

# Editorial

by Hope A. Olson



As you scan this issue of *Knowledge Organization* you will see a visible difference from previous issues. Following this editorial, the first item is a feature from artist, Rita REISCHKE, regarding her interpretation of the *International Classification of Diseases – The Ex-*

*ternal Causes Code. The Injury Project* was an exhibition mounted in early 2000 in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. The inclusion in this issue of a selection from that exhibition is intended to contribute to some of the purposes outlined by Ingetraut DAHLBERG in the first issue of this journal's predecessor, *International Classification*, and reinforced in my last editorial. Dr. Dahlberg pursued these purposes effectively by gradually expanding the scope of the journal. She encouraged originality and diversity in articles dealing with both theory and practice. Three of our purposes come most particularly to mind as I look at this issue and the previous one:

“to overcome the boundaries which still separate those interested in classification methodology from each other”

“to provide a platform for the presentation of ideas and scientific discussion”

“to unite the specialists from various fields to develop a common basis for their efforts.”

Rita Reischke's images are the most obvious contribution to crossing boundaries and linking us as specialists in various fields. However, considerable diversity, representing a range of theory and practice, is apparent in other ways as well.

International diversity is developing with authors in the previous issue from France, India, Spain and Uruguay. This issue adds Canada, Israel and the United States. Methodologies include experiments, philosophical argument, literary criticism, phenome-

nology, grounded theory, definitional research and case studies. Topics have ranged from system architectures to queer theory to facet analysis. Disciplines have been as diverse as pharmacy, logotherapy and American literature. Contexts go from the Internet to personal files. Within these wide parameters we still focus on concept theory, classification, indexing and knowledge representation. As a platform for presentation of ideas and scientific discussion, *Knowledge Organization* continues to expand its eponymous field.

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Rita REISCHKE's *The Injury Project* is an opportunity for those of us who study classifications and their construction. Ms. Reischke raises the question of whether objectivity is necessarily a universally desirable end. The very order that makes a classification an effective way of grouping things into different categories in a structure seems to necessitate arbitrary divisions and exclusions. Whether or not we all agree with this interpretation, it is important for us to ask the question. *The Injury Project* allows us to see an interpretation of classification that is outside of our usual realm. I have never met Rita Reischke in person, but we have now corresponded electronically for some time. Ms. Reischke was not trained to identify facets and citation order – she is an artist, a different expert qualification. However, she has had the insight to perceive the classificatory structure of the *International Classification of Diseases* and translate it into a visual representation. Ms. Reischke gives us the opportunity to step back and view a different perspective on work like ours. Her images as visual representations can give us ideas for theoretical discussion and for methodical research in representation and organization of knowledge. Our field has reached a point of development at which we can aspire to sophisticated structures that are sensitive as well as efficient.

The articles in this issue illustrate the range of tools at our disposal. Grant CAMPBELL offers literary criticism based in queer theory for a better understanding of aboutness and meaning. Uta PRISS revives a lattice-based model for its potential in representing a

faceted thesaurus, combining traditional concepts into new practices. Chaim ZINS employs phenomenological techniques and grounded theory to create a model for classification construction testing this technique in the area of logotherapy. Each is an example of combinations from our own and other fields to further develop our ideas and applications.

Further, you will find new ideas in the *News & Reports* section and in the *Book Reviews*. *Knowledge Or-*

*ganization Literature*, as always, offers resources for your exploration of the field and current awareness.

I trust that you will find this issue informative and stimulating and I welcome your ideas and contributions for future issues.

Hope A. Olson  
Editor-in-Chief

## CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT 7TH INTERNATIONAL ISKO CONFERENCE

### *Challenges in Knowledge Representation and Organization for the 21st Century: Integration of Knowledge across Boundaries*

Biennial Conference of the International Society for Knowledge Organization

Granada (Spain)

July 3–6, 2002

The need for a worldwide communication system that can retrieve information efficiently, regardless of national and cultural boundaries, has become more and more pressing. New electronic environments (such as the Internet, where the world is at hand, where all cultures coexist, and where quality is low) have created this need. These new environments provide significant challenges for those dedicated to study and research on knowledge representation and organization. Similarly, the digitalization of information is responsible for increasing emphasis on the need for integrating models of knowledge representation and organization. Digitalization allows a huge amount of information to be stored and retrieved, and the challenge is to develop models to improve the management of information in this new framework. Traditional information retrieval systems face similar problems because we lack retrieval tools designed to integrate knowledge. In this situation, an in-depth examination of the integration of knowledge across boundaries is warranted.

Study of the integration of knowledge leads to other important topics. One of these is the concept of universality. New insights into universality need to include topics geared to the revision of the concept, such as how universality was previously understood in knowledge organization and what problems arose as a consequence of this understanding. Further, we need to move to a consideration of the concept of universality as it should be understood now, in the electronic era. How can universality be represented in conceptual structures? Integration of specialized knowledge across geographic or cultural domains can be a way to address this unsolved problem. Related to the same problem are topics such as how the integration of knowledge affects different subject domains and users, linguistic issues, and applications that support new models.

In addition, we need to look at equality in knowledge organization. This is an important aspect for supranational systems, and it means that we need a special focus on mi-

norities so that we can represent them well in knowledge structures. At the same time, professional ethics need to be reflected within this framework because knowledge organization affects the way people think about and perceive reality, and minorities and other similar groups may become invisible or wrongly conceptualized. Professionals need to be aware of these issues and should be attempting to solve these problems.

In light of these considerations, the integration of knowledge across boundaries is the general theme of the 7th International ISKO Conference to be held in Granada (Spain) in July 2002. The Conference has two main objectives: 1) to analyze models for knowledge representation and organization, as a state of the art departure point, and 2) to propose new models, methods and techniques of integrating knowledge across boundaries in order to improve performance in the new century.

The conference will include the following specific topics, among others:

1. Epistemological foundations of knowledge representation and organization systems and theories
2. Models, methods and concepts for knowledge representation and organization: towards integration and universality
3. Professional ethics in knowledge representation and organization
4. Users in multicultural domain-oriented and/or general systems
5. Evaluation of supranational systems
6. Internet and the integration of knowledge: artificial intelligence, data mining, and multicultural systems

Registration and travel & accommodation information shall be given in following announcements.

María J. López Huertas  
ISKO Spanish President and ISKO7 Conference Chair