FID/CR News 24

FID/CR: Its Future Directions

In FID/CR News 23, I outlined the nature of FID's proposed Strategic Plan and its implications for FID/CR. Since that time the 44th FID Conference and Congress in Helsinki has taken place. At that Conference a meeting of the FID Council and Committee Chairpersons was held. In the absence of the Chairperson of FID/CR we were ably represented by Prof.Brigitte Endres-Niggemeyer of the Federal Republic of Germany.

In the opening remarks of this meeting, President Michael Hill noted that FID has good ideas but there is no real program. This meeting was intended to help FID find a way to such a program.

As is well known, the financial status of FID is precarious at best. Unsuccessful committee work must be dropped. For viable projects FID might be prepared to provide seed money but the projects themselves must generate revenue which can then be used to reimburse FID. In short, FID and its Committees must create projects which are marketable and will generate revenue.

Where does this leave FID/CR? The Helsinki Council Meeting broke up into working groups, which then reported back to the plenary session. Possible directions for FID/CR were discussed by a Working Group 3 which was concerned with "tools for information work". Among the suggestions of interest to FID/CR were the following:

1) Intellectual tools:
   a) Better management of UDC;
   b) The enlargement of the scope of FID/CR to include thesauri and other forms of knowledge representation (possibly changing the name of the Committee);
   c) The exploration of terminology by a task force;
   d) Work in the area of standardization, with FID members working in national and international organizations.
2) Technological tools: Creation of a new committee to deal with this.

There are possibilities for the involvement of FID/CR in a number of the above areas. However, there are possibilities for Committee participation in programme areas 4 and 5 of the Strategic Plan as well as in area 3. Programme area 4, increasing the basic understanding of the fundamental properties of information, is the area to which classification research belongs, while programme area 5, professional development, especially the education and training of documentalists, may also be of interest.

At the conference on "Classification Theory in the Computer Age" to be held at Albany, NY, USA on Nov.17-19, 1988, there will be a special meeting of FID/CR members and interested observers to consider the above issues and begin to formulate new directions for the Committee. It is important also to have the opinions and support of the FID/CR membership in these matters. I urge you to consider the above suggestions and to read carefully my statements in the FID/CR News 23 and to respond with your ideas how FID/CR should proceed to revitalize itself as a creative Committee of FID!

It is important that some decisions be made as quickly as possible, as our proposed programme must be reported to the FID headquarters soon. Any ideas and suggestions should therefore be sent as soon as possible to Professor Nancy Williamson, Chairperson FID/CR, Faculty of Library and Information Science, University of Toronto, 140 St.George Street, Toronto, M5S 1A1, Canada.   N.W.

FID-88 Pre-Conference Seminar on Computer Applications of the UDC

On the invitation of the FID an all-day seminar on Computer Applications of the Universal Decimal Classification was jointly organized by the ETH Library (Zürich) and the Finnish Society for Information Services, Committee for Classification and Indexing. It was held on Saturday, Aug.27, 1988 atthe Helsinki University of Technology, Espoo, Finland. Chief of local arrangements was Ms.Arja-Riita HAARALA; 28 persons participated.

There were six speakers. The seminar was divided into two sessions. In the Morning Session, David STRACHAN, the technical director of the UDC at the FID headquarters, welcomed the participants and gave some background to the seminar. Hannes HUG introduced the ETHICS system, a demonstration of the OPAC of the ETH-Library, Zürich was given. Key speakers were Klaus LOTH and Ms.Meta WALSER, both of ETHICS Switzerland and both specialists in software. ETHICS is an acronym of an integrated system developed in house by the Library of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zürich (ETH-Bibliothek). It comprises about 500 completed programs. The system (on an IBM 4381-RI4) has two processors, 32 million bytes real memory and 140 terminals, all permanently connected with the library computer. Since 1985 already, it works with an OPAC and includes subject cataloguing. It has a German and French user-interface database comprising 500 000 records. ETHICS is being developed into the basis of a network system of all state-supported and other technical libraries in Switzerland. ETHICS-OPAC is a highly efficient record of scientific and technical literature providing a very rapid supply of the documents requested. Its essential part is subject cataloguing using the UDC. The sub-system for the subject catalogue is called SKAT. However, free searches are also possible as the verbal significance of all UDC numbers used in ETHICS is given in German, English, and French. Advantage is made of the hierarchical characteristics of the UDC. Synonyms, inversions, enumerations, and indentions are given in the subject index fed into the computer; the subject index is an alphabetical trilingual unified index and a systematic index according to the UDC. The subject cataloguing enables the provision of title entries with UDC classification and maintains the subject index in which the UDC numbers with their descriptors are stored. The third part of the subject index is the conceptual environment such as form or period orlanguage.of the document. Common auxiliaries, especially viewpoint, are also searchable terms and can

