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Summary of the 5th National Conference on Knowledge Organization Development, June 12-13, 2009

The National Conference on Knowledge Organization Development began in 1996, and had held four times: 1st in 1988, 2nd in 1996, 3rd in 1999 and 4th in 2005. The conference has become a communication platform for Chinese KO researchers and played a very important role in guiding and promoting the research and development of Knowledge Organization in China.

In recent years, the digital environment is advancing from Web1.0 to Web2.0. The service mode is switching from information oriented to knowledge oriented. Users' information needs change quickly. These bring great challenges and opportunities to knowledge organization. In China, knowledge organization has become the most active and fruitful research branch in library and information science. It is important and necessary to show current research achievements and discuss the development direction of knowledge organization, especially new ideas, new methods and new modes of knowledge organization in web environment. Under such backgrounds, the 5th National Conference on Knowledge Organization Development took place on 12-13 June 2009, in Shanghai. The conference was organized in cooperation with the Editorial Committee of CLC (*Chinese Library Classification*), the National Technical Committee for the Standardization of Information and Documentation (NTCSID), the Editorial Committee of *Military Thesaurus*, Shanghai Branch of Nanjing Institute of Politics, and Higher Education Press. The conference brought together more than 70 people from diverse fields that contribute to knowledge organization. And the special periodical *Library and Information Science*, as the media support unit, sent representatives to attend.

The theme of this conference entitled "Innovation and Development of Information Organization in Web Environment." The symposium arranged "Key-note address", "Special topic session (plenary)" and "Product demonstration". The discussion contents cover the following aspects:

- Standards and specifications about knowledge organization
- Transforming traditional vocabularies to networked KOS and ontology
- KOS integration and interoperability
- Automatic indexing and classification
- KOS application in different industries
- New technology and method for organizing information
- KOS in Digital Libraries
- The course of Information Organization
- Folksonomy and KOS
- Prof. Zhang Qiyu's ideology on Knowledge Organization

The "Product demonstration" session demonstrated the latest research results in knowledge organization. The Editorial Committee of CLC demonstrated the functions of the web version of *Chinese Classified Thesaurus (CCT)*. WebCCT offers easy-to-use and web access approaches to search and browse CCT data. User can add notes to WebCCT. A feature function of WebCCT is integration with OPACs.

Coincidently, the conference recommended two 6 *Points Proposals* on the development direction of knowledge organization. One recommendation is from Keven Liu (A famous blogger in Chinese LIS field); and the other is from Chu Zhuang, a computer doctor from Information Center of the China Securities Regulatory Commission. Two proposals pointed straightly two core issues of KOS—modernity and popularity, which involve KOS compiling and revision, KOS structure and cost-efficiency, etc.. Proposals triggered deep consideration and hot discussion among the attending experts and scholars on the future research and development of knowledge organization. The proceeding "Innovation and development of Knowledge Organization in Web Environment" has published by the National Library of China Publish-

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ing Press in Dec, 2009. The conference also recommended three new books in Knowledge Organization, including Prof. Zhang Qiyu's *"Collection of Zhang Qiyu's Index Ideology"*, Prof. Dai Weimin's *"Technology and Method in Semantic Web"* and *"Information organization* (2nd edition)."

Bao Dongmei

11th International ISKO Conference, Rome, Italy, February 23-26, 2010

The first exchange of emails between the members of the organizing committee for the Eleventh International ISKO Conference dates back to June 20th 2007. Our adventure to organize the conference continued for over two and a half years. All this time in order to locate the town and the conference venue, to decide for the conference theme and to draw up the conference proceedings. Without any mention to less relevant choices, that altogether would contribute to the success of a conference, such as the catering agency, the social dinner and even the plants to decorate the conference rooms. The conference was organized by the Italian chapter of ISKO with the Faculty of Philosophy, Sapienza University. The committee was chaired by Fulvio Mazzocchi and also formed by Emanuela Casson, Barbara De Santis, Claudio Gnoli (programme chair), and Melissa Tiberi, with logistic support by Caterina Marrone of the Faculty of Philosophy and Alessandro Gebbia of the Department of English Studies; technical help was provided during the conference days by Enzo Cesanelli, Marcella Patania, and Vanessa Sermoneta.

