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CLASSIFICATION

INTERNATIONAL

**Devoted to Concept Theory
Systematic Terminology &
Organization of Knowledge**

**Special Issue
on
Thesaurus Software
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Darmstadt Seminar
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Contents

Editorial

Thesaurus Software, Knowledge Organization, and the Human Interface	127
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Articles

Schmitz-Esser, W.: Thesauri facing new challenges	129
Fugmann, R.: An interactive classaurus on the PC	133
Ritzler, C.: Comparative study of PC-supported thesaurus software.	138
Ganzmann, J.: Criteria for the evaluation of thesaurus software	148
Rada, R.: Maintaining thesauri and metathesauri	158

Reports and Communications

Documentary Languages and Databases (165) - 14th International Online Information Meeting, London (165) - Meeting on Data and Concepts, and Courses in Darmstadt 1991 (165) - Cataloging Heresy: Challenging the Standard Bibliographic Product (165) - Making Connections. ACH/ALLC 91 (166) - RIAO 91. Intelligent Text and Image Handling (166) - ISCCR 91. Call for Papers (166) - International Indexers Conference, Yugoslavia (167) - 2nd Albany Colloquium 1991 (167) - CDMARC Names (167) - Dewey Decimal Classification (167) - New Abridged Dewey Published in June 1990 (167) - Satija, M.P.: Indian National Terminology Bank (168) - Ethnicity Glossaries (168) - Terminology Workshop, Kent, OH, 1991 (168) - ASTM Symposium, Cleveland, 1991 (157) - Terminology for Knowledge Transfer, Vienna, 1991 (157) - 3rd IFCS Conference, Edinburgh (147) - Cluster Analysis in Chemistry (132) - International Conference on Symbolic-Numeric Data Analysis and Learning (132) - Classification, Data Analysis and Information Processing (147)

ISKO News 4

Satija, M.P.: Tools for Knowledge Organization and the Human Interface. Report of the First ISKO Conference	169
Workshop Reports at ISKO Conference 1990	171

FID/CR News 28

FID/CR Matters (177) - McIlwaine, I.C.: Task Force for UDC System Development (177) - New Publication (178) - MARC Format for Classification (178) - McGarry, D.: IFLA Division of Bibliographical Control, Section on Classification and Indexing (178) - ASIS/SIG/CR (178) - 1st ASIS SIG/CR Classification Research Workshop (179) - U.K.: CRG 276 and 277 (179)	
Thesaurus Software on Offer in Europe	180
TermNet Seeks Partner to Sell 9-Language Thesaurus Software	181

Book Reviews

Ranganathan's Reprints in Library Classification (M.P. Satija)	182
Meiss, B.: Thesaurus, integrated, online, dynamic. A new way of working with DOMESTIC. (R.Fugmann)	183
Meinl, F.: Subject Characteristics. Key to their technical formation, description and information. (J.Hölzl)	184
Gottstein, K. (Ed.): Directory of International Cooperation in Science and Technology. (I.Dahlberg)	185

Classification Literature 17(1990)No.3/4	186
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Contents page

Vol. 17 (1990) N. 3/4

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.

References should be listed at the end of the paper with the numbers in brackets referring to such numbers in brackets within the text part.

Additional notes should be indicated in the text by lifted 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).

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Journal References should contain the names and initials of all authors, full title of the publication, abbreviation of the journal according to the ISO Standard 4, volume number, year of publication in brackets, issue number and first and last page numbers. *Monograph References* should give the name(s) of the author(s), full title, edition, place of publication, publisher, year and the number of pages.

Examples: Mater, E.: Human intelligence as a precondition for the machine processing of knowledge. *Int. Classif.* 15(1988)No.3, p.125-132

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

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