Book Reviews

KOSKIALA, Sinikka; LAUNO, Ritva (Eds.): **Information – Knowledge – Evolution. Proceedings of the 44th FID Congress, Helsinki, Finland, Aug.28 – 1 September, 1988.** Amsterdam, NL: North-Holland 1989. 466 p.
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The International Federation for Information and Documentation (FID) again has spanned the specialized disciplines of librarianship, documentation and information science by holding a conference where topics common to all three – classification, data processing, communications, and technology transfer – could be discussed and debated. The handomly bound and printed volume contains papers presented at eight sessions, ranging from "Man as an Information Processor" to "Electronic Knowledge" and "National and International Information Policies". This review will concentrate on the ten papers presented during Session 3 (pages 77-181): Content Analysis and Description of Documents, and two other papers which would have considerable interest for the readers of this journal.

Amy J.WARNER's paper, "Linguistic theories for information retrieval", lives up to the prediction in the opening address of Michael W.Hill, President of FID: "...by devating and discussing opinions ... eliminate the bad ones, improve the soundly based ones and shape the good ones into hypotheses". She revisits the terrain written about since the mid-60s, then the theme of several papers by Christine MONTGOMERY (not cited), Karen SPARCK JONES, and J.C.GARDIN (cited), alerting a new audience to the need for more interdisciplinary work to reorient some of the information retrieval field's assumptions of procedures concerning indexing languages and the structure of texts. Her plea is grounded in the issues being faced by research and application in the field of natural language processing, namely: the cognitive versus engineering approaches; the units and components of data analyzed; and the breadth of subject domain. This is a very provocative and timely paper.

Irmeli HOVI's paper, "The cognitive structure of clasification work", is provocative in another way. By studying the UDC and LO (Luokitus opas - Finnish adaptation of Dewey) classification work of 26 librarians and 9 students of library science by the thinking aloud method, several conclusions could be drawn about the expression of concepts in classification systems and the influence this has on the analysis of the classifiers handling books in the social sciences, and the inconsistencies in their classification codes. Not a definitive piece of research, but very interesting as classification systems go online as indexing and retrieval tools.

"Modern indexing and retrieval techniques matching different types of information needs", by Peter INGWERSEN and Irene WORMELL provides a useful review of retrieval techniques (exact match, partial match, probabilistic models and clustering techniques, and Boolean logic), juxtaposing these techniques against information problems (verificative, topical muddled, conscious with label, and conscious with no label), and then proposing some design solutions.

Brigitte ENDRES-NIGGEMEYER uses the Kintsch/van Dijk model of text comprehension as a vehicle for better content analysis. Because she believes that "our knowledge about abstract writing fits into a general writing model", she uses this model after elaborating the task environment. The result looks very much like the "semantic differential" of general semantics theory in the 1950's. Examples of text reduction, condensation, and reorganization (following macrorules and substracting rules) are interesting, but as she concluded, and we concur, "it is a long way to go from the model of content analysis sketched above to a fully-fledged model that defines the intellectual process of content analysis with the desirable precision and reliability".

"Retrieval differences between term and citation indexing", is a straightforward progress report of a small scale analysis by Miranda Lee PAO. The paper from Lesotho by M.M.MOSHOESHOW, "Content analysis and description of documents" also falls into this category of "progress report", but this time using the case study method observing four major information services since the 1970's. It provides a rare glimpse into such work in a developing country.

Papers from West Germany, Cuba, and Japan highlight efforts to handle free text databases (G.RUGE and S.SCHWARZ, "Natural language access to free-text databases", "Automatic indexing in Spanish language of Russian scientific and technical texts", by Carmen I.CAZARES, and "A dynamic thesaurus for intelligent access to research databases", by Y.FUJIWARA, et al.).

The tenth paper to be reviewed reports on the reorganization of the process to handle UDC revision. E.SCIBOR and I.SHCHERBINA-SAMOJLOVA describe the old process first and then the new one which encompasses several facets and aspects which Alan GILCHRIST and Partners recommended in their 1984 management study.

Two other papers, not in Session 3, deserve some notice. "Wholly new forms of encyclopedias: Electronic knowledge in the form of hypertext" by Linda C.SMITH (pages 245-250) reviews the need for redefining the features of the encyclopedia to avoid disorientation, to produce maps or graphical browsers – an area where classificationists may be of some help. She concludes by saying, "Sequence need not be limited to a single alphabetical arrangement, for there can be multiple paths defined... The cross reference structure can be much richer, and more easily traversed... Given the many information organization and access questions to be addressed, librarians and information scientists have much to contribute to this endeavor". Having seen the CD-ROM version of *The World Book Encyclopedia*, with a split screen showing the article outline and the text, with indexed words highlighted, this reviewer knows a new argument can be made for more indexers and lexicographers working closely with encyclopedia editors and graphic artists.

