

IC

CLASSIFICATION

INTERNATIONAL

Devoted to Concept Theory
Systematic Terminology &
Organization of Knowledge

Contents

Thesaurus Integration in the Social Sciences.
Pt. III: Guidelines for the Integration of
Thesauri

Topic Relevance and BSO Switching
Effectiveness

Establishment of Glossaries:
Their Basic Functions

ICC — Information Coding Classification —
Principles, Structure and Application Possibilities

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INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION

Devoted to Concept Theory, Systematic Terminology and Organization of Knowledge

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Sager, J.C., Somers, H.L., McNaught, J.: Thesaurus integration in the social sciences. Pt. III: Guidelines for the integration of the sauri.

In: Int. Classif. 9 (1982) No. 2, p. 64–70

In this 3rd and last part of a series of articles (Pt. I in Int. Classif. 8 (1981) No. 3, p. 133–138, Pt. II in 9 (1982) No. 1, p. 19–26) guidelines for the successful integration of thesauri are developed in conformity with international standards, taking into account user requirements, the need for an exchange format of data and a suitable database management system. The references to this series have been added to Pt. I. (Acc. to authors)

DeHart, F.E.: Topic relevance and BSO switching effectiveness.

In: Int. Classif. 9 (1982) No. 2, p. 71–76, 21 refs.

A report of a case study which attempted to obtain further insight into topic relevance, a concern of indexers, searches, and those who construct thesauri and ordering schemes. "Topic relevance" is distinguished here from "relevance to a user's need." Utilizing one search topic and two groups of searches, the experiment aimed to determine whether statistically significant differences existed in the proportion of matches against fifty articles on the topic and present in three information sources. Each group had a different set of strategies and used specified combinations of search techniques and fields of the Basic Index. This report emphasizes the second group of searches. Reasons behind retrieval performance are analyzed for the resultant sixteen statistically significant differences. The study also set out to examine potential usefulness of the Broad System of Ordering (BSO) as a switching mechanism on the Section Heading level relative to the topic. The Section Headings available in two computerized databases used in the study are examined in light of the BSO number assigned to the topic. Possible consequences of subsequent use of certain relevant Section Headings in searching on a more specific level are also explored. Topic relevance may be a more serious problem in switching effectiveness than suspected. (Author)

Riggs, F.W.: Establishment of glossaries: Their basic functions. In: Int. Classif. 9 (1982) No. 2, p. 77–86, 11 refs.

The underlying problems of terminology have been treated at the level of effects, not causes. The overloading of terms has resulted in the proliferation of meanings attached to familiar words, and consequent ambiguity. To counteract this effect, efforts are often made to sort out the meanings of key words – an interminable task since newer meanings continue to proliferate on these very words. A more radical solution goes to the root of the problem by seeking to identify new concepts as they emerge from scholarly work and to facilitate new terms as unambiguous designators. A continuing, interactive glossary project, prepared and used by specialists in a given subject field, would be a basic tool in the repertoire of any discourse community seeking to promote the cumulation in its own specialized field of knowledge. Modern technology, especially as reflected in the use of automated terminology banks, can greatly facilitate the operation of a glossary program, but it is not a sine qua non. The cooperation of editors, both of newsletters and journals in the field concerned, is essential for the success of a glossary project. Because the concepts used in a specialized field of knowledge are highly interdependent, it is important that they be presented in a systematic (i.e. classified) glossary, with inter-linked definitions, and a comprehensive alphabetical index to all of the terms that can be used to designate each concept given as an entry in the glossary is also necessary. (Author)

Dahlberg, I.: ICC Information Coding Classification – principles, structure and application possibilities.

In: Int. Classif. 9 (1982) No. 2, p. 87–93, 12 refs.

Presentation of the design, characteristics and application possibilities of a new universal classification system called ICC which is based on the premises that whenever information is to be generated or to be presented (in coded form) at least two items are necessary one of which one plays the part of a subject and the other one that of the predicate of a sentence, with both these items being framed into a third one. The first basic division is by the categorial concepts denoting general entities and general aspects/determinations of being, framed into an evolutionary pattern of levels creating the 81 subject groups of ICC. Each of these subject groups is structured by a so-called systematifier, applying a recurring series of facets. The overall structure is explained and some of its application fields are outlined.