be combined with numbers to narrow a search. A multi-topical document receives more than two UDC numbers connected by a semicolon. For this purpose, the relational symbols such as + : / [ ] have been modified a bit. These paired numbers are stored separately and a document becomes searchable under all UDC numbers and it is to these paired terms. Also there is a possibility of freely choosing combinations of terms. Thus searches are also possible with Boolean operations. Also under a class all its first level subdivisions are listed and searches under a different level of hierarchy in combination with another topic are possible. An ETHICS subject search is two-staged: Search for descriptor terms in the subject index, and search for specific titles. Search terms can be both a word or a UDC number. The subject index comprises 50,000 UDC numbers, 1.320,000 descriptors and 1300 subject fields. It has the following four parts:
- an alphabetical index display
- a systematic index display
- the conceptual environment of a subject index term
- all descriptors of a subject index term.

If a subject index term is choosen, the number of titles relating to that particular term are immediately displayed, which in turn can display the specific titles. The search can be specified by language, year, form, and by any combination.

The access to the subject index is by way of descriptors. This explanation was followed by a demonstration with many examples. All the questions were well answered by Klaus LOTH and Meta WALSER.

The after-lunch session was devoted to "UDC in Finnish Databases". The following papers were read: Paivikki KARHULA: MINTTU databases: Subject searching in national bibliography, article indexes and union catalogues. -Benita RINNE: HELECON system: economics databases (paper presented in absentia). - Irma PASANEN: TENTTU system: technical databases. The use of the UDC in Finnish databases was very ably summarised in a paper by Arja-Riitta HAARALA. The UDC is almost the only indexing method in Finnish databases, it is used for both, information storage and retrieval. In Finland, the combination of many databases and sub-databases is known as the KDOK System, the following table presents the six KDOK databases. All databases listed use the UDC except for MUSA. An abridged and an adopted Finnish UDC-edition exists in Finland. They were published in 1983, an index to it was published in 1984. The depth of UDC class numbers varies according to subject fields. Free language searches are also published in their catalogues. From their experience, Finnish classifiers feel that a UDC-type classification is very good to be used in monograph databases. UDC applied in post-coordinate indexing can be a useful search element provided the notation is kept simple.

The seminar clearly proved that the UDC is quite apt and appropriate in online databases and other computerized systems. It demonstrates beyond doubt the use of classification in online catalogues.

It was a very well and efficiently organised, successful seminar. Thanks go to the team of its Finnish lady organizers!   Mohinder Partap Satija

Department of Library and Information Science
Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar-143005, India

Database	Producer of data	Contents	Begin	No.of ref.	Annual Growth
KOTI. The Finnish Natl. Bibliography	Helsinki, Turku, and Jyvaskyla Univ.Libraries	Finnish monographs	1977	124 000	15 000
KATI	Network of many university libraries	Finn. Monographs and articles	1977	228 000	45 000
KAUSI	Helsinki University and NOSP Centre	Finn. & foreign ser. in Finn.research librs.	1970	117 000	7 000
KAUKO (KAUK)		Foreign monographs in Finn. res.libraries	1980	282 600	60 000
MUSA	Jyvaskyla University Libr.	Finnish sound recordings	1983	46 000 (from 5 800 recordings)	13 000 (from 1 400 recordings)
KHAR/ Training database	Helsinki and Tampere univ. libraries	Some Finn. articles & monographs on history, libr. sci.& inf.sci.	1986	490	--

IFLA Section on Classification and Indexing

At the IFLA Annual Conference in Sydney, Australia, Aug.28-Sept.3, 1988 two papers were presented on behalf of the Section.

