# Book Reviews

FUGMANN, Robert (Ed.): **Tools for Knowledge Organization and the Human Interface.** Proceedings First International ISKO Conference, Darmstadt, 14-17 August 1990. Frankfurt/M: INDEKS Verlag 1990/91. 2 vols. 279+280 p., ISBN 3-88672-020-9, 021-7; = Advances in Knowledge Organization, Vols.1 and 2 (ISSN 0938-5495)

This first conference of ISKO (International Society for Knowledge Organization) was attended by some 200 experts from 23 countries. The second was held in New Delhi 1992 and the third is planned for Copenhagen in June 1994. European-based but global in scope this new organization is striving for an integration of the conceptual approaches of classification and indexing research with linguistics, with artificial intelligence research, and with other, related disciplines. The forum for the organization is the journal *International Classification* which has just changed its name to *Knowledge Organization*. This journal is important to the reader of this review as it contains the most complete access to the content of the proceedings. In the 1991-2/3 issue, under the title "The Navigational Index", a three-part index to the proceedings (alphabetic subject, systematic, and basic) appears. Vol.2 of the proceedings contains only a name and alphabetical subject index with examples of the two other indexes. Handy to know about is the availability of this three-part index on an MS-DOS diskette in the format of WORD* or LIDOS* at DM 25.- As the editor suggests, and this reviewer emphasizes, "The diskettes also provide free text search possibilities and are recommended for further studies". It is a shame that the publisher did not see fit to include the text of all the papers on diskette as well as the present form is a somewhat confusing presentation of the conference. The reason for this is the pre-publication of about half of the papers in volume 1 with a contents page showing all of them (with the notation that some are represented only by an abstract given at the end of the title rather than with the page number), followed by a newly paginated volume 2 with a contents page showing those papers in volume 1, e.g., 1:146 and 1:155 within Workshop F where the other two papers are on page 134 and 145, respectively. Working between the two volumes to recreate this session is not easy because of the slippery cover to the volumes. These are minor handicaps when the reader is as interested as this reviewer in the workshop's theme: *Thesaurus issues.* Perhaps for future conferences the ISKO Secretariat will consider full text in electronic form for both the papers and the index. This would allow for greater access to the papers long past the conference if they were mounted in OPACs around the world. Another problem would also be overcome if this were done. Markers within the text of the papers could be placed to link papers together by their mention of the same system (e.g., ORACLE), the same person (e.g., Ranganathan), or the same subject (e.g., Controlled voca-

bularies), thereby providing the linkages that are now missing. This could foster greater interaction among the authors and the readers of these texts in the future.

This reviewer has used valuable space in this review on the above because it is such an important conference, touching on topics that need wider dissemination than is normal for the content of conference proceedings — transparency of and navigation in an information supply, irrespective of the kind and paths chosen. If high quality information supply is the goal, then it should start with the publication of such items as this conference. The editor and publisher are to be lauded for the attempts in this regard and I hope readers of this review will order the *Navigational Index* at least and show their colleagues how to enhance access to this form of literature.

Now to the content of the conference. There were nine plenary papers, almost all the persons well known to the field of classification and indexing, for example, Hildreth, Gilchrist, Vickery, Hjerppe, Markey Drabenstott. Some of these were personal research reports, but others attempted to set the pace for work in knowledge organization when the human interface was the focus. The following twelve workshops, each with four (two with three) papers, covered such topics as algorithmic text analysis, terminology, knowledge organization by universal systems, knowledge organization in special systems, thesaurus issues, online retrieval, hypermedia, retrieval technologies, and indexing. Many of the authors are known to the ASIS-SIG/CR and FID/CR memberships, but there are others less well known who have done very interesting work in museums, with economic facts, corporate information, biomedical databases, with BBK/LBC, UDC, and CC. The linguists in two sessions covered new developments in associative word recognition, faceted structures, term equivalence in several languages and related topics.

Taken as a whole there is no doubt that ISKO in its first conference did achieve an integration of conceptual approaches of classification and indexing research with linguistics and related disciplines. The Secretariat and Executive Board are to be commended.

