

INTERNATIONAL

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CLASSIFICATION

Devoted to Concept Theory
Systematic Terminology &
Organization of Knowledge

Special Issue

on

Thesaurus Software

from

Darmstadt Seminar

August 14, 1990

INDEKS - Verlag, Frankfurt
ISSN 0340-0050 Int.Class.
Vol. 17 (1990) No. 3/4

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INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION

Devoted to Concept Theory, Systematic Terminology and Organization of Knowledge

The journal is the organ of the INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KNOWLEDGE ORGANIZATION. (General Secretariat: Woogstr. 36 a, D-6000 Frankfurt 50)

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UDC 025.4 + 168 + 001.4 (05)
INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION

Devoted to Concept Theory, Systematic Terminology and Organization of Knowledge

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Issue frequency: 4x/ann. *Annual subscription rates:* Institution per volume DM 94,-; Individuals per volume 20 % less if directly ordered from INDEKS Verlag. Single issues: DM 28,-. Back issues available, ask for special offer. Subscription included in membership fee for members of the International Society for Knowledge Organization (ISKO). MwSt (domestic only) and postage are not included; for Airmail delivery an additional DM 4,- per issue required.

Advertising rates: Advertising rate card No.2. Advertising fact sheet with details of mechanical requirements and closing date available upon request.

Publisher: INDEKS Verlag, Woogstr. 36a, D-6000 Frankfurt 50, Tel. 0 69 / 52 36 90; FAX 0 69 / 52 05 66.

Bank Account Nos.: INDEKS Verlag, Postgiro-Konto Frankfurt, No. 151208-608 (BLZ 500 100 60); Frankfurter Sparkasse, No. 852 082 (BLZ 500 502 01)

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Schmitz-Esser, W.: Thesauri facing new challenges.
Int. Classif. 17 (1990) No. 3/4, p. 129 – 132.

The chairman of the Thesaurus Software Seminar held on August 14, 1990 in Darmstadt, introduces into the topic by asking the following 10 questions and by providing his answers to them: 1) What is new in the view? 2) What is the real point of attraction? 3) Cannot Information Retrieval (IR) profit from machine-processing of language? 4) Can we do better now? 5) How can we do better? 6) When does fully automatic IR arrive? 7) Thesauri for machine-aided IR – how do we get there? 8) Which is the right way, which is the model, what to standardize? 9) Can IR people do it alone? 10) Are there advanced information services with a truly human interface?

(I.C.)

Fugmann, R.: An interactive classaurus on the PC.
Int. Classif. 17 (1990) No. 3/4, p. 133 – 137, 6 refs.

Both classification systems and thesauri have their specific strengths and weaknesses. Through properly combining both approaches one can eliminate the latter and largely preserve the strengths. "Classauri" which originate in this well-known way are most effective if they are constructed and applied during computer-aided indexing. A special variety of classaurus is described which is characterized by the employment of simple but highly effective conceptual and technical devices and by the renunciation of attempts to generate the wording of index entries algorithmically.

(Author)

Ritzler, C.: Comparative study of PC-supported thesaurus software. Int. Classif. 17 (1990) No. 3/4, p. 138 – 147, 1 ref.

This article presents the results of a comparative study of three PC supported software packages (INDEX, PROTERM and TMS) for development, construction and management of thesauri and other word material with special regard to hardware and software requirements, handling and user interface, and functionality and reliability. Advantages and disadvantages are discussed. The result shows that all three software products comply with the minimum standards of a thesaurus software. After inclusion of additional features distinct differences become visible.

(Author)

Ganzmann, J.: Criteria for the evaluation of thesaurus software.
Int. Classif. 17 (1990) No. 3/4, p. 148 – 157, 23 refs., 1 App.

The growing number of thesaurus programs, especially for microcomputers, calls for criteria which facilitate the decision on the appropriate tools for thesaurus construction, application and maintenance. Following a brief outline of the determinants of the criteria, i.e. the changing environment and the routines of thesaurus management and application, criteria are discussed in detail. Only the most important requirements relating to central functions of thesaurus work are touched upon, further criteria being included in a check-list attached. Applying the criteria to existing thesaurus software in a final short assessment, the author concludes that some programs reveal substantial shortcomings.

(Author)

Rada, R.: Maintaining thesauri and metathesauri.
Int. Classif. 17 (1990) No. 3/4, p. 158 – 164, 30 refs.

Maintaining a thesaurus is a time-consuming task which should go hand-in-hand with the indexing of information and should be supported by software. To connect different document databases their respective thesauri should be related. The most straightforward way to support this by computer is to map the terms of one thesaurus to those of another. Such a mapping creates one kind of metathesaurus. As citation systems are extended to include full-text online, a new thesaurus may be used to index individual paragraphs of a document, and a metathesaurus may apply to a universe of paragraphs. To illustrate these principles several computer systems are described which help people maintain thesauri and metathesauri. Particular success has been had by the National Library of Medicine with its Medical Subject Headings and its Unified Medical Language System.