(Author)

INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION



SCOPE

The more scientific data are generated in the impetuous present times, the more ordering energy needs to be expended to control these data in a retrievable fashion. With the abundance of knowledge now available the questions of new solutions to the ordering problem and thus of improved classification systems, methods and procedures have acquired unforeseen significance; for many years now they have been in the focus of interest of information scientists the world over.

Until recently, the special literature relevant to classification was published in piecemeal fashion, scattered over the numerous technical journals serving the experts of the various fields, such as

- philosophy and science of science
- science policy and science organization
- mathematics, statistics, and computer science
- library and information science
- archivistics and museology
- journalism and communication science
- industrial and commodity classification
- terminology, lexicography, linguistics

Beginning 1974 INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION has been serving as a common platform for the discussion of both theoretical background questions and practical application problems in many areas of concern. In each issue experts from many countries comment on questions of an adequate structuring and construction of ordering systems and on the problems of their use in opening the information contents of new literature, of data collections and surveys, of tabular works and of other objects of scientific interest.

Their contributions have been concerned with

- (1) clarifying the theoretical foundations (general ordering theory, science-theoretical bases of classification, data analyses and reduction)
- (2) describing practical operations connected with numerical taxonomy/classification, as well as applications of classification systems and thesauri, manual and machine indexing
- (3) tracing the history of classification knowledge and methodology
- (4) discussing questions of education and training in classification
- (5) concerning themselves with the problems of terminology in general and with respect to special fields.

INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS

Manuscripts may be submitted in either English, German or French to the editor-in-chief in two sets (the original and one copy) typed in double space, comprising between 1500 to 3000 words. They should be accompanied by an English indicative abstract of 100-200 words.

Criteria for acceptance will be appropriateness to the field of the journal (see Scope and Aims), taking into account the merit of the content and presentation. Papers are accepted with the understanding that they have not been published, submitted or accepted for publication elsewhere and that, if the work received official sponsorship, it has been duly released for publication. Authors will usually be notified within 6 to 10 weeks. Unless specifically requested, manuscripts or illustrations will not be returned.

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References should be listed at the end of the paper with the numbers in brackets referring to such numbers in brackets within the text part.

Additional notes should be indicated in the text by lifted single numbers (e.g. text) and equally collected with their texts at the end of the paper under the heading Notes.

AIMS

Thus, INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION is meant to be a programme for the improvement of classification methods and processes, a forum for discussion for all those interested in the organization of knowledge on a universal or a subject-field scale, using concept analytical and/or concept-synthetical approaches as well as numerical procedures, and comprising also the intellectual and automatic compilation and use of classification systems and thesauri in all fields of knowledge, with special attention being given to the problems of terminology.

INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION publishes original articles, reports on conferences and similar communications, the Newsletters of FIU/CR (Committee on Classification Research), Infoterm and COCTA (Committee on Conceptual and Terminological Analysis), book reviews, letters to the editor and an extensive annotated bibliography of recent classification literature, covering between 300 to 400 items in each issue.

INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION should therefore be available at every university and research library of every country, at every information center, at colleges and schools of library and information science, in the hands of everybody interested in the fields mentioned above and thus also at every office for updating information on any topic related to the problems of order in our information-flooded times.

INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION was founded in 1973 by an international group of scholars with a consulting board of editors representing the world's regions, the special classification fields and the subject areas involved. From 1974-1980 I.C. was published by K.G.Saur Verlag, München. Back issues of 1974-1980 are now available from the new publisher.

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Examples:

Fugmann, R.: The glamour and the misery of the thesaurus approach. In: Int.Classif. 1(1974)No.2, p.76-86, 20 refs.

Sartori, G., Riggs, F.W., Teune, H.: Tower of Babel. On the definition and analysis of concepts in the social sciences. Pittsburgh, Pa.: Int.Studies Assoc.1975. 107 p. = Int.Studies Occ.Paper No.6.

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