

<i>RUSSIAN</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Rank</i>
information retrieval languages	171	40
terminology	157	42
indexing	135	50
classification systems	127	53
classifications	124	57
terminological science	106	73
terms	94	88
indexes	90	97
concepts	78	110
epistemology	64	133

  

<i>FRENCH</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Rank</i>
classification	177	25
thesaurus	127	33
indexing	124	36
terminology	114	41
coding	61	88
index	61	89
natural language	37	135
document analysis	32	150
filing	32	151
automatic indexing	30	169

  

<i>ENGLISH</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Rank</i>
subject indexing	1453	3
computerized subject indexing	382	15
post-coordinate subject indexing	300	18
coordinate indexing	200	25
classification	81	56
classification schemes	67	62
classification schemes (general)	53	81
alphabetical subject indexing	41	103
thesauri	33	124
terms	19	169

Fig.1: The 10 most frequently occurring classification terms of the FID/DT MTP-Project.

"computerized subject indexing"? In the case of LISA one may perhaps have used the postings of the classification scheme which stem of course already from a controlled language whereas the Russian and the French terms seem more genuinely to refer to the text of the titles and abstracts.

If this FID/DT project should lead to reasonable results I would recommend (1) to enlarge the basis for the selection of the terms to cover more years before and after 1980, and (2) to make sure that the index terms are taken from the titles and abstracts but not from a controlled list (classification scheme or thesaurus).

But all of this is a term-oriented and not a concept oriented procedure. What we need to know are the concepts used in our differing cultures. In order to comply with the latter necessity we would have to use a totally different approach, namely the classificatory one. Why not translate into Russian, French and perhaps also German, Spanish, Portuguese and other languages the elaborate classification system by R.Daniel and J.Mills of the British Library Association "A classification of library and information science", London 1975? Such a basis of concepts could perhaps be augmented by those listed in the 14 languages Dictionary of Informatics Terms published by the International Center for Scientific and Technical Information in Moscow 1975 as well as by those that were developed after its completion in the last 8 years. This approach would perhaps even be less time-consuming but much more rewarding and surely more fruitful - in my opinion.

Ingetraut Dahlberg

## Letter to the Editor

Sir,

*It is a well-known fact in our profession that we – librarians – are opinionated and stubborn. Everybody of us tries to develop an own system which possibly would bear his name after his death.*

*Our past boss used to say having been asked why he introduced a particularist classification to our Library: "It is not particularist. If everybody will accept it, it will become a universal one."*

*For generations enthusiasts strove for general acceptance of universal classification schemes such as Dewey or UDC. Their attempt seemed rewarded to some point by adopting by the publishers of the "Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data" and later on of the "British Library Cataloguing (!) in Publication Data", both using Dewey Decimal Classification and Library of Congress Classification.*

*As genuine librarians the colleagues of the British Library do not use the Library of Congress Cataloging Cards integrally but made changes:*

- *they do not use the Cutter numbers derived from the author's name;*
- *they changed the rank order of author's name and title;*
- *they double the work of the Library of Congress classifiers by making their own Dewey and Library of Congress codes.*

*It becomes obvious when in some books both cataloging cards are printed (Appendix).*

*It is clear that some co-ordination and control (also by publishers) would be of advantage.*

*Yours truly,*

*I.V. Bruza, Librarian*

*Eindhoven University of Technology, The Netherlands*

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