



KNOWLEDGE ORGANIZATION

INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION

Formerly

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL
Devoted to Concept Theory,
Classification, Indexing,
and Knowledge Representation

To What End Knowledge Organization?

**Systems Modeling for Classification:
The Quest for Self-Organization**

**A Dialogic Networking Approach to
Information Retrieval**

Book Indexing

The Power of Ignorance

INDEKS Verlag, Frankfurt
ISSN 0943 - 7444 Knowl.Org.
Vol. 21 (1994) No. 1

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UDC 025.4+168+001.4(05)

KNOWLEDGE ORGANIZATION

Devoted to Concept Theory, Classification, Indexing, and Knowledge Representation

The journal is the organ of the INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KNOWLEDGE ORGANIZATION (General Secretariat: Woogstr. 36a, D-60431 Frankfurt)

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Editors: Dr.I.Dahlberg, Frankfurt; Dr.R.Fugmann, Idstein, Prof.J.M.Perreault, Huntsville, AL, USA.

Editorial Office: c/o Dr.I.Dahlberg, Woogstr. 36a, D-60431 Frankfurt. Tel.069-52 36 90, FAX: 069-52 05 66

Issue frequency: 4x/ann. *Annual subscription rates:* Institutions per volume DM 120.-, Individuals per volume 20% less, if directly ordered from INDEKS Verlag. Single issues: DM 30.- Back issues available, ask for special offer. Subscription included in membership fee for members of the International Society for Knowledge Organization (ISKO). MwSt and postage are included; no Air Mail delivery possible.

Advertising rates: Advertising rate card No.3. Advertising fact sheet with details of mechanical requirements and closing date available upon request.

Publisher: INDEKS Verlag, Woogstr.36a, D-60431 Frankfurt, Tel.069-52 36 90; FAX 069-52 05 66.

Bank Account Nos: INDEKS Verlag, Postgiro-Konto Frankfurt No.151208-608 (BLZ 500 100 60). Frankfurter Sparkasse No. 852082 (BLZ 500 502 01)

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Vol.21(1994)No.1

Jaenecke, P.: To what end knowledge organization?

Knowl.Org. 21(1994)No.1, p.3-11, 5 refs.

This paper is put up for discussion to help Knowledge Organization find its proper place. To begin with, a few basic concepts from the field of communication theory are defined. The new concepts permit the conclusion that what we are facing at present is not a flood of information but one of messages, and that this latter flood must not be equated indiscriminately with a knowledge flood. Messages must be judged on their contents. To this end, 'knowledge' is subdivided into 'core-', 'peripheral', and 'pseudo-knowledge', and it is argued that the great majority of scientific publications contains peripheral and pseudoknowledge. With the aid of two interlocking and self-amplifying recursive mechanisms it is shown that and how pseudoknowledge is more and more gaining ground, particularly outside the mathematical and scientific disciplines, hence precisely in those fields which deal with social problems in the broadest sense of the word. Thus a deficit of knowledge on which to base action is produced, leading to a general disorientation - a modern form of ignorance, keenly manifesting itself at present in a crisis of leadership. The research tasks resulting from the above for Knowledge Organization are roughly outlined.

(Author)

Löckenhoff, H.: Systems modeling for classification: The quest for self-organization.

Knowl.Org. 21(1994)No.1, p.12-23, 34 refs.

The necessity and value of models shaped in the human mind in order to support understanding, activities and their control are outlined and mapped with respect to their function in knowledge organization and representation. Advanced understanding of modeling appears as a challenge and chance for the future design of dynamic, learning classification systems, evolving together with the systems they represent, as well as with their environment and their users. (KO)

Smirensky, V.B.: The power of ignorance.

Knowl.Org. 20(1993)No.4, p. 32

Interrelations of knowledge and ignorance are considered in connection with problems of classification, increase of parascientific investigations and incomplete world pictures. The tension between knowledge and ignorance can never be overcome, because knowledge is secondary, relative, particular and finite, while ignorance is primary, whole, absolute, and infinite. (Author)

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Zelger, J.: A dialogic networking approach to information retrieval.

Knowl.Org. 21(1994)No.1, p.24-28, 5 refs.

The user of documents, e.g. of a library, faces the task of exploring the data fundus and of selecting information according to his actual intentions. He even may find or happen to find new aspects and, following these, will further develop his original quest. How can the user be supported by PC-based procedures? Recently at the Institute of Philosophy, University of Innsbruck/Austria, the GABEK method (*Ganzheitliche Bewältigung sprachlich erfaßter Komplexität*) was developed. It has proved useful so far in similar cases of ordering and/or retrieving information; especially to build hidden order structures and to incorporate them into information processing and storage facilities. It seems that the GABEK method might be applied successfully also to the user problem as mentioned above. To clarify his quest the user relies on a database₁. This base contains experiences of previous users, which are expressed in natural language sentences. Through a PC-supported dialogue₂, founded on database₁, the user elaborates a more detailed concept of his own topic. This concept later is termed a "linguistic gestalt", if it fulfills certain conditions. The linguistic gestalt may include 3 to 10 sentences in natural language, which specify the user's original intentions. The key terms contained in this linguistic gestalt will, in a dialogue₂, be employed to retrieve relevant information from database₂. Database₂ represents the information system, e.g. a library. The procedures as indicated above and the building of linguistic gestalts can be effected by GABEK. Small quantities of data provided, the WINRELAN program (1993) may be used. (Author)

Fugmann, R.: Book indexing: the classificatory approach.

Knowl.Org. 21(1994)No.1, p.29-31

The contents of scientific and technical handbooks often need fast, reliable and precise subject access, even if the searcher is not familiar with the terminology of the book and has not read it beforehand. This requires careful and expert subject indexing in a highly specific indexing vocabulary, as well as the presentation of the resulting index in a lucid, conceptually transparent manner in print and on disk. Index users, when looking up a general subject heading, often ignore the necessity of looking up the appertaining hierarchically subordinate, more specific subject headings, too. They are either not made aware of these subject headings or their use is felt to be too cumbersome. A classified approach to computerized subject indexing is described which resembles Ranganathan's Classified Catalogue. Through a variety of peculiarities it leads the searcher rapidly and easily to all subject headings related to a primarily chosen one, and to the postings under all these headings. (Author)

KNOWLEDGE ORGANIZATION



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 products and commodity science
terminology, lexicography and linguistics

Beginning 1974, KNOWLEDGE ORGANIZATION (formerly 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 survey, 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 analysis 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.

Aims

Thus, KNOWLEDGE ORGANIZATION 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-synthetic 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.

KNOWLEDGE ORGANIZATION publishes original articles, reports on conferences and similar communications, the Newsletters of the International Society for Knowledge Organization (ISKO News) and the Committee on Classification Research of the International Federation for Information and Documentation (FID/CR News) as well as book reviews, letters to the editor, and an extensive annotated bibliography of recent classification and indexing literature, covering now some 500 items in each issue.

KNOWLEDGE ORGANIZATION 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.

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