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TYCHOSON, David A. (Ed.): **Enhancing Access to Information: Designing Catalogs for the 21st Century.** New York: Haworth Press 1991. 243 p., ISBN 1-56024-219-1

This volume has also been published as Cataloging and Classification Quarterly, Vol.13, Nos.3/4, 1991. It brings together fourteen papers which highlight where improvements must be made in online library catalogs to ensure their usefulness in the future. The editor, in his paper, reviews past problems and present solutions, including the return of journal indexing to the catalog, linking references with holdings, authority control, linked systems, and and

Medical University of South Carolina, respectively. A related paper, later in the volume, describes the planning at Georgia Institute of Technology where they considered the public service, technical services, and collection development issues involved in creating an electronic library (Dykeman and Zimmerman). Studwell and Stephens in two very short papers talk about enhancing traditional subject access from LCSH (Library of Congress Subject Headings) and call numbers, respectively. Some of their suggestions are labor-intensive (e.g., adding headings to individual catalog records) or require adjustments in the way cataloging data are displayed. Such suggestions must be weighed very carefully but cooperative efforts would benefit many users at different catalogs if done. Mary Micco focuses on building better search engines, including the use of hypermedia, something which has been added and well received in some existing online catalog systems. Remote access to other online catalogs through Internet is a mixed blessing, but has progressed a great deal since Sloan and Engel wrote their papers for this volume. Nevertheless their contributions are still worth reading.

Besides enhancing the records in the traditional catalog for use online, the catalog itself can be expanded with non-traditional databases, nonlibrary campus collection files, and bulkloading from another source those records needed to represent microform sets, journals, etc. Three papers deal with these topics (Barnes and McCue, Harwood, Carter, Olson and Aquila).

The final paper by Molholt and Forsythe documents the developments at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Libraries (N.Y.) since 1984 from an online catalog to a campus wide information system. Their final paragraph is worth repeating here because it represents current (1993) thinking and developments elsewhere:

*Many colleges and universities are at least discussing, if not putting in place, "campus-wide information systems". It appears, however, that librarians, who are virtually the only professionals on campus trained in information handling, are frequently left out of the loop. In our opinion, this omission results in a disservice to the user.... Information is information and it should not be needlessly segregated because of ownership or differences in the systems that generate it. Cooperation focused on the user ... can result in an information environment that supports access, not thwarts it (p.243).*

A timely addition to the literature on library catalogs and readers in the online age! The extensive contents page makes up somewhat for the lack of a subject index, but a name index is sorely missed.

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BATTY, David: **An Introduction to the Twentieth Edition of the Dewey Decimal Classification.** London: Library Assoc.Publ. 1992. XVIp. + 197 frames + 5p. of indexes. A Clive Bingley Book. ISBN 0-85157-463-7

DAVIS, Sydney W.: **DDC Workbook: A Practical Introduction to the Dewey Decimal Classification.** Revised North American ed. Albany, NY: Forest Press/OCLC 1992. 58p. ISBN 0-910608-47-4

The 20th edition (1989) of Dewey's system edited by a new editor, late John P. Comaromi (1937-1991) is a successful edition by many accounts. It met the approval of the librarians and critics alike. This edition has smoothly ushered DDC in the electronic and information age and has convincingly demonstrated its resilience to survive and advance through its outer (physical) and inner conceptual) adaptations to the outer (information) environment. Expectedly, there has been more literature on it than on any other edition of the DDC. Numerous lauding book reviews, journal articles and evaluative books have appeared; and educative conferences and workshops have taken place. A bibliography of the DDC 20 will be impressive. Of the two books under review, C.D.Batty's is a traditional and institutionalized book since the sixteenth - resuscitating - edition (1967) of the DDC; and has always enjoyed the blessings of the DDC authorities and patronage of the users. It is a self-learning tool for the students: a how-to-do-it manual for number building. In this entirely recast edition the scrambling has been improved a further making it more convenient to handle the text. There are about 120 examples of varying depth explaining all the needed techniques in number building. The Foreword gives a brief history of Dewey's system and its influence on other systems.

The programmed text offers step by step learning in a playway method. It has an inbuilt mechanism to let the learner proceed at his/her own pace; telling the errants how they have erred; and giving an incentive of appreciation and passage for speedy learning to the quick learners. It also makes the errants to drill in the areas of their weaknesses. It is equally useful for the teachers as not only it provides correct answers to the exercises but also gives wrong numbers probably close to the right answer, and the wrong directions an average student is likely to take. Examples are typical and all embracing. A conceptual index and a problems (titles classified) index have been given at the end.

Simplicity and lucidity of language makes this a standard text extremely useful for the students. It is a most familiar classic for learning the DDC practical.

Davis' book was first published in 1990 by the Centre for Information Studies of the Charles Sturt University, Riverina, Australiia. Its popularity in Australia is evidenced by the fact that it has been reprinted twice there in three years. The present edition by the Forest Press/OCLC has been produced for the world market giving wider examples. It is a brief text divided into 10 small chapters. The book, largely devoted to number building, is addressed to the