EDITORIAL

A Journal devoted to . . . .

Did you notice that we changed our subtitle? For INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION, 1978 is the year in which we start to appear more frequently, at least once more a year, so we used this as an opportunity to take a fresh look at ourselves, starting out with the subtitle printed under the name of our journal, characterized as being concerned with "Theory and Practice of Universal and Special Classification Systems and Thesauri". Is this, then, no longer true? Of course it is. However: too much is implied, or rather: too little is expressed by this "scope description". The concepts of "Theory and Practice" comprise as hidden elements the prerequisites for and consequences of the construction and existence of classification systems and thesauri, which might well be made more explicit, especially for the benefit of those still harboring some preconceived opinions about 'classification'. We felt that we should be more straightforward in presenting our concept of classification so as to help all those recognize our concerns and aims who are not yet aware of the manifold connections existing between classification and philosophy – especially epistemology and concept theory – on the one hand, and between classification and the theory and practice of terminology and definition on the other hand. So let us examine in short what the three elements in our new subtitle stand for:

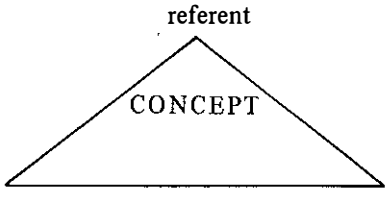
Concept analysis

We start out by asking: "What are concepts?" and "How can concepts be analyzed?"

If concepts may be understood as knowledge units referring to any selected reality of this world and comprising the following three necessary characteristics

(1) a *referent*
(2) the *necessary predication(s)* (about that referent)
(3) an *expression* (for the summarization of the predication(s) of that referent)

which may also be shown in the following triangular form



predications about referent

expression (term) summarizing predications about referent

and if one recognizes that the necessary predication(s) about a referent yield *those elements of a concept* which are called the characteristics of the concept in question, then *concept analysis* may be understood as nothing else but *the determination of the special characteristics* of a given concept.

Now it is common experience that characteristics are very necessary items in classification, since it is only on the basis of such characteristics that classes of concepts can be found and related to each other. But characteristics have other functions as well, one of which we will see later on.

Here we may conclude that *concept analysis is a prerequisite* for the construction and understanding of a classification system.

Organization of knowledge and data

If it is accepted that a concept is a knowledge unit, we may recognize that the construction of a concept system, i.e. a classification system, is nothing else but the *organization of such knowledge units* according to their inherent relationships, namely by their characteristics. It will of course be essential to find the principles for the determination or selection of those characteristics from which an overall concept system may be built up. One way – an empirical way – to find such structure building characteristics or a whole set of them consists in analyzing clusters of such characteristics occurring in relation to special objects, an approach which is realized by *numerical taxonomy*. In this connection one speaks also of the *organization of data*, meaning the accumulation of properties of objects in different dimensional stages. We may therefore conclude that the organization of knowledge units and characteristics (= data assembled on objects) is the main task involved in the construction of classification systems.

Systematic terminology

About this concept one could easily write a book. On the other hand one might ask: is it, in fact, already an established concept? For this combination yielding a reference to 'systematization' and to 'terminology' (in which of its de-terminations?) may well strike people from all classes of terminologists (technical translators, lexicographers, language planners, terminology standardizers) as novelty.

Let us explain: if 'terminology' is understood as the science and technology of terms, i.e. the study of their properties, structure, correct construction and correct application, then one will readily recognize the existence of a connection between terminology and concept analysis. A while ago we said that every concept comprises three necessary characteristics and we listed the third as being an *expression* (for the summarization of the predication(s) of a referent) which of course may be a *term*, then one will easily recognize the existence of a connection between terminology and concept systems. This means, whenever we are dealing with concept systems we are also dealing with *term systems*.

But there is still another connection: when we spoke of the functions of characteristics in the formation of classes we had in mind to add that characteristics have functions in the formation of terms as well.

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'Systematic terminology', then, may be regarded as comprising the *relationship of terminology with conceptology* (the science of concepts) and thus with the elements and structures of classification systems, as we showed above. In including this third element in our new subtitle we should like also to invite terminologists, translators and lexicographers to keep in close touch with those who design and apply classification systems and thesauri, not in the last place because we know today what great attention these latter persons have to pay to language and how much they need to know about terms and the definitions of their concepts.

Did we make it clear . . . . ?

that we selected our new subtitle in the hope of thereby expressing somewhat more forcefully just what we really want to devote our efforts to, namely to

Concept analysis, organization of knowledge and data, and systematic terminology,

which constitute, in this order, the *fundamentals* (= the theory of classification), the *activities* (= the practice of classification), and their *relationships* to the world of communicative expression (= the never-ending problems of language). Please, tell us if you think we did not.

Ingetraut Dahlberg

Instructions to Authors

INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION publishes original papers, reports, communications, book reviews in the fields of

- general ordering theory, concept theory, science-theoretical bases and history of classification
- numerical taxonomy and intellectual construction of classification systems and thesauri as well as
- application of such systems, including automatic indexing and classification.

It is interested in the results of special conferences on classification in educational and training programs in classification, in improving standardization in and in the terminology of classification.

Papers in either English, French or German are accepted. Manuscripts (of 1500 to 3000 words) should be submitted to the Editor-in-Chief in two sets (the original and one copy) typed in double space. Papers are refereed and edited. They should be accompanied by an *indicative abstract* of 100–200 words in English.

The *text* of the papers should be structured by subheadings: it should contain (a) an introduction stating the purpose, (b) a description of materials and methods in sufficient detail, (c) information on results or systems developed and (d) a conclusion with a discussion and/or a summarization.

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[1]) and equally collected with their texts at the end of the paper under the heading *Notes*.

Journal References should contain the names and initials of all authors, full title of the publication, abbreviation of the journal according to the ISO Standard No. 4, volume number, year of publication in brackets, issue number and first and last page numbers. *Monograph References* should give the name(s) of the author(s), full title, edition, place of publication, publisher and year. Examples:

Fugmann, R.: The glamour and the misery of the thesaurus approach. In: Intern. Classificat. 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: Intern. Studies Assoc. 1975. 107 p. = Intern. Studies Occ. Paper No.6

Illustrations should be restricted to the necessary minimum. *Graphs and Diagrams* should be supplied as black-and-white drawings suitable for reproduction, *Half-tone Illustrations* should be sharp, well-contrasted glossy prints. Illustrations should be numbered lightly with soft pencil on the back. Numbered *Legends* should be attached on a separate sheet.

Tables should be typed double-spaced on a separate sheet, contain a number and a title at the top and be cited in the text. Each column should have a heading.

Authors shall receive 25 *reprints* of their papers free of charge. Additional reprints may be ordered. Corrections in galley proof exceeding 10% of the typesetting costs will be charged to the author.

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