

ISKO News 30

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President of ISKO

First conference of French ISKO chapter at Lille, October 16-17 1997

This conference, held at the University Lille 3, gathered about hundred participants, and 35 lecturers from five countries (France, Canada, Germany, Belgium, Bulgaria), about the central theme "Knowledge organization as an element in representational end information retrieval systems".

The richness of the subject of knowledge organization, inherent in ISKO's vocation to pluridisciplinarity, raised various approaches: from information science, cognitive sciences, linguistics, philosophy, artificial intelligence. But whatever the point of view might be, most of the papers integrated computer science as an essential tool.

The inaugural lecture by J. G. Meunier, University of Montreal, aimed at designing an open and multidimensional generic model of the Information Processing Systems, through a critical analysis of various existing models (cybernetic, cognitive, linguistic, auto-organizing ..).

The other lectures are divided into three headings:

General Studies (10 papers)

- Methods of language processing applicable to cognitive analysis or abstract concept representation (7 papers)
- Critical analyses of some indexing methods (2 papers)
- One historical study on the French research in the field of information science since 1950

Developments and improvements in information retrieval (20 papers)

- By refining and extending the structure of thesauri (5 papers)
- By taking into account factors external to content, chiefly the personality of users (6 papers)
- By refining the methods in automatic indexing (mathematical, statistic and/or linguistic processes) (9 papers)

Studies about images (4 papers)

Problems of representation, models of multimedia databases, systematic analysis of images.

The meeting was conducted in a studious and enthusiastic atmosphere, and a lot of researchers made acquaintance with new colleagues.

Jacques Maniez

ISKO-German Section, 5th conference at Humboldt University, Berlin

The 5th conference of ISKO-German Section was devoted to the theme 'Knowledge Organisation by Multimedia Technologies'. Program-selection was headed by Hans Czap, Business Administration and Information Systems at University of Trier. The local organisation was done by Walther Umstätter and his team at the Institute for Library Sciences, Humboldt University Berlin. The meeting was accompanied by three tutorials devoted to different themes.

As at the preceding meetings of the ISKO-German Section, dr Winfried Schmitz-Esser organised a very successful workshop on Thesaurus Technologies with special emphasis on pictorial representations together with the committee for classification and thesaurus research (Komitee für Klassifikations- und Thesaurusforschung KTF) of German Society for Documentation.

Peter Jaenecke organized and conducted himself a highly successful workshop on the science of metascience. His aim was to provide scientists and researchers with the necessary tools to conduct scientific work successfully.

The third tutorial was organized by Hans-Peter Ohly and Alexander Sigel and was dedicated to 'Aspects of Knowledge Organisation with respect to Subject Resources of the Internet'. As a consequence of this tutorial a new working group devoted to this theme arose.

The conference was opened by the vice-president of Humboldt University. First scientific presentation was given by G. Rahmstorf, under the heading: "Visualisierung: Vom Begriff zum Bild". He gave a very good introduction about different aspects of pictorial representations. Rahmstorf had been the driving force for devoting the conference-theme to multimedia and especially to pictorial representations.