(Author)

Einem Teil der Ausgabe liegt eine Werbung des INDEKS Verlags bei.

Scope

The more scientific data are generated in the impetuous present times, the more ordering energy needs to be expended to control these data in a retrievable fashion. With the abundance of knowledge now available the questions of new solutions to the ordering problem and thus of improved classification systems, methods and procedures have acquired unforeseen significance. For many years now they have been in the focus of interest of information scientists the world over. Until recently, the special literature relevant to classification was published in piecemeal fashion, scattered over the numerous technical journals serving the experts of the various fields, such as

philosophy and science of science
science policy and science organisation
mathematics, statistics, and computer science
library and information science
archivistics and museology
journalism and communication science
industrial products and commodity science
terminology, lexicography and linguistics

Beginning 1974, **INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION** has been serving as a common platform for the discussion of both theoretical background questions and practical application problems in many areas of concern. In each issue experts from many countries comment on questions of an adequate structuring and construction of ordering systems and on the problems of their use in opening the information contents of new literature, of data collections and surveys, of tabular works and of other objects of scientific interest. Their contributions have been concerned with

- (1) clarifying the theoretical foundations (general ordering theory, science theoretical bases of classification, data analysis and reduction)
- (2) describing practical operations connected with numerical taxonomy/classification, as well as applications of classification systems and thesauri, manual and machine indexing
- (3) tracing the history of classification knowledge and methodology
- (4) discussing questions of education and training in classification
- (5) concerning themselves with the problems of terminology in general and with respect to special fields.

Instructions for Authors

Manuscripts may be submitted in either English, German or French to the editor-in-chief in two sets (the original and one copy) typed in double space, comprising between 1500 to 3000 words. They should be accompanied by an English indicative abstract of 100-200 words. The contributions are refereed.

Criteria for acceptance will be appropriateness to the field of the journal (see Scope and Aims), taking into account the merit of the content and its presentation. Papers are accepted with the understanding that they have not been published, submitted or accepted for publication elsewhere and that, if the work received official sponsorship, it has been duly released for publication. Authors will usually be notified within 6 to 10 weeks. Unless specifically requested, manuscripts or illustrations will not be returned.

The *text* of the contributions should be structured by subheadings; it should contain (a) an introduction, stating the purpose, (b) a description of materials and methods in sufficient detail, (c) information on results or systems developed, and (d) a conclusion on and/or summarization.

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Additional notes should be indicated in the text by listed single numbers (e.g. text) and equally collected with their texts at the end of the paper under the heading *Notes*.

Aims

Thus, **INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION** is meant to be a programme for the improvement of classification methods and processes, a forum for discussion for all those interested in the organization of knowledge on a universal or a subject-field scale, using concept analytical and/or concept-synthetical approaches as well as numerical procedures and comprising also the intellectual and automatic compilation and use of classification systems and thesauri in all fields of knowledge, with special attention being given to the problems of terminology.

INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION publishes original articles, reports on conferences and similar communications, the Newsletters of FID/CR (Committee on Classification Research of the International Federation for Documentation), and COCTA (Committee on Conceptual and Terminological Analysis), book reviews, letters to the editor, and an extensive annotated bibliography of recent classification and indexing literature, covering between 400 and 500 items in each issue.

INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION should therefore be available at every university and research library of every country, at every information center, at colleges and schools of library and information science, in the hands of everybody interested in the fields mentioned above and thus also at every office for updating information on any topic related to the problems of order in our information-flooded times.

INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION was founded in 1973 by an international group of scholars with a consulting board of editors representing the world's regions, the special classification fields and the subject areas involved. From 1974-1980 IC was published by K.G.Saur Verlag, München. Back issues of 1978-1985 are available from INDEKS Verlag, too. (The 9 volumes of 1978-1986 are offered now at the highly reduced price of DM 300.-)

As of August 1989, **INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION** has become the official organ of the **INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KNOWLEDGE ORGANISATION (ISKO)** (founded on July 22, 1989) and is included for every ISKO-member, personal or institutional, in the membership fee (\$25/\$50).

Rates: From 1990 on for 4 issues/ann. (including indexes) DM 94.00 + postage (= DM 6.00). For air mail delivery add DM 4.00 per issue. Membership rates see above.
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Examples: Mater, E.: Human intelligence as a precondition for the machine processing of knowledge. *Int.Clasif.* 15(1988)No.3, p.125-132

Hunter, E.J.: Classification made simple. Aldershot, GB: Gower 1988. 115p.

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