
FID/CR News 28

Congratulations to Ingetraut DAHLBERG on the success of the ISKO conference in Darmstadt, Federal Republic of Germany, in August.

FID/CR matters

Unfortunately, the Chairperson of FID/CR was unable to attend the 45th Conference and Congress of FID in Havana, Cuba, in September because of complications in travel arrangements. This was regrettable and apologies were expressed to the delegates through Ben Goedegebuure, Executive Director of FID and an "Annual Report" was prepared and sent. A summary of that report follows:

In 1989/90, FID/CR's major project was to aid in efforts to strengthen the future position of UDC as a viable classification system for libraries and information centres world-wide. Three current members of FID/CR, Dr. Ia MCILWAINE, United Kingdom, Professor Gerhard RIESTHUIS, Netherlands and Professor Nancy WILLIAMSON, Canada served on the Task Force on UDC System Development, chaired by Dr. MCILWAINE. A more detailed report of the activities of the Task Force is given below.

Activities planned for 1990/91 include the 5th International Study Conference on Classification Research (ISCCR '91) to be held in Toronto, Canada, June 24-28, 1991. A call for papers was issued in June 1990, and the conference will be co-sponsored by the Faculty of Library and Information Science, University of Toronto, the Canadian Classification Research Group, the IFLA Section on Classification and Indexing, the International Society for Knowledge Organization (ISKO) and the American Society for Information Science SIG/CR. Theoreticians, researchers and practitioners in the fields of classification and organization of knowledge are invited to participate. The hope is that some important directions for research will result from this conference, and that FID/CR will be in a position to identify some specific research projects which it might foster and help to shape its future.

At least one funded project would be desirable if this could be achieved. One approach to funding might be a project which might attract corporate sponsorship. Members of FID/CR and others who have suggestions for possible projects are invited to send their ideas for research projects to the Chairperson of FID/CR.

Task Force for UDC System Development

This Task Force, which has now completed its work and submitted its final report, held three meetings between August 1989 and February 1990. The first, which was during the 1989 IFLA General Conference in Paris, was followed up by an informal discussion later that same week and the final meeting lasted two days. The intermediate meeting lasted one day but was organized to coincide with the October meetings of the UDC Management Board and chairmen of the CRC's meeting,

to allow for mutual discussions. The terms of reference under which it met have already been published in FID/CR News and all of these were duly fulfilled. The final recommendations were unanimous and were put before the Management Board by the Chairman at a meeting held in March 1990 and before the FID Council at its meeting in Yugoslavia the following month. The general recommendations were accepted, though the manner in which they may be implemented will undoubtedly have to be limited by financial constraints. The President has already indicated this in print.¹

The individual members did a great deal of investigating between meetings in addition to reading past papers and recommendations from FID. In order to discover more about the users of the scheme and their needs each member undertook a mini-survey, attempting to gain as international and diverse response as possible. It was conducted informally, usually in person, and following a series of points that was agreed beforehand, but without too structured an approach. This was both revealing and heartening and it was felt that this was a very successful part of the Group's work, as half a day's informal discussion with a user brought out much more information than a survey or questionnaire by post could possibly have done. It revealed considerable ignorance about the classification and how it works on the part of the users and it was particularly encouraging in that it demonstrated a great enthusiasm for the scheme, far beyond any expectations.

The Task Force agreed that if the UDC was to continue to occupy a place in the forefront of bibliographical classifications there was a need for extreme urgency. More money was needed to make it more secure and outdated sections needed revision without delay if users were not to be diverted to its competitors. Computer science is just one example of a discipline where great dissatisfaction is felt at present and users are working out their own versions which they will implement if FID does not improve the situation soon. Publicity for the scheme was also seen to be lacking and it was felt that if there were a better flow of communication there might be greater interest.

As a priority, the Task Force recommended the creation of a machine readable master version, from which different language editions and editions of varying size could be developed. It recommended that this should be a version of about 60,000 terms (i.e. about three times the size of the Dewey Decimal Classification, and roughly the size of the German and English Medium editions). It was proposed that this should be in English. Until there is such a tool, the work of revision is handicapped since at present no authorized text exists in an easily manageable form. The report anticipated that funds would be released to enable this to be done and that suitably qualified personnel would be employed on a two year contract to accomplish the task. It recommended that a small panel (a maximum of three members) should be set up to plan the implementation of this proposal. This panel's first task would be to revise the former publication. It was proposed that future revision should be much more consistently faceted than had been the practice in the past and that the ultimate goal should be a fully faceted scheme supported by a semantic network.