Nancy WILLIAMSON's paper *"Classification in Online Catalogues: Recent Research and Future Prospects"* described research in progress on a project involving a detailed content analysis of the Library of Congress Classification schedules, intended to aid in laying the groundwork for the development of a US MARC format for classification and the conversion of the Library of Congress Classification schedules into machine-readable form. In her conclusions she suggested that future research might explore the possibility of a UNIMARC format which would be capable of accomodating other classification systems and which could result in an international standard format for machine-readable classification schedules.

In keeping with the Section's tradition of an invited paper from the host country for the conference, Elaine HALL of the State Library of New South Wales presented a paper on *"Australian Directions in Subject Access"* in which she discussed the problems of using the Library of Congress Subject Headings in Australian Libraries, and efforts to provide guidance on building subject access on the Australian Bibliographic Network database through the Australian Subject Cataloguing Manual published in 1985. She described the dissatisfaction with the quality of access being provided and she proposed a change in direction involving a comprehensive evaluation of the appropriateness, effectiveness, and efficiency of the subject access process.

In other business, the Standing Committee of the Section launched its first major project. A Working Group on *"Guidelines for Subject Authority Files"* is to be established:

1) To formulate guidelines for subject authority records and for their interrelationships within subject authority files;
2) To evaluate the suitability of the UNIMARC authorities format for subject authority records;
3) To consider possible relationships between subject authority records and classification; and
4) to publicize the guidelines and to identify additional areas for research.

The Working Group will take on this task within the framework of international cooperation and within the context of prior international efforts in the area of authorities. The guidelines will establish principles for appropriately identifying the meaning, scope and relationship of data elements within authority records to foster international sharing of subject authority records. While the Working Group will not limit its study to machine-readable authority records, it will take into account the UNIMARC format and various national MARC formats as appropriate.

The Working Group will be chaired by Barbara KELM, Secretary-Treasurer of the Standing Committee, who will also coordinate European participation in the work. Robert HOLLEY, Chairperson of the Section will coordinate participation from English speaking countries. A number of experts have agreed to serve on the Working Group. The Working Group hopes to be able to complete a first draft of the Guidelines for the IFLA Annual Conference in Paris in 1989. It is anticipated that the guidelines will be disseminated in a published document.

A full-day workshop on the 20th edition of the Dewey Decimal Classification will be held at the 1989 IFLA Conference in Paris.   N.W.

Canada: International Conference on Library Classification and Its Functions

The Faculty of Library and Information Studies and the University Libraries of the University of Alberta are organizing a Conference at Edmonton, Alberta from June 29-21, 1989 which is to "examine the three functions of classification: 1) the bibliothecal, or storage function; 2) the bibliographical, or classified catalog function; and 3) the cognitive function, involving thesaurus design and the modernization of subject heading lists. The conference will also consider the impact of the new technologies on these functions and the implications for future development. The approach will be interdisciplinary in nature, with emphasis on the potential uses of classification beyond its present limited application. Each session will alow time for general discussion". Conference co-chairs are: Andre NITECKI, University of Alberta and Tony FELL, Grant MacEwan Community College. The program is by invited papers only; it comprises the following items: Opening address (M.HOROWITZ, President, University of Alberta). Introduction (R.S.HALSEY, Dean, School of Information Science and Policy, State University of New York at Albany). - A.NITECKI: Functions of classification. - T.FELL: Bibliographic functions of classification. - E.SVENONIUS: Bibliothecal function of classification. - M.DYKSTRA: Canada's role in bridging the North American/European approach to classification. -J.COMAROMI: Comparison of major classification schemes. - T.CRAVEN: Cognitive function of classification. - G.SALTON: Automatic classification/Document cluster. - C.R.WILSON: Exportability/Transfer of classification. - N.WILLIAMSON: Evaluation and conclusion. - The conference fee is CanD 110.-, it includes lunches and reception. - The conference precedes the Annual Conference of the Canadian Library Association.