"A blueprint of an intermediary system for numeric source databases", by Kalervo JÄRVELIN (pages

311-320) will be interesting reading for anyone interested in multiple bibliographic database vocabulary switching because it "analyses the functional requirements of dealing with NDBs in distributed environments, where the data models used to organize the databases vary, where the data representations are not directly compatible, and where the naming of data item types is not standardized resulting in difficulties in relating data from different sources". As these are common problems in bibliograhic databases as well, this analysis can offer some assistance in that area too.

The editors performed a remarkable feat in getting this volume published within the year after the meeting, making the reading of the papers more lively and current. Although the cost would appear to be exorbitant, even for the most affluent library, it still needs to be made available whereever there are students and researchers in the field of library and information studies.

Pauline A.Cochrane

BUCHANAN, Brian: **Bibliothekarische Klassifikationstheorie.** München: K.G.Saur Verl.1989. 151p. ISBN 3-598-10788-9

Ten years after the publication of Buchanan's *Theory of Library Classification*(London: Bingley 1979) it is good to have this book translated. At last, one may add. For the slim introduction into the intricate business of classification has made its way to the textbook shelves for students of librarianship in English speaking countries. And although similar progress is desired for the translation, there are some reservationss.

For two reasons, Buchanan's book should meet a heavy demand in this country. First, surprisingly enough, there is hardly any introduction or textbook on classification that would serve the German speaking and classifying market; the last attempt was, according to the majority of reviews, nothing more than precisely that (1). Second, and what is more, Buchanan's book paves the way to an appreciation of facet classification, an approach which has almost always been considered somewhat exotic in traditional German classification theory and practice. The only book on facet classification for German speaking readers before the present translation of Buchanan's book was published twenty years ago (2).

Yet for all book's virtues, it should be stated that some virtues are only pretended. A major reservation is the title of the book. It simply promises too much. Buchanan does not provide an introduction, let alone an outline of library classification. The book is rather a straightforeward, if exclusive, introduction into a pragmatic approach to facet classification. Even with respect to English speaking countries and their tradition of facet classification, any survey of library classification would have to be considered incomplete that dealt only with facet classification and left only some introductory remarks to precombined ones, notably DDC. It is not surprising, therefore, that Buchanan's book is marked "elementary" in Foskett's seminal textbook (3). That verdict may also draw on the misleading title, for the book is hardly theoretic. On the contrary, it is downright pragmatic.

The book divides into 13 chapters. Following two short introductory chapters, Buchanan explains the basic differences between precombined and facet classification systems. He then leaves precombined systems at what they are and concentrates on facet classification. Yet in spite of the book's title, Buchanan's approach is not at all theoretic. He rather tends to the pragmatic side and documents, very often in minute detail, the design of an exemplary facet classification. The chosen example is zoology. Which may not be everybody's cup of tea. However, zoology lends itself to such a demonstrational purpose, being unbiased by any ideological slant and multilingual, as it were: for we all know what a butterfly is, don't we? That explanation takes about half of the book, with due attention being paid to matters such as terminology and its structuring, notation, or alphabetic index.

In order to popularize facet classification in German speaking countries, though, the exclusive realm of zoology should have been extended to include more examples, notably from disciplines concentrating on conceptual systems more abstract than zoology. What about matters such as philosophy, history, politics, economy? To show that facet classification is actually a feasible approach with disciplines involving ideas rather than things would have been tremendously helpful.

The translation preserves what may be regarded the most important feature of the original, its clear and unpretentious style. The steps to be taken in designing a facet classification are laid out in great detail, making the whole process transparent. Occasional references to other classification approaches (notably critical remarks on the DDC) notwithstanding, the translation should succeed in holding its readers to its course very much the same way the original version does. And that course is nothing more (and indeed nothing less) than a plain description of designing a facet classification. As for matters of classification terminology itself, the translation provides helpful references to Buchanan's original text as well as to German DIN standards. What remains to be criticized, if rather formally though, is the quality of the book itself: the word-processing layout, the fatiguing print-area, the offset-printing as well as the soft binding do not exactly look like demanding DM 48. Moreover, the translation renders exactly the original version published in 1979. Ten years later, references should have been updated, and students of librarianship should no longer be referred to the 18th edition of DDC. As for the title of the book, we cannot blame the publisher that the original version was preserved; something like a "demonstration of facet classification" would, after all, hardly meet anything more than a minority's interest in this country.

Heiner Schnelling

(1) Weisshaupt, K.: Sacherschließung in Bibliotheken und Bibliographien I: Klassifikatorische Sacherschließung. Frankfurt: Klostermann 1985. (Among the numerous reviews, see W.Gödert in Int.Classif.13(1986)p.39-40, G.Heinrich in Bibliothek. Forsch.u.Praxis 10(1986)p.136-139)
(2) Vickery, B.C.: Facettenklassifikation. Pullach b.München: Verl.Dokumentation 1969.
(3) Foskett, A.C.: The subject approach to information. 4th ed. London: Bingley 1982. p.11

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