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INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION

A Journal Devoted to Concept Theory, Organization of Knowledge and Data, and to Systematic Terminology

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Contents

Editorial 55

Articles

J. Litoukhin: Toward an integrated thesaurus of the social sciences . . 56

J. Meyriat: Social science information languages: a comparative analysis. 60

I. Dahlberg: The Broad System of Ordering (BSO) as a basis for an integrated social science thesaurus 66

R. Fugmann, W. Denk, I. Nickelsen: Variations in the order-creating power of interactive retrieval systems 73

Reports and Communications

W. Dahlberg: Structures of Knowledge and Patterns of Order. 79

Energy Data Classification and Indexing 80

11th Annual Meeting of the Classification Society, NAB. 81

Classification in Management 82

Gesellschaft für Klassifikation, Conference Announcement and Call . . 82

COCTA Conference, Bielefeld 1981 83

Compatibility Conference 1981 84

User reactions to PRECIS indexes. 84

Cutter Author Tables 84

Infoterm News

Hispanoterm – World Forum of International/Transnational Associations, June 23–27, 1980 – TermNet Activities – Infoterm Series, updating – Future meetings 85

COCTA News

Purposes – History – Unesco Meeting on an Integrated Social Science Thesaurus – Related Events – Conference on Conceptual and Terminological Analysis Announced – COCTA Working Papers – Relevant Publications – Journals and Newsletters – Organization. . 86

Book Reviews

Wersig, G.: Thesaurus-Leitfaden (Thesaurus Guideline) (D. Soergel) . . 90

Serrai, A.: Del catalogo alfabetico per soggetti. (On the alphabetical subject catalogue) (M. Cochetti) 91

Coates, E. et al: BSO. Broad System of Ordering: Schedule and Index, together with Coates, E. et al: The BSO Manual (I. Travis) 92

Micevic, A. T.: Methodische Grundlagen der Untersuchung wissenschaftlicher Informationsströme (Methodological foundations for the investigation of scientific and technical information flows) (O. Nacke) 93

Classification Literature 7 (1980) No. 2, Nos. 5477–5846 95

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Contents page

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Litoukhin, J.: Toward an integrated thesaurus of the social sciences.
In: Intern. Classificat. 7 (1980) No. 2, p. 56–59

Introductory remarks concerning papers and deliberations of a meeting of the Unesco Divison for the International Development of the Social Sciences, Paris, June 9–11, 1980, intended to pave the way toward an Integrated Thesaurus of the Social Sciences. Developmental steps toward clarification of SS terminology had been undertaken at Unesco already in 1952. Ever since then dictionary projects and attempts at concept identification have been undertaken, but the non-existence of an overall classification system of the SS identifying its scope and interrelationships has hampered the terminology work considerably. Proposals for valid methods were sought therefore in order that within 1981–1983 a macrothesaurus/classification system for the SS could be worked out possibly based on an integration of existing thesauri and classification systems in these fields. I.C.

Meyriat, J.: Social science information languages: a comparative analysis.
In: Intern. Classificat. 7 (1980) No. 2, p. 60–65

Preliminary report of an analysis of some 60 existing information languages of the social sciences, especially with respect to the distribution of these languages within the social sciences. Purpose and empirical method used are discussed. For each of 41 subject fields the number of terms in significant information languages are given. Suggestions for further investigations and for the preparation of a General Indexing Language in the social sciences are made. Annex A lists the fields in English and French, Annex B the 60 information languages included in the analysis. I.C.

Dahlberg, I.: The Broad System of Ordering (BSO) as a basis for an integrated social sciences thesaurus?
In: Intern. Classificat. 7 (1980) No. 2, p. 66–72

Investigation into the possibility to use the relevant parts of the Broad System of Ordering (BSO) to construct on its basis an integrated thesaurus of the social sciences (SS) comprising all existing thesauri and classification systems in this area. The SS coverage of the BSO was found to be relatively small compared with the corresponding classes of the Dewey Decimal Classification, the Bliss Classification and the Unesco Thesaurus. The BSO falls short also in its structural features as exemplified by its method of class formation and concept arrangement with its reversingrule for citation order. The BSO not having been designed for the purpose of integrating other systems, it cannot be blamed for its non-suitability for such an application purpose. Author

Fugmann, R., Denk, W., Nickelsen, I.: Variations in the order-creating power of interactive retrieval systems. Treatise VIII on Retrieval System Theory.
In: Intern. Classificat. 7 (1980) No. 2, p. 73–78

In the interactive, mechanized literature search the phrasing of a query cen be changed withgreat flexibility, depending on the kind of response from the search file. Thus a good deal of the flexibility of the manual literature search is preserved. The degree to which the mechanized search is superior through its high accuracy depends crucially on (1) the expressiveness of the indexing language in operation and (2) how reliably this language has been used in the indexing procedure. The syntax of an indexing language can contribute much to its expressiveness and, hence, to the accuracy of the search. A sequential file, indexed in a highly syntactical language, can be searched with a particularly high accuracy. This is in part due to the inherently high reliability of indexing in such a language. The interactive, dialogue search, however, is almost exclusively based on the vocabulary. This is due to the inverted file organization of the interactive systems, from which syntactical relations are largely omitted. Thus, the most effective, highly syntactical languages are precisely those which are least suited for the dialogue. Documents which are indexed in such a language should be translated into another, more primitive language better suited for the interactive search. Here, part of the syntax is preserved through the introduction of composite vocabulary terms which are mechanically generated. Authors

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