FRG: Workshop "Concept Analysis and Artificial Intelligence"

The Special Interest Group on Concept Analysis (SIG Begriffsanalyse) of the Gesellschaft für Klassifikation eV organized a meeting from 6-8 Oct. 1988 at the Institute for Informatics of the Technical University of Clausthal, FRG. It was directed by Prof.Dr.W.LEX, some 40 persons participated. The following 15 papers were presented and discussed:
WOLFF, K.E.: Interpretation von Mustern in Kontexten und Begriffsverbänden. -KURTH, W.: Beispiele zur Begriffsanalyse. - RAHMSTORF, G.: Analyse und Repräsentation des Umfeldes von Begriffen. - CZAP, H.: Terminologische Datenbanksysteme. - WILD, M.: Optimale Basen von Implikationen. - SKORSKY, M.: Gestufte Liniendiagramme und Gegenstandsbestimmungen. - KERBER, A.: Experimentieren mit Strukturen. BURMEISTER, P.: Dreiwertige Begriffslogik. - BUDIN, G.: Terminologische Wissenstheorie und Wissenstechnik. - KRESIC, M.: Begriffliches Wissensgebäude. - WILLE,

R.: Begriffsexploration. - STECKNER, C.: Empirische Objektklassifikation. - SÖDING, M.: Relationale Datenbanken und Begriffsanalyse. -ENGEL, G.: Terminologiedatenbanken. - SCHÄFER, J.: Erbauliches auf reinweißem Papier (Bemerkungen über "fiktive Begriffe"). The papers will be published in a volume of the series of the Institute for Informatics at the TU Clausthal scheduled for the summer of 1989.

The next workshop of SIG-DA will be held March 2-3, 1989 at TH Darmstadt on "Intension and Extension". It will be preceded again by an introductory course on Formal Concept Analysis, March 1-2, 1989. For further information please contact: Prof.Dr.R.Wille, FB Mathematik, TH Darmstadt, Schlossgartenstr.7, D-6100 Darmstadt, Tel.: 06151/63415.

Refresher Seminar on the 7th Edition of the Colon Classification

The 17th Annual DRTC Refresher Seminar was held from Oct.26-28, 1988 at DRTC Bangalore. Devoted to the theme of the 7th edition of the CC, it was co-sponsored by the Sarada Ranganathan Endowment for Library Science. 53 persons participated from many parts of the country. In fact it was the third seminar on CC-7, a first one having been held at DRTC in 1969 and a second one at Delhi University in early 1988.

Dr.M.A.Gopinath, Editor of CC-7 was the key speaker and the resource person almost all of the three days. In the inaugural session, Prof.G. Bhattacharyya explained the place of the DRTC refresher seminars in the overall objectives of the DRTC. Prof.S.Parthasarathy, one of the early associates of Dr.Ranganathan, intimately narrated history and development of the CC.

In the technical sessions, M.A.Gopinath explained the new developments concerning theory, basic subjects, and special isolates under different basic subjects. He informed that the index to CC-7 is under active preparation; the first issue of the proposed CC Bulletin is scheduled for release in January 1989.

During questions and discussions that followed M.A.Gopinath's presentations it came out that CC-7 abounds in misprints and other serious typographical errors. Many schedules are inadequate and the elaboration of special isolates of different main subjects is lopsided. As such, many preliminary and well-known compound subjects are missing. The notation is rather frightening even for macro subjects. The schedule needs overhauling in order to win the acceptance of the profession.

In a pre-lunch session of Oct.27th, Prof.A.Neelameghan spoke on CC and computers. He illustrated the inherent merits of CC and its underlying principles for designing databases. He actually demonstrated a medical data base classified by Colon Classification. In the concluding session in the morning of Oct.28, G.Bhattacharrya delineated the DRTC programm to celebrate Dr.Ranganathan's birth centenary in 1992.

