News and Reports

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Dynamism and Stability in Knowledge Organization: 6th International ISKO Conference

The Sixth International Conference of the International Society for Knowledge Organization will be held at the Faculty of Information Studies (FIS), University of Toronto, in Toronto Canada, July 10 - 13, 2000. The theme of the Conference will be *Dynamism and Stability in Knowledge Organization* and papers have been selected for presentation that will address key issues in the following categories: Cognitive and Linguistic Foundations; Theories of Knowledge and Knowledge Organization; Information Policies and Management of Knowledge Structures; Information Systems - Concepts, Design and Implementation; Culture, Language and Communication in Knowledge Organization; Knowledge Organization of Universal and Special Systems; Global Users and Uses of Knowledge and Knowledge Organization; and New Information Technologies for Knowledge Organization.

The plans for the Conference are well under way. A Conference Organizing Committee made up of FIS ISKO members and graduate students is in charge of organizing the Conference. A Programme Committee, with international membership from 14 countries, was responsible for evaluating the proposals in a blind review. Proposals were received from 105 persons and approximately 60 papers were selected for presentation by participants from 13 countries - Canada, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, India, Israel, the Netherlands, Romania, South Africa, Spain, United States, and the United Kingdom.

The keynote address will be given by Professor **Hanne Albrechtsen**, Centre for Human Machine Interaction, Risø National Laboratory in Denmark. She will speak on *The Dynamism and Stability of Classification in Information Ecologies - Problems and Possibilities*. Sessions will be organized according to the categories listed above. Because there will be no concurrent sessions, delegates will have the opportunity to attend all sessions. A banquet and two receptions are planned. Approximately 80 to 100 participants are expected. A copy of the Proceedings is included in the price of the Conference.

The *Conference Announcement* including the Conference registration form and suggestions for accommodation has previously been posted on several listservs and has been mailed out to the presenters of papers. The deadline for early registration is May 30, 2000 and most of the hotels require registration by May 15, 2000. For additional copies of the announcement or further information please e-mail: isko@fis.utoronto.ca; or fax: ISKO at +416 971-1399

Nancy Williamson
Conference Chair

Italian participation in ISKO's activities

Even if many Italian scholars are involved in knowledge organization projects, so that many remarkable results in the field are produced at different levels, the interest in sharing the aims of the International Society for Knowledge Organization is feeble. Consequently the number of Italian ISKO members is very small. Nevertheless some of them are co-operating in relevant researches.

Project "Integration of Multiple Classifications"

The project "Integration of Multiple Classifications" included in the MLIS-Project "European Network of Terminology Information and Documentation Centres" (TDCNet) intends to develop the problem of homogenizing and integrating TDC using different documentation languages in order to classify, seek and retrieve information. The research is co-ordinated by **Leonardo Meo-Evoli** and **Giliola Negrini** (Isrds-Cnr, Rome and Ass.I.Term, Rome).

In general each TDC collects a set of data banks and structures information using a particular classification system. The formal model CoReC (Comparison and Relations Classification) is used to represent classifications systems, to describe semantic relations between the concepts of distinct classification systems and to manage the association between TDC and classification systems. The distinctive feature of CoReC consists in helping the TDC's administrator and user in the cognitive process that leads to the concept of a

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classification system. The project will also develop an architectural design for terminology poles capable of showing the "network user" the set of TDCs classifications as a single integrated structure.
For more information:
http://www.isrds.rm.cnr.it/HyperDocs/personale/~meoevoli/tke/Etke_corec.html

The SOCOL Project: Semantic and Ontologic Categories for Onomasiological Lexicography

The SOCOL project intends to develop a systematic clarification of the lexicon by using a categorical framework based on both semantic and ontologic categories. It consists in a three-year project recently launched by three Italian research groups coordinated by **Roberto Poli** (Dept. of Sociology and Social Research, Trento), **Giovanni Adamo** (Lie-Cnr, Rome), and **Giliola Negrini** (Isrds-Cnr, Rome).

The SOCOL project is based on *Alwis*, a complex ontological platform designed by Roberto Poli ("Alwis" is the name of the all-knowing dwarf of the Edda). Alwis is constituted by 12 different modules: Signature, Identificator, Description, Particular, Level, Part-Whole structure, Kind, Field, Context, Property, History and Relation.

To give just a general idea, some of the modules may nevertheless be presented. *Particular* distinguishes the items to be categorized into Individual, Stuff, Process and Group. In its turn, *Level* classifies the above items into the following four strata: Material, Psychological, Social and Abstract. Furthermore, each stratum presents a number of layers. A complex network of dependencies among layers and between strata has been elaborated. *Part-Whole structure* provides information concerning various kinds of wholes (aggregate, whole in the proper sense, system), and of parts. The latter are classified in two different series. The first classification concerns the distinction between antecedent, contemporary and subsequent parts; the second classification analyses the oppositions between separable and non-separable parts, spatial and temporal ones, functional and non-functional ones, etc.

The modules Particular, Level and Part-Whole structure constitute Alwis's ontological core. The information they provide presents a number of interrelated dependencies. A particular item can have a very complex level structure. A human being, say, is contemporarily a material item: it has a body (physical layer), and this body is an organism (biological layer). It is at the same time a psychological item: it has ideas, feelings, and intentions. And it is a social item: it pertains to a number of different social contexts (it is a member of a social community, has a family, speaks a natural language, received an education, etc.), and has access to the realm of ideas and values.

Each layer of one examined item activates a specific kind of particular and the pertinent part-whole classifications. The information inserted in the twelve modules of Alwis is subsequently presented and organized in "sights." Each sight of a categorized item presents, in a structured way, the information concerning that item. The main sight of an item considers it as an object canonically used, effectively available and really present in the given situation. Various modifications of the main sight can be elaborated.

To try this categorization system in the formal description of the lexicon, it has been chosen to investigate a particular field of the lexicographical production, strictly related to a terminological approach, i.e. the onomasiological lexicography: a systematic and conceptual description of the lexicon practiced for a long time by the Italian lexicographers, particularly during the nineteenth century. As a sample work, it has been decided to use the *Vocabolario domestico*, compiled by Giacinto Carena as an *Essay of a systematic dictionary of the Italian language* (Saggio di un vocabolario metodico della lingua italiana) and published for the first time in 1846 in Turin (the edition used was published in 1859 in Naples). The first step, the one actually under realization, will concern the analysis of selected chapters (i.e. *Architecture, House*), in order to elaborate a detailed semantical-ontological clarification of the various terms and of their interconnections.

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ISKO's 10-year Anniversary Festschrift will go in print

According to Prof. **Schmitz-Esser**, the 400-page Festschrift *Lines of Thought in Knowledge Organization*, celebrating ISKO's first 10 years, will go in print soon.

It will include 27 top contributions from ISKO publications, most of them revised, enlarged, and updated, plus an overall 10-year bibliography of all papers presented in ISKO publications. Everyone is cordially invited to get a copy of this reference work or to help distributing it. Order details can be found on the inside cover of *Knowledge Organization*, vol. 26 no. 2.

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