
Editorial

Why "Knowledge Organization"? The reasons for IC's change of name

Never change a winning team, nor the name of a journal! Why have we done so nevertheless? Because the 1992 ISKO membership conference at Madras recommended a change of name, and because ISKO's Executive Board thought this a very timely idea, particularly in view of the excellent opportunity to let this change coincide with the start of volume 20 at the beginning of 1993. Regarding the wording of the new title we asked ISKO's Scientific Advisory Council to give its advice on four suggested versions, and the majority decided for the form you now find on the journal's title page. Unfortunately this also necessitated a change in our ISSN number, so we must ask also our bibliographers for their kind forbearance.

The new title, denoting a superordinate concept to 'Classification', clearly indicates that we do not wish to confine ourselves to the problems falling under the 'Classification' concept, but rather are interested - as in fact we always have been, although many a one did not notice it - in all questions of knowledge organization such as they are now alluded to in the subtitle of our journal: hence in Conceptology, Classification (including Thesaurus Problems), Indexing, and Knowledge Representation (including the relevant Linguistic Problems and Terminology). The entire scope of Knowledge Organization becomes obvious, if you look at the outline of our bibliographic service CLASSIFICATION LITERATURE, which appeared in almost every one of the earlier issues and which will change its name now also into KNOWLEDGE ORGANIZATION LITERATURE.

By the way: in the preceding issue, IC 1992-4, I had to announce to my regret that I no longer had access to the library supplying me up to then with the major part of the bibliographic references for 'Classification Literature': the excellent library of the Information Center for Information Sciences in Darmstadt, which Center fell victim to the German Government's economy measures, causing its library to be moved to the Polytechnic at Potsdam near Berlin, thus becoming well-nigh inaccessible to me for reasons of sheer distance. Since then I have received a string of letters imploring me for heaven's sake not to abandon this literature service, while I also received offers from some colleagues in Finland and China proposing to send me references to the relevant production in their respective countries, as has obligingly been done for several years already by Dr. M. P. SATIJA (India), to whom our sincere and public thanks on this account are long overdue! Such a solution would of course be in the interest of all our colleagues, for it would mean not only that we



become more complete, but also that we can provide more and better up-to-date information services than we have so far. So it is of course my devout wish that in each country one colleague might assume the responsibility for doing this preparatory work and providing me with this most helpful information for each upcoming issue. A free subscription to our journal is the least he or she can expect in return for this service!

Now as to this first issue of KNOWLEDGE ORGANIZATION, we are very happy to announce that Prof. Kim VELTMAN of the University of Toronto was able to serve as our Guest Editor for this issue and present seven contributions here on the subject *Knowledge Organization in the Visual Arts*. Of course, much, much more could be said on it if one wishes to demonstrate, as it were, the state of the art in this field. But, first of all, there is not enough room in a journal to do so, and, second, we wished above all to point out 'what is going on' and what a revolution has been - and may still be - brought about by the use of computers in the cataloguing, description, storage and retrieval of works of art and in the communication on and other dealings with such works and their contents. Kim VELTMAN, who for many years conducted scientific research on Leonardo da Vinci and perspective in Germany, presented his 'Thoughts on the Reorganization of Knowledge' as far back as ten years ago in a paper read at the 1983 convention of the German Society for Classification at Königswinter, Germany, outlining ideas in this paper which, while considered by us wholly utopian at the time, are fully realizable today. May his farsightedness prove correct also in his new contributions here, assuming that a further development of present-day humanity is still possible despite the difficulties of every nature that have arisen and continue to arise in a wide variety of countries. Here I can only wish and hope that those who have fallen into distress will realize where, and where only, help is still to be found: not from their governments, not from society, nor from one's own strength, but only from Heaven, from God! Let us, therefore, pull down Heaven onto earth!

Art, insofar as it is pure and genuine, is from Heaven, and therefore I am happy to know that in this first issue we are being given a fair share of indications and suggestions as to how our access to heavenly works can be facilitated by a suitable organization of knowledge!

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