Rome, a city of art, history and science, was the site selected. The conference was held at Villa Mirafiori, a neo-Renaissance style palace, built in the second half of the Nineteenth century. The villa was the Roman residence of the "bella Rosina" (beautiful Rosina), the nickname of Rosa Teresa Vercellana, morganatic wife of Vittorio Emanuele II, the first king of Italy. Afterward the building became, a religious school run by nuns of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, almost to purify it. Since the 1980s it is seat of the Faculty of Philosophy of Sapienza University of Rome.

This building rich in history, coming received 115 registered participants from 23 countries around the world. Attenders, representing four continents, were in large majority Europeans (65%) but there were also many participants coming from the Americas (25%). They included researchers, university lecturers, librarians, PhD students from fields such as information science, philosophy, linguistics, computer science and others.

The theme of this ISKO Conference edition was "Paradigms and conceptual systems in knowledge organization". The papers presented pertain to a variety of subcategories related to the main theme, as expressed in the call for papers, including:

- ontological foundations of KO, e.g. ontological categories, levels of reality, principles for analyzing classes into their kinds and parts;
- epistemological foundations of KO, e.g. psychological, cognitive, linguistical bases, normative or hermeneutical presuppositions incorporated in KOSs on what is meant by knowledge;
- pragmatical foundations and requirements of KO, e.g. viewpoint warrant, cultural warrant, domain analysis, interoperability between different perspectives, both global and local;
- solutions for the management of the interdisciplinarity, transdisciplinarity, and complexity of contemporary knowledge, as remarked e.g. in the León Manifesto;
- description and analysis of specific KOSs and their conceptual structures.

The published proceedings contain a total of 58 papers (Gnoli and Mazzocchi 2010). Accepted papers were classified in the proceedings volume by free combinations of three to five classes from the abridged scheme for KO literature (Knowledge organization, 25 (1998), n. 4, p. 226) and sorted consequently. Three papers were not received in time for printing but are published on the conference website <http://www.iskoi.org/rome2010> in their submitted condensed form.

The conference was constructed around topical sessions scheduled over four days. There were two concurrent sessions for the whole conference, one "theoretical" and one "applied". Papers were organized according to their subject content, so that they be adjacent to others on related topics in order to encourage fruitful connections and discussions.

In the morning of February 23rd, a pre-conference workshop on "An organizing system of memoirs:

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The psychoanalytical biography", was held in Italian and organized by Anna Ludovico, Caterina Marrone, Paola Paulin and Eva Rosenholz, four professors of the Faculty of Philosophy of Sapienza University. In the afternoon, after the opening session, the Eleventh International ISKO Conference began with the keynote speech by W. Boyd Rayward (professor emeritus of the Graduate School of Library and Information Science of University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) on "Organizing and disseminating knowledge: Theoretical and instrumental innovations of Paul Otlet". He traced the developments of Otlet's ideas from bibliography through his enlarged concept of document and documentation to his attempts to envisage new organisational forms for knowledge management. He highlighted particularly on Otlet's struggles to visualize what he meant as represented in the drawings for the Encyclopedia Universalis Mundaneum.

The first day of the conference continued with four presentations. In one session, two lectures were delivered: one on the theoretical potential for use in hybrid models of automatic indexing (Carlos Alberto Corrêa & Nair Yumiko Kobashi) and the others on indexing concepts and/or named entities (Pino Buizza). In the other session, one paper was dedicated to the treatment of ontology and epistemology according to E.C. Richardson in his theory of classification (Thomas M. Dousa) and the other to classification as a manifestation of Western logic and how the sequence of main classes is illustrative of the progression that reflects Hegel's "epistemograph" (Hope A. Olson).

