GAUS, Wilhelm:**Dokumentations-und Ordnungslehre - Theorie und Praxis des Information Retrieval.** (Documentation and Order Science. Theory and Practice of Information Retrieval) 2nd entirely revised ed. Berlin etc.: Springer 1995. 452p. 63 figs. ISBN 3-540-58117-0. Any research and administration activity includes collecting, structuring, and handling of information - in short, what we call application of documentation techniques. But amazingly, there is little professional education or training for this work and only a few textbooks on basic methods are to be found in this field. The 2nd edition of Wilhelm Gaus' book fills this gap in the literature market. Based on long years experience in teaching medical documentalists, Gaus presents the main problems and explains practical solutions for every day tasks in information handling for science, administration, and industry. Illustrated by lots of applied examples, the theoretical background of documentation techniques is explained in an easily understandable way. Due to its triple structure, the textbook is addressed to beginners, to occasional applicants and to professionals: The systematic table of contents shows this and leads the beginner through the basic knowledge; the interested individual can check his knowledge and understanding with the aid of question-answer parts concluding each chapter, and the professional will find in the rich experience reported a concise reference tools for specific problems. Thus, on the one hand, the author meets the needs of people facing the task of creating smaller documentation systems by themselves. On the other hand, he helps searching people to improve their retrieval results by better understanding the logical background of large-scale information systems like MEDLINE and others vividly explained in the context of selected examples.

For a further edition, some minor remarks may be allowed: A considerable part of information to be handled originates from texts. Therefore it would be helpful to add a chapter on techniques of content analysis for texts. In the reviewer's experience, this is usually considered a matter of course, but actually it is not, raising instead problems for many people involved in abstracting or indexing. - Furthermorem, even if the author gives reasons for his deviations from accepted practice, the application of symbols of DIN/ISO terminology in thesaurus structures should be preferred, especially to avoid confusion for beginners (e.g. "s.ehhä" instead of "USE/UF" or "BS/BF"). Likewise, the denomination of „links" and „roles" as conjugating on functional descriptors should be changed to "operators". Finally, for logical clearness, the freetext search should not be labelled as a type of ordering principle but simply as a retrieval method. And this remark leads to a final suggestion for further editions: To change the title of the book to something like "A primer of applied documentation techniques"; the present title with words like "Ordnungslehre" and "Information Retrieval" could deter nonprofessionals from buying this most useful book. Harms Glashoff

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Ephraim NISSAN, Klaus SCHMIDT (Eds.): **From Information to Knowledge, Conceptual and Content Analysis by Computer,** Oxford, GB: Intellect Ltd. 1995. 319p. ISBN 1-871516-50-1.

The book consists of collected contributions from the SCCAC (**Society of Conceptual and Content Analysis by Computer**) conferences of the past years. The editors, **E. Nissan**, at that time a lecturer in Computational Linguistics at Bar-Ilan University in Israel, and **Klaus M. Schmidt**, Chair of the Department of German, Russian, and East Asian Languages at Bowling Green State University, Ohio must have had problems in preparing the papers for print. From the four parts mentioned on the book cover we actually find only three (*The Struggle for Acceptance* being omitted). In the first part **General Text Analysis,** the authors deal with two efforts to combine existing and new computer programs for text analysis into comprehensive and user-friendly systems: the **SACAO Project** (Système d' Analyse de Contenu Assistée par Ordinateur) at the **University of Quebec** and systems **MTAS** (Micro-Text Analysis System) and **TACT** (Text-Analytic Computer Tools) in **Toronto** used by **Ian Lancashire** to analyze the poems of T.S.Eliot. The article by **Louis-Claude Paquin** and **Luc Dupuy (University of Quebec)** working as 'knowledge and textual engineers' is devoted to the problem of building a knowledge-based information system (environmental evaluation of large projects) out of extensive legislative texts, regulations, directives, decrees, correspondence and a lot of interviews transcribed into text.

The articles of the second part **Content Analysis** are similar in their sociological, psychological or psychiatric orientation and in their principal approach: Statistical analysis of texts (single words or word groups, summarization for various categories of words based perhaps on some classification system, cluster analysis etc.) and the interpretation of the results.

J.Zvi Namenwirth sees the process of content analysis and the interpretation of the results as a kind of translation. "In fact, most content analysis translates everyday language accounts into a specialized language of psychology or social science such as the language of psycho-analytic theory as applied to dream analysis" (p. 75). In his second paper *Content-Analytic Culture Indicators: A Self-Critique,* he admits some difficulties and limitations of this approach

The contributions in the last part **From Data to Meaning** constitute about two thirds of the book and deal with the results obtained in a number of specific disciplines, e.g.:

- *archaeology*: factor analysis to study **Attic pottery trade** and **SAMOS**, a system for automatic classification of pottery according to shape;
- *ancient numismatics:* combined use of non-destructive methods of the analysis of the metal composition of ancient coins and a specialized computer program **NUMiSmatica;**
- *history:* use of the intelligent information retrieval system **RESEDA** to study biographical information from the **French medieval history;**
- *genealogy:* The project of *Centre interuniversitaire de recherche sur le population* BALSAC to build a **Canadian**

Knowl. Org. 23(1996)No.3
Book Reviews

181