The Task Force was very concerned over the manner

in which revision work was organized and undertaken. It felt that the CRCs were not yet all functioning in the manner that had been anticipated when they were originally set up. Lack of funds and insufficient voluntary expertise make their task a difficult one. A good starting point for increased participation might be the involvement of those organizations who had expressed interest in assisting, in their answers to the questionnaire recently circulated by FID. It was also proposed that the small working group responsible for planning the creation of the online version and for producing revisions to the *Principles . . .* and the "Code of practice" should act as an intermediary between the CRCs and the Management Board, so that there was expertise available to assist when points of conflicting interest occurred and to coordinate the work of the five committees. There was general agreement that in the interest of speeding up revisions the rule forbidding re-use of a number for a changed concept for at least ten years should be reconsidered.

Particular attention was paid to ways in which the scheme might be better publicized. More frequent information on recent editions and revisions in progress was needed and various proposals were made, including the publication of an annual list issued by FID of what was available, greater use of the professional press and the possibility of setting up user's panels to improve communication and stimulate interest.

Following the Council's approval of the Task Force's report and its statement that it intends to continue its support of the UDC a small group has already begun redrafting the *Principles . . .* and plans are being made for the creation of a machine readable master version. The Task Force hoped that this would be completed within a two year period and that more radical revisions would be implemented before the end of the century. There seems no reason why this should not happen if sufficient funding can be found to carry out the proposals.

I.C. McIlwaine,
Chairman

1 President's column, *FID News Bulletin*, 40 (4), 1990, p.55.

New Publication

A recent publication on UDC is *The UDC: Essays for a New Decade*, edited by Alan GILCHRIST and David STRACHAN. This collection of ten papers describes recent managerial activities and technical applications of UDC and is published by Aslib in London.

MARC Format for Classification

At the 1990 Annual Conference in Chicago, USA, in June, the ALA's Committee on Machine Readable Bibliographic Information (MARBI) gave "provisional" approval to a US MARC format for classification. The Library of Congress and the Dewey Decimal Classification Editorial Office will now begin to test the format for eventual implementation. It is expected that a version of the format will be published by the Library of Congress Cataloging Distribution Service (CDS) in the spring of 1991. It is hoped that the format will be sufficiently flexible for adaptation for use for such classification schemes as the National Library of Medicine Classification, UDC, Bliss and other systems.

IFLA Division of Bibliographical Control, Section on Classification and Indexing

The primary activity of the IFLA Section on Classification and Indexing this year was the on-going work of the Section's Working Group on "Guidelines for Subject Authority Files." The North American members of the Working Group met twice in Chicago, USA in 1990 during meetings of the American Library Association and the European members met for two days in Frankfurt, Federal Republic of Germany. Drafts of the "Guidelines" were discussed and revised at these meetings and further revision took place when all of the members of the Working Group met together during the IFLA Conference in Stockholm in August. The current goal is to have a draft of the "Guidelines" ready for worldwide review in February 1991, with the expectation that comments and reactions received will be discussed during the IFLA Conference in Moscow in August, 1991. Werner STEPHAN, Federal Republic of Germany, is the current Chairperson of the Working Group, having taken over from Barbara KELM, Federal Republic of Germany, at the Stockholm conference.

The Section's programme for its open session during the Stockholm conference included two papers, "Classification and Indexing in the Nordic Countries", by Tor HENDRIKSEN, Director of the Norwegian School of Library and Information Science, Oslo. He discussed classification and indexing in Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden stressing Nordic co-operation in classification and indexing and Nordic involvement in international library organizations. A variety of classification schemes are used and the handling of the verbal subject approach differs from one country to another. In the second paper, Arja-Riita HAARALA, Director of the Tampere University of Technology Library, Tampere, Finland, discussed, "The Role of UDC in Finnish Classification Policy". UDC is very widely used in Finland to classify monograph and serial collections, for shelf arrangement, for bulletins of new acquisitions, for bibliographies and for reference databases. Included in the paper was information on recent activities related to the UDC at the management level within FID. Current revision work and the re-structuring of the UDC revision process were discussed.

One of the founding members of the Section, E.R. SUKIASIAN, has written a paper on the "IFLA Section on Classification and Indexing, 1977-1988. This paper was available at the Stockholm conference. Also the Section continues to publish an annual Newsletter which provides a means of sharing differing national experiences and of fostering an international perspective on classification and indexing.

Dorothy McGarry

ASIS SIG/CR

The 1990 ASIS Annual Meeting in Toronto, Canada, November 4-8, will include a number of papers and presentations of particular interest to FID/CR members.

ASIS SIG/CR will be sponsoring two programmes. A programme on "Applications of Classification" will focus on the use of existing classification systems, methods and problems in the development of classification systems for document collections, proposals for the use of classification in automated text analysis and classifi-

cation for technology and problem solving. Papers will be presented by Clare BEGHTOL, Ernest BRETON, Mary DYKSTRA and Nancy WILLIAMSON. The second programme on "Indexing Software: the Theoretical and the Possible" will explore the capabilities of stand-alone indexing software and discuss the issue of maintaining indexing standards. Presentations will be made by Linda FETTERS and Cecilia WITTMANN.

