
Editorial

In issue 1992-2 we included the summaries of the ISKO-Chapter Conference in Bulgaria, Sept. 1991. In this issue we are including - as already announced in our latest issue - the summaries of the Russian ISKO Conference in May 1993, organized by Dr. Eduard Sukiasyan who on the following page introduces into a selection of papers presented at this occasion which seem to be pertinent to the given topic.

For reasons of space we are again giving here only the summaries except for two papers: The one by Dr. Sukiasyan on issues of classification history in Russia during the past 200 years, as this does not lend itself well to a shorter summary representation, and my paper on *Knowledge Organization: Its Scope and Possibilities*, as it contains the classification system for our Knowledge Organization Literature section which should be of interest to the users of this service in our journal.

We are intending to publish the very best papers - according to the selection of our Editorial Board for this series - in our book series ADVANCES IN KNOWLEDGE ORGANIZATION in 1994. This will then also include the papers by Dr. H. Löckenhoff and Prof. J. Zelger mentioned below.

We do hope that by presenting these summaries of our Russian colleagues, a better understanding and appreciation of the achievements in Knowledge Organization of another country from behind the former "iron curtain" will come about.

Further issues of this kind could well be assembled with the contributions presented at the excellent recent German and Spanish ISKO conferences (see for the program of the German ISKO Conference issue 93-3 of our journal and for the Spanish one this issue under ISKO News), if our readers should be interested. We would appreciate therefore your feedback soon.

It seems to me that by this way of communicating on developments in the different regions of our world we can overcome the isolation into which any country is getting which does not publish the results of its research in the English language.

On September 29, 1993, the Council of Europe had invited to a meeting in Brussels for considering a common language for all of Europe. It was quite astonishing that a great many participants favored Esperanto. But if one would compare the number of people speaking this language with the ones speaking English, I am afraid that, for the time being, Esperanto will not have a chance. So, in this our world everybody should at least know two languages, his mother tongue *and* English. And we should therefore also plead for an obligatory inclusion of English courses in the educational programs of our own field - which in turn demands the training of good teachers of the English language in the different countries.

A wonderful circle of learning for and from each other will then come into being, an open circle - a spiral of improvement - in understanding and appreciating the work of the colleagues in our field around the world!

Ingetraut Dahlberg

Editorial of the Issue Editor

Knowledge Organization: Problems and Tendencies

Such was the theme of the Conference, which took place in Moscow (May 10-14, 1993). The Conference was organized by the Russian ISKO Chapter. Over 60 representatives from 25 organizations participated in it. Among the participants were librarians and information specialists, philosophers and psychologists, philologists, terminologists, and linguists, physicists and mathematicians, as well as specialists from various fields of the technological sciences.

The program included all requests and suggestions, but some of the authors could not come to the Conference. (To our regret, among them were many foreign guests.) We heard and discussed 36 papers. A large part of them is published in summary form in the present issue. The full program had been published in Knowl.Org. 93-2, p.91-92.

The Conference opened with Ingetraut Dahlberg's presentation "*Knowledge Organization: Its scope and possibilities*". The paper by Helmut Löckenhoff (FRG), on "*Systems modelling for classification: the quest for self-organization*", and his reading of the paper by Josef Zelger (Austria) on "*GABEK. A dialog networking approach to information retrieval*" (the author could not come to the Conference) commanded the marked interest of the audience. Nicolai Mateev (Bulgaria) presented his paper on "*Knowledge Organization and science institutionalization problems*".

The papers of the specialists from Russia can be divided into 6 thematic groups.

History and organizational aspects. To this category belongs the paper by E.Sukiasyan "*Knowledge organization in Russia: problem-oriented and historical aspects*". (An illustration to this report was the exhibition of more than 600 books on classification and subject cataloging in Russia); the paper by V.I.Fedosimov and V.N.Beloozerov "*Establishing an information service for subject and indexing languages*" and two papers characterizing the state of governmental (A.B.Antopolski) and commercial (I.R.Ashurbeyli, I.A.Andreyeva) databases in Russia.

A large part of the papers was devoted to different **theoretical aspects** of knowledge organization. The papers by A.A.Krushanov ("*The development of the modern world picture and the problem of knowledge structuring*") and A.V.Sokolov ("*Public knowledge as a mosaic of competing and cooperating systems*") were followed by a long discussion. In the papers by M.Y.Dvorkina and Yu.P.Melenteva problems of knowledge organization were viewed in connection with the library environment and the functions of the librarian as a knowledge organizer.

The **analysis of different classification systems** was the subject of the papers by I.E.Gendlina, V.N.Beloozerov, T.S.Goltvinskaya and other participants of the Conference. Here the paper on "The space and time aspects in scientific and technical information classification systems" evoked special interest.

Another group of papers reveals **problems of knowledge organization** in concrete fields and spheres of activity and in decision making. Here the most discussed paper was by V.B.Smirensky: "*The strength of ignorance*".

The **problem of language** in the organization of knowledge were discussed in the papers by V.V.Gorshkov, V.M.Lejchik, V.F.Zhuravlev and other specialists.

A special group of papers were devoted to the **application of new technologies** in knowledge organization. Here the most interesting one was by I.E. Gendlina, entitled "*Computer production of alphabetic subject indexes to classification systems*".

Persons wishing to acquire more detailed information should write directly to us: Dr.E.Sukiasyan, Russian State Library, Ul.Vozdvizhenka 3, 101000 Moskva, Russia.

Eduard Sukiasyan