Mohinder Partap Satija

UK: CRG 267 and 268

The meetings of the Classification Research Group were held on July 14 and Oct.20, 1988 at University College of London. At the first meeting, Mr. MAYNE presented a paper in which he summarized various aspects of the interaction between information techno logy (IT) and education in order to provide some background material relevant to the updating of the education schedules of the Bliss Classification. More details of his presentation can be found in Chapters 12 and 15 of the second ed. of his book "The Videotex Revolution", (Twickenham: Marathon Videotex 1987). Questions were raised, "how much of all this should be included in the new Class J Education of Bliss?", and "were would Information Science and Communication figure in J C?". It was suggested that Library and Information Science should precede Class J. Finally Mr. MILLS introduced an extract from the class Politics.

At the second CRG Meeting, Mrs.J.AITCHISON introduced the discussion on "Communication" by distributing the outline of her "Communication and Information Thesaurus". She drew attention to those elements that had caused particular difficulties. The discussions treated concepts from related fields, advertising and public relations, communication education, communication forms, communication for the disabled and recorded media as opposed to live media. The outline of the "Communication and Information Thesaurus" was attached to the minutes as well as the discussion paper, giving the Background of the Thesaurus, the Preferred Order, and Comments on the Main Facets. It was decided to devote the next meeting (Dec.8, 1988) to a continuation of the theme on Information and Communication.

UK: New Education Classification

A new classification scheme for information on education was to be the subject of a talk at the King's Fund Centre, London, on Friday, Dec.16, 1988 at 2.15 pm. The scheme is a new edition of Class J: Education, a volume of the Bliss Bibliographic Classification for library and information services. The speaker was to be Douglas Foskett, formerly librarian of the London University Institute of Education, the compiler of the new edition.

The Bliss Classification is already used in British colleges of education. The new edition will be a thorough revision, completely up to date, with many new terms and a new introduction. Summaries of related subjects such as psychology and management will be included within it.

The Bliss Bibliographic Classification is a new general classification scheme in nineteen volumes. Nine have been published so far and are available from Butterworths.

After the presentation the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Bliss Classification Association was to take place. For further information contact: Chris Preddle, Honorary Secretary, Bliss Classif.Assoc., c/o Staff and Research Library, Commonwealth Institute, Kensington High Street, London, W8 6NQ, England.

USA: ASIS/SIG/CR

At the 51st Annual Meeting of the American Society of Information Science in Atlanta, Georgia, Oct.23-27, 1988 the SIG/CR of ASIS presented a programme on *"The Impact of Technology on Classification Research"*. Three papers were presented.

Nancy WILLIAMSON, University of Toronto, spoke on her research project in aid of the development of a MARC Authority Format for the Library of Congress Classification (LCC) schedules and their conversion to machine-readable form. The research, which is still in progress, involves a detailed content analysis of the LCC schedules in order to develop a profile of the LCC system which will enable the Library of Congres to design an online interactive system ultimately meant to provide for
(1) the editing, maintenance and control of the schedules,
(2) classification and shelflisting online,
(3) the production of the schedules in various physical formats, and
(4) the enhancement of search capabilities in the online catalogue.

N.Williamson predicted a satisfactory format to be developed, that extensive editing would be required in the course of conversion, and that means would be sought to make the best use of technology in the design of the system.

Larry CARVER, University of California, Santa Barbara, presented a paper on *"The Geoinformation Task Force Research Project"*. The goal of the project is to improve the management of spatially referenced information or 'geodata' . Included in the research is any material that can be represented by a geographic set of coordinates, for example, remote sensing data, aerial photography and cartographic materials. The system involves hierarchical structure and graphic user interface using a variety of access keys to enable a searcher to narrow a search to the level of detail required to meet an information need.