Additionally SIG/CR will co-sponsor three sessions: a practice oriented session on "Thesaurus Software Specifications"; a session on "Navigating Through Large Data Spaces" which will explore different approaches to this problem kind including associative searching using hypermedia, current and projected tools for the University of California MELVYL system, graphic interfaces and thesauri; and a session on "Using Machine Readable Dictionaries" will examine the use of such dictionaries in natural language processing.

An ASIS contributed paper session on "Information Handling Programs and Systems" will include a paper by Jessica MILSTEAD on "Thesaurus Software Packages" and one on "Design for a Subject Search Interface and Online Thesaurus" by Marcia BATES.

Following the ASIS conference, on Thursday November 8, at the Toronto Conference of Data Base Users, SIG/CR and SIG/HCI (Human Computer Interface) will co-sponsor a program on "Thesauri as Knowledge Bases for Information Retrieval." Papers will be presented by Alina VICKERY, Deidre STAM, Marlene ROCKMORE and Trish YANCEY.

1st ASIS SIG/CR Classification Research Workshop

Twenty papers were accepted and are scheduled to be presented at the CR Workshop to be held at ASIS'90 on Sunday, November 4, 1990. These papers represent a wide range of interests and disciplines, but of course they express a common belief that classification schemes are a key element in information systems and information science projects. We are very pleased with the reports of the important research or work on information systems that will be presented at the Workshop.

Although initial proceedings will be distributed only to participants, they might be published for wider distribution next year. Announcements would be made as soon as details are known.

Co-chairs of the workshop are Susanne M. HUMPHREY (National Library of Medicine) and Barbara H. KWASNIK (Syracuse University). Authors and titles of papers are as follows (titles may still change):

James D. ANDERSON (Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey): Ad Hoc, User-Determined Classification Based on Faceted Indexing. - David BEARMAN (Archives and Museum Informatics) and Toni PETERSEN (The Getty Art History Information Program): Retrieval Requirements of Faceted Thesauri in Interactive Information Systems. - Ernest J. BRETON (University of Minnesota, Duluth): Functional Representation of Technology. - Cheryl Ventura CONWAY (Allied-Signal Aerospace Co.): Semantic Classification of Maintenance Information. - Bruce B. COX (U.S. Patent and Trademark Office): Improving Intellectual Access to the U.S. Patent Classification. - Prudence W. DAL-

RYMPLE (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign) and Jennifer A. YOUNGER (University of Wisconsin-Madison): An Investigation into the Relationship between Subject Indexing Principles and Online Subject Searching Strategies. - Marta J. FERNANDEZ (Guatemala City, Guatemala) and Caroline M. EASTMAN (University of South Carolina): A Comparison of Taxonomic Knowledge Structures. - Janice GLASGOW (Queen's University, Kingston, Ont., Canada): Imagery and Classification. - Stephen C. HIRTLE (University of Pittsburgh): Ordered Trees: A Structure for the Mental Representation of Information. - Robert KROVETZ (University of Massachusetts, Amherst): Information Retrieval and Lexical Ambiguity. - Elizabeth D. LIDDY, Carol A. HERT, and Philipp DOTY (Syracuse University): Roget's International Thesaurus: Conceptual Issues and Potential Applications. - Mark T. MAYBURY (Rome Air Development Center): Generating Natural Language Definitions from Classification Hierarchies. - Mary MICCO (Indiana University of Pennsylvania): Report on Linking Subject Headings to LC Classification Numbers and Suggestion for Automating the Classification Schedules for the Explicit Purpose of Improving Subject Access in Online Public Access Catalogs. - Amadeo NAPOLI, Roland DUCOURNAU, and Claude LAURENCO (Université Louis Pasteur, Strasbourg, France): An Object-Oriented Approach to Classification. - James D. Palmer, Yiqing LIANG, and Lilian WANG (George Mason University): Classification as an Approach to Requirements Analysis. - Eric RAMES and Bernard DURIN (MATRA Espace, Toulouse, France): A Classification Model for Reusable Software Components. - Marlene ROCKMORE (Digital Equipment Corporation): Computer-Aided Knowledge Engineering for Corporate Information. - Dolly SAMSON (Weber State College): A Comparison of Classification Schemes in Support of Knowledge-Based System Test Planning. - Philip J. SMITH and Rebecca DENNING (Ohio State University), Steven J. SHUTE (AT&T Bell Labs.), and Lorraine F. NORMORE (Chemical Abstracts Service): Toward the Development of Semantically-Based Search Systems. - Larry M. STEPHENS (University of South Carolina): The Classification of Semantic Relations Based on Primitive Properties.

