Bourne* (British Library, Boston Spa, UK) was elected Chairperson / Financial Officer and *Donna Duncan* Secretary of the Co-ordinating Board of the Division of Bibliographic Control. *Ross Bourne* was elected Chairperson / Financial Officer and *Isabelle Boudet* (Bibliothèque Nationale de France, Ivry) Secretary of the Standing Committee on Bibliography. *Olivia Madison* (Iowa State University, Ames, USA) was elected Chairperson / Financial Officer and *Suzanne Jouguelet* (Bibliothèque Nationale de France, Ivry) Secretary of the Standing Committee on Cataloguing. The above six officers form the Co-ordinating Board of the Division of Bibliographic Control.

Donna Duncan, Chairperson
IFLA Section on Classification and Indexing

Mrs. D. Duncan, Technical Services, McLennan Library, McGill University, 3459 McTavish Street, Montreal, Quebec H3A 1Y1, Canada.