The third paper by Bella Hass WEINBERG focussed on *"Issues in the Revision of the ANSI Thesaurus"*. Ms.Weinberg outlined the task of the standards committee, stating that the *American National Standard Guidelines for Thesaurus Structure, Construction and Use* (ANSI Z39.19-1980) would be thoroughly analyzed in the light of current needs and changes in the technology. Dr.Weinberg indicated that the ISO "Guidelines for the Establishment and Development of Monolingual Thesauri" would be studied carefully in relation to any proposals for the revision of ANSI.   N.W.

Forest Press Goes to OCLC

Effective July 29, 1988 - the very day when the 20th edition of the Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC) went to the printers (but without any relationship to this fact) - the publisher of the DDC became a part of the Online Computer Library Center, Inc. (OCLC) at Dublin, Ohio, USA. In the past years a number of most interesting research projects concerning the use of the DDC, the Library of Congress Classification and the LC Subject Headings as well as many other relevant topics were carried through at the OCLC Office of Research (directed by Martin Dillon). Thus it can be expected that the huge computer facilities and the technical knowhow of this place will provide an adequate support for a prosperous future of the DDC.

Classification Theory in the Computer Age: Conversations Across the Disciplines

A most remarkable conference (because of some very good papers) took place under this title at Albany, Nov.18-19, 1988. It was organized by the Dean of the School of Information Science and Policy, State University of New York at Albany, Dr.Richard HALSEY and it took place at the Desmond Americana Inn, a hotel built up like an old colonial village and yet it incorporated the facilities necessary for conducting all sorts of meetings. Dean Halsey had invited the speakers and admitted that he had been inspired and assisted by Peter Paulson, the Director of the Forest Press. A longer report on this event will be given in a later issue of IC, here we will only list the papers for a first-hand information:
Theme 1: Research in Classification.
Robert SOKAL: Numerical Classification: Lessons from the Biological Sciences. - Ingetraut DAHLBERG: Concept and Definition Theory. - Irene TRAVIS: Applications of Artificial Intelligence to Bibliographic Classification. - Elaine SVENONIUS: Automation and Classification. -
Theme 2: The Computer Science Classification Synergism.
Karen MARKEY: The Dewey Decimal Classification in the Computer Age. - Nancy J.WILLIAMSON: The Library of Congress Classification in the Computer Age. - Dana S.SCOTT: Subject Classification and Natural Language Processing for Retrieval in Large Databases.
Theme 3: Implications for Theory and Practice   .
Francis MIKSA: Implications for Information Access 2011 A.D. - Carol MANDEL: Implications for Information Processing. - Richard S.HALSEY: Implications for Library and Information Science Education.
Nancy WILLIAMSON presented the Conference Synthesis and Summation. The Keynote Address at the Dinner Banquet, was delivered quite amusingly and smart by David BATTY from Silver Spring, Maryland. According to its editor, Dean Halsey, the proceedings of this event will be published early in 1989.

Inventing and Applying the Language of the Arts

This was the title of a Session at the Ann Arbor Midyear Meeting of the American Society for Information Science' Special Interest Group Arts and Humanites (ASIS-SIG/AH). It was chaired by David Bearman. The session focused on the changing professional perception of the Art and Architecture Thesaurus (AAT) from its conception a decade ago to its implementation today. Toni PETERSEN, Director of the AAT, described the thesaurus itself, a multi-facetted language for indexing works of art and architecture and literature about them. Pat MOLHOLT, Associate Director of the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Library and one of the founders of the AAT, reported on a semantic framework for employing the language of the AAT. While it is not fully developed, and will, by design, never be completed, the AAT is already being implemented in dozens of test sites and will soon be released in machine-readable form for general use.

The AAT consists of more than 30,000 terms, arrayed in 17 hierarchies, each containing up to 14 levels of terms, linked together in broader/ narrower, asso-

ciational networks. Among the separate hierarchies are names for such diverse things as tools and materials, processes and techniques, document types, styles and periods, architectural components, or disciplines. Together they constitute a language for the fine arts, equally capable of describing "leaded glass windows in the sacristy of Baroque churches in Belgium" or "diaries of Japanese tile makers on techniques for making Hongawarebuki weather tile". Peterson's talk emphasized the analysis of language that is involved in constructing such a multi-facetted thesaurus.