(From ASIS/SIG/CR News, August 1990, p.2-3)

U.K.: CRG 276 and 277

The 276th meeting of the British Classification Research Group was held on April 26th, 1990 at the University College London with 8 members present. The members expressed their deep regret at the recent death of Mr. SANDISON who had been a faithful member of the Group for about 25 years and had made many useful contributions to its discussions and deliberations. In recent years he had also served as a most reliable Treasurer.

The topic of this meeting were the practical and theoretical implications for subject indexing in large scale bibliographic databases in the online environment. The paper by Joyce Butcher and Ross Trotter, Building on PRECIS, presented at the 1989 IFLA Conference in Paris, formed the basis of the discussions. Members were reminded that the British Library was developing a new system for use in indexing the humanities and social science collections. Miss MEDLIN explained the

intentions of the British Library that controlled subject data, pitched at a fairly broad level were needed to secure recall, but that precision could be achieved without control. It became obvious in the discussion that the changes planned would result in numerous problems. The CRG members pointed to the dangers if PRECIS indexing was abandoned, especially if the indexing would not remain enough specific.

At the further meeting on July 5th, the topic of the April meeting was continued, viz. levels of specificity in indexing. Miss Medlin circulated a set of imaginary titles as examples for the new approach to be taken by the British Library. It was agreed that specificity relates to the hierarchical level at which a concept appears in the indexing language, whereas exhaustivity implies all subject index descriptions based on the summarization principle; one can be exhaustive without being specific. After a longer discussion, involving possibili-

ties of working with the computer-hidden relationships included in a PRECIS string or with the thesaurus which had been built up together with the PRECIS indexing operation but still inaccessible, Mr. FOSKETT reverted to the matter of specificity and emphasized the importance of providing different levels to suit differing circumstances. He thought that the Group should consider how differing approaches could be incorporated into one usable system. Mr. MILLS proposed to provide the detail and then to truncate. Mr. NEILSON referred to the use of notation for that purpose. The discussions were to be continued at the October 25 meeting.

At this July meeting, it was also related that FID had now relinquished any responsibility for the Broad System of Ordering (BSO) and that the three panel members who had been in charge, were permitted to do what they wished with it! (Summary from unconfirmed minutes.)

Thesaurus Software on Offer in Europe

Abbreviations:

Relations: E = Equivalence, H = Hierarchy, P = Proximity
SSTFI = Search Systems with Thesaurus Features Integrated
TFI = Thesaurus Features Integrated
TMS = Thesaurus Management System

(1) ENGLAND

TMS - Thesaurus Management System

Pyramid Computer Systems, Ltd.
59 Vastern Road
Reading, Berkshire, RG1 8BY, UK
(Relations: H, E, P, as well as a facet facility; MS-DOS. Comes as a monolingual and a multilingual version. A standalone system)

CAIRS

Leatherhead Food Research Association
Randalls Road
Leatherhead, Surrey KT22 7RY, UK
(SSTFI)

CALMS

Pyramid Computer Systems, Ltd.
59 Vastern Road
Reading, Berkshire, RG1 8BY, UK
(Computer Aided Library Management System with TMS integrated, MS-DOS)

Micro-Status Textbase Management System

Harwell Computer Power
Curie Avenue
Harwell, Oxfordshire, OX11 0QW, UK
(SSTFI; Relations: H, E, P, and others. MS-DOS, UNIX, TSO, and others)

(2) FRANCE

THESAUPUS

Progiplus
Tour Neptune
Cedex 20
F-92086 Paris-La Défense
(Relations: H, E, P; running under MS-DOS, UNIX, VMS and in other TEXTO environments)

Babylone Documentation

Anthésis
413, Belles Portes
F-14200 Hérouville-Saint-Clair
(SSTFI; Relations: H, E, P, and other typical features; Mac-OS)

Documenta

Platinum
90, rue de Miromesnil
F-75008 Paris
(Relations: H, E; SSTFI; Mac-OS)

JLB Doc

JBL Informatique
39, Boulevard Victor Hugo
F-92110 Clichy
(SSTFI; Relations: H, E, P; MS-DOS and UNIX)

Alexandrie

Qisk International
2, rue de Bourets
F-92150 Suresnes
(SSTFI; Relations: H, E, P; Mac-OS)

Biblio-Tech

Platinum
90, rue de Miromesnil
F-75008 Paris
(A library system with TFI; Relations: H, E; Mac-OS)

Colibris

Platinum
90, rue de Miromesnil
F-75008 Paris
(SSTFI; Relations: H, E, P; Mac-OS)

(3) GERMANY

CICADE

Display Softwaresystems GmbH&Co. Vertriebs-KG
Westenhellweg 72
D-4770 Soest
(Full Text SSTF; Relations: H, E. Under MS-DOS, UNIX, VMS, and others)