The applied morning sessions of February 24th focused on: the GoldThes project, a faceted thesaurus for the domain of goldsmith handcraftsmanship which tries to classify and organize a domain extracted from a regional context (Elena Cardillo, Antonietta Folino, Roberto Guarasci, Maria Taverniti); presentation of initial results of an ongoing experiment to build NeurOn, an ontology based on concepts extracted from the patient records in the domain of neurosurgery of a large hospital (K. S. Raghavan & Chatoth Sajana); key facets for KO in fiction, building on literature theory and faceted classification theory (Francisco Javier García Marco, João Batista Ernesto de Moraes, Luis Fernando García Marco, José Augusto Chaves Guimarães) and the epistemological assumptions underpinning fiction categorisation (Pauline Margaret Rafferty).

The theoretical morning sessions focused on: ontological and epistemological conceptualization for KO of "entities" and "quiddities" (Alfred Gerstenkorn); concepts, paradigms and knowledge organization (Birger Hjørland); the paradigms of cognition and the phenomena that relate to the interoperability and natural connection between phenomena and knowledge (Ágnes Hajdu Barát); a different epistemological reading of "knowledge" by demonstrating a semantics that is based on structure and on related forces between components, rather than content (Charles van den Heuvel & Richard Smiraglia); application in terminology of the scale-free network model (Ágota Fóris) and use of the repertory grid in KO research (José Antonio Frías, Rosa San Segundo Manuel, Críspulo Travieso).

After the lunch break in the garden pavilion, the afternoon counted two regular sessions and a workshop. The applied sessions focused on: the projects Agrovoc Concept Server and Agropedia, two examples of the organization of agricultural knowledge, developed by Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, The Kasetsart University and the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (Margherita Sini, Sachit Rajbhandari, Jeetendra Singh, Johannes Keizer, T.V. Prabhakar, Asanee Kawtrakul); the European project Ethicsweb, placing special emphasis on the semantic approach provided by this project (Corrado Di Benedetto, Luisa Leone, Maurella Della Seta); the examination of the use of facets in some Web search engines (Elizabeth Milonas); how to improve semantic search functions in the OPAC, although based on search engines features (Maria Teresa Biagetti); some evidences of using OWL to resolve major issues related to classification systems and discussion of the differences between SKOS and OWL (Marcia Lei Zeng, Michael Panzer, Athena Salaba) and an example of use of SKOS in a collaborative institutional Web portal, improving the description level of the documents (Francisco Javier Martinez, Juan Antonio Pastor, Rosana López Carreño).

The workshop concerned levels of reality as a knowledge organization paradigm, with presentations by Roberto Poli, Claudio Gnoli and Carlo Scognamiglio.

An elegant social dinner was held at the close of the second day in the Casa dell'Aviatore (Air Force Officers Club), that permitted more informal exchange of thoughts among conference attendees.

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In the morning of February 25th, a sunny, almost spring day, the applied sessions focused on: the evaluation of indexing accuracy and consistency using semantic components to represent and search documents in a Danish national health portal (Marianne Lykke, Susan L. Price, Lois M.L. Delcambre); evaluation of the current state of locally added metadata elements used across digital repositories, using the data collected from a nationwide study (Jung-ran Park, Yuji Tosaka, Caimei Lu); how specific thesauri and a general thesaurus cover lay persons' vocabularies concerning health, nutrition and social services (Pertti Vakkari); the analysis of folksonomies as a potential source of collective judgments by a larger group of people, with a special focus on everyday life aesthetics (Isto Huvila) and subject access to juvenile fiction in seven library catalogues of some homogenous European countries (Alenka Šauperl).

The theoretical morning sessions focused on: a pragmatic approach to virtual information action from Wittgenstein (Luciana Souza Gracioso); classical pragmatism versus neo-pragmatism as knowledge organization metatheories (Thomas M. Dousa); the complementarity between the view which urges the development of a superior universal classification and that according to which concepts are ambiguous hence it is best to classify documents only within particular domains (Rick Szostak); three units of time helpful for understanding and evaluating classificatory structures: long time, short time and microtime (Joseph T. Tennis); the epistemological dynamics in psychiatry and information science and their influence in knowledge organization (María J. Lopez-Huertas & María José López-Pérez) and an epistemological reflection regarding information science, aiming to better understand its development as a science (Joliza Chagas Fernandes & Nair Yumico Kobashi).

During the lunch break, the conference attendees basked in the spring sun and enjoyed the garden of Villa Mirafiori. In the afternoon there were two regular sessions and a seminar.