Pat Molholt has been studying the relationships between AAT terms and AAT hierarchies in natural language expressions that constitute the disciplinary discourse of art critics and scholars. She identified more than a dozen relationships other than "is-a" and "instance of" that pertain between such terms in discourse frames specific to the language of the arts. Molholt feels that through an understanding of these semantic relations, the knowledge base of AAT definitions can be used to accurately decompose and reconstruct ambiguous natural language expressions.

(Summary by David Bearman, reprinted from ASIS-SIG News, Arts and Humanities, Sept. 1988, p.2)

Midwifing the "World Brain": Progress of Labor

(At the Annual Midyear Meeting of the American Society for Information Science at Ann Arbor, Michigan, May 1988 the SIG/AH (Arts and Humanities) sponsored the Session "Midwifing the 'World Brain': Progress of Labor", a follow-up to the October 1987 Session in Boston commemorating the 50th anniversary of publication of the H.G.Wells essays urging implementation of some form of the World Mind/World Encyclopedia concept as an instrument for world peace. Three of the Boston presenters (Manfred KOCHEN, Glynn HARMON, and George VLADUTZ) spoke again in Ann Arbor to a receptive audience of 125 people.

After noting the relationship of the research emphasis of his department at the University of Michigan to the World Mind concept, Dr. Kochen provided an overview of his "Extended Record" proposal to the Library of Congress. It is summarized in the Aug./Sept. issue of the (ASIS) Bulletin and the full 119-page report is available from Ellen Hahn, Planning Office at the Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20540. Dr.Kochen's proposal sets ambitious goals for the Library of Congress, reaching toward its 200th birthday in the year 2000. He invites constructive critiques addressed to him at the MHRI, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor 48109.

Dr.Harmon reported on the Intelligent World Encyclopedia (CY) Project at Microelectronics and Computer Technology Corp. in Austin, TX, begun in 1985 by a combination of corporations pooling their resources in computer and electronics research and building on predecessor concepts from Wells and V.Bush to the general problem solver and narrow domain expert systems. The decade-long project is expected to cost USD 50 million.

Dr.Vladutz described the factors which contribute to the accumulation by database vendors of uniformly retrievable information (integrating mechanisms) and suggested a means of overcoming the dis-integrating factors of uniqueness and specialization in accessing so many databases. He proposed that the information industry make an effort to convince all database vendors to produces phrases as the databases are constructed, building a unified inventory of phrases which would indicate its source database, source journal, entry date, and technical (vs.lay) level. He stated that the Institute for Scientific Information has the technology for accomplishing this, and its development would be a significant step toward the integration of knowledge which constitutes the World Brain of which we dream.

A welcome new panelist, Pat ANDERSON, surveyed the history of the research activity in artificial neural networks, focusing on the role of analogy in document retrieval. After tracing concepts from Bush and Englebart to Kochen and Dalenoort, she concluded that the fusion of serial and parallel computing techniques noves us a step closer to the world brain, that the concept of the prosthetic brain becomes more feasible as the structure of knowledge-based systems is more closely related to that of the human brain, and that the time has come to determine the capabilities and the social and societal roles of the world brain.

During the closing discussion, Barbara FLOOD reported on the activities of the University of the World (James G.Miller, Joseph Becker, et al.), and Dr.Charles GOLDSTEIN discussed the Online Reference Works Program at the National Library of Medicine. In conclusion, Dr.H.J.A.GOODMAN stated that he felt the panel presentations were all indicative of steps forward in the direction of the World Brain, but that they were random, haphazard, uncoordinated efforts; he emphasized the need now for synthesis, integration, and prioritizing of action to ensure that the World Brain (presuming consensus definition) develops in the manner sought by its proponents.

(Summary by June Andel. Reprinted from ASIS-SIG News. Arts and Humanities, Sept.1988. p.2-3)