The applied sessions focused on: which are the fundamental concepts to build a specialized practice in librarianship, archivistic and museology, i.e. the collection and the fund (Eduardo Ismael Murguia); description and classification by archival science manuals (Thiago Henrique Bragato Barros & João Batista Ernesto de Moraes); the role of archival science in the "information age" following two approaches: postmodern archivistics and contemporary diplomatics (Natália Bolfarini Tognoli & José Augusto Chaves Guimarães); the possible integration between knowledge organization and terminology (Boyan Alexiev & Nancy Marksbury); a comparison between the thesaurus of Medical Subject Headings and the WebMD.com in order to better understand how they might be used together and inform one another (Barbara H. Kwasnik & Mary Grace Flaherty) and the presentation of goals, methods and benefits of the conceptual mapping approach conducted within the CrissCross project, where topical headings of the German subject headings authority file Schlagwortnormdatei are being mapped to notations of the DDC (Jan-Helge Jacobs, Tina Mengel, Katrin Mueller).

In the other hall, a clear and exhaustive seminar on epistemological paradigms in KO was conducted by Birger Hjørland.

In the last conference morning, the applied sessions focused on: the analysis of cartograms as an approach to represent and manage subject content, and to track the diffusion of knowledge across place and time, using Worldmapper as an example (Lynne C. Howarth); the Perseus-a project as an attempt to improve information retrieval of digital images by automatically connecting them with text-based descriptions (Klaus Lepsky, Thomas Müller, Jens Wille); a new approach to understanding how indexing strategies, models for interoperability and retrieval paradigms interact in information systems (Felix Boteram, Winfried Gödert, Jessica Hubrich); the epistemological relevance and value of reputation understood as evaluative social information (Gloria Origgi & Judith Simon); a proposal to present a preliminary categorization aiming at facilitating the identification of bias concerning feminine issues in indexing languages (Suellen Oliveira Milani & José Augusto Chaves Guimarães); the "troubadour of knowledge" as knowledge worker in "the new knowledge age" (Carel S. de Beer); a bibliometric and historical analysis of the domain of the Scientific Computing group at Brookhaven National Laboratory for a period of fifty years (Michiko Tanaka); and terminological interrelations and dynamics in thematic networks (H.-Peter Ohly).

The theoretical sessions focused on: the application of concept neighbourhoods to knowledge organisation systems, with some examples using Roget's Thesaurus, WordNet and Wikipedia categories (Uta Priss

& John Old); an analysis of the ontological character of classes in the Dewey Decimal Classification (Rebecca Green & Michael Panzer); two surveys on subject authority data use by information professionals in the semantic Web environment, and by information professionals in libraries and information agencies (Athena Salaba); applying an automatic topic mapping system to records of publications in KO published between 1988-2008, the results showed that while topics in the first decade were more traditional, the second decade was marked by a more technological orientation (Fidelia Ibekwe-SanJuan & Eric SanJuan); the project Folktales, Facets and FRBR on the special collection of folktales and the scholars who use this collection and seek to uncover solutions that will enhance access to folktales (Kathryn A. La Barre); a set of evaluation dimensions for the analysis of knowledge organization systems (Renato Rocha Souza, Douglas S. Tudhope, Maurício Barcellos Almeida) and the presence of formalism in the field of KO and the extent of its employment in building various KO tools (Sergey Zherebchevsky).

During the concluding session, after the discussion and conclusions about the conference results conducted by the new chair of ISKO Scientific Advisory Council, Birger Hjørland, new members of the Executive Committee were also announced: H.-Peter Ohly president, María J. López-Huertas 1st vice-president, Claudio Gnoli 2nd Vice-President, Vivien Petras treasurer and secretary. Finally, the last announcement: the next International ISKO Conference will be held in Bangalore, India, in August 2012.

See you all in Bangalore!

Reference

Gnoli, Claudio and Mazzocchi, Fulvio, eds. 2010. *Paradigms and conceptual systems in knowledge organization : proceedings of the Eleventh international ISKO conference, 23-26 February 2010 Rome, Italy*. Advances in knowledge organization 12. Würzburg : Ergon.

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