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Nancy Williamson

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Knowledge Organization for Information Retrieval: 6th International Study Conference on Classification Research, 16-18 June, 1997

This Study Conference, 6th in the series, was held in the 40th anniversary year of the first Study Conference held in Dorking, UK in 1957. Organized by FID/CR and University College London in association with Aslib, the Classification Research Group (CRG) and the International Society for Knowledge Organization (ISKO), the conference was both a look back to its beginnings and an endeavour to look forward from the present in anticipation of the requirements for knowledge organization in the 21st century. As a commerative conference it was highly appropriate that many of the participants in the 1957 conference, members and former members of the CRG, were present and participated in the presentations. Two participants in the 1957 conference, **Jack Mills** and **Brian Vickery**, gave the opening and closing addresses. As a prelude to the Conference a social event was arranged in which a number of the delegates travelled to Dorking, toured the elegant Regency "villa" Polesden Lacey now owned by the National Trust and enjoyed a pleasant dinner at the White Horse Hotel. During the conference, the delegates enjoyed receptions hosted by the Classification Research Group and OCLC Europe and a celebration dinner was held.

Another very important contribution to the conference was the publication of From Classification to "Knowledge Organization": Dorking Revisited or "Past is Prelude", edited by **Alan Gilchrist** and published by FI**D** in The Hague. It brings together significant contributions to the literature of library and information science research published in the intervening years between the Dorking and London conferences and provided a context for the 6th Study Conference.

The 1997 Study Conference itself was attended by 63 delegates and 33 papers were presented over a period of three days. There were three plenary sessions, and a concluding session, while a major part of the conference consisted of parallel sessions which focused on eight themes – the internet, applications, theory, classification, thesauri, interface, concepts and indexing. Below the plenary papers are described first, followed by the papers in the parallel theme sessions, and the conclusion. While it might be argued that many of the papers touch on the subject matter of more than one category, for ease of creating an overview they are grouped here according to the categories in which they were presented. The full proceedings of the conference will be published at a later date. However, with the exception of **Brian Vickery's** conclusion, full papers were not available for this overview; hence the descriptions of the papers below are based on the authors' abstracts.

The first plenary session was the keynote address was given by **Jack Mills** (UK), an original member of the CRG and editor of the Bliss Bibliographic Classification, second edition (BC2). Mills focused on developments in knowledge organization since 1957. He acknowledged the pioneering work of Ranganathan in faceted classification as the way forward in knowledge organization and described its two major challenges – a concern for exhaustive retrieval of highly specific information and the rapid development of facilities for machine selection of items associated with a minimum of pre-indexing and pre-coordination. In the course of his paper, Mills examined subsequent research carried out by the CRG. Included were efforts to develop a new general classification, the work on BC2, the nature of disciplines as forms of knowledge and as bases for main classes, the need for a class of phenomena (objects of knowledge) and the limits of disciplinary basis. In his conclusion, Mills returned to the original declaration by the CRG on the need for faceted classification as the basis for IR. In doing so he considered other indexing devices not dependent on faceted classification, and concluded that the "claim that faceted classification in some form is indispensable in the initial stage of searching (clarifying and articulating the searcher's need) is reaffirmed". Further, as an implication of this, Mills also saw the need for a wider understanding of how faceted classification can illuminate and assist understanding of any field of knowledge and suggested it as a potential element in educational curricula.

In the second plenary session three papers were presented. In "Definitional approaches in the design

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of classification and thesauri and their implications for retrieval and for automatic classification" **Elaine Svenonius** (USA) discussed the definitional activity that occurs when one class is related to another with particular reference to hierarchical relationships. She considered three approaches to definition and the kind of hierarchy each entails. Hierarchy types differentiate thesauri from classification. Hence, the different roles appropriate to online retrieval and automatic classification were examined. Her conclusion was that vocabulary tools of the future need to distinguish different types of hierarchy and to introduce more definitions. In this same session, **Eric Coates** (UK), an original member of the CRG, presented a paper on "Subject searching of large scale information stores embracing all fields of knowledge: classification and concept matching". He recognized the recent declining status of classification systems (particularly universal systems) in the context of modern information search and retrieval methods. Factors contributing to decline were identified as being related to economic climate, impact of technology, the perceived state of universal classification and factors inherent in classification itself. Nevertheless Coates' view was optimistic and he stated that in spite of the recent decline, universal classification systems could be more important in the future. Among the signs of this are the growing interest in psycholinguistic theory and experimental work on the developmental stages of children's ability to attain conceptual thinking. Such research suggests the importance of the act of classifying, in varying degrees of sophistication, as an essential component mental development. Given the information environment, he raised the possibility of promotion, via educational curricula, of a greater understanding of the principles of class and concept formation by information seekers and users, as well as by intermediaries and semantic net makers. In the final paper of this session **Nancy Williamson** (Canada) described her research on "Knowledge structures and the Internet". Her presentation addressed the 'control' of the Internet focusing on the organization of domains of knowledge for effective retrieval of information by its subjects. In-progress research was described and a brief evaluation of the state of the art in the development of search engines was given. The major focus of the paper was on empirical research carried out on the Internet in which organizational structures were analyzed. Applications of the major schemes, DDC, UDC and LCC, were analyzed as was a selection of sites which used none of the standard schemes. The conclusion was that classification schemes were often not used to the best advantage with implications for the future growth of databases. At the same time, and in most cases, the use of classification of some kind was an improvement over the structures found at sites where no formal classification system was applied.

In the third plenary session on the last morning of the conference, two papers were presented. A paper prepared by A. **Neelameghan** (India) and presented by **M.A. Gopinath** (India) described "A knowledge base and hypertext facility to support spiritual, moral and ethical studies". It reported on a research project that created a knowledge base using a hypertext user interface which permitted selection of one or more databases, search and retrieval of texts, surfing across databases, displaying of records and organizing the retrieved items into related groups and clusters. The project uses Micro CDS-ISIS 3.07 and the paper described the components of the database, the record structure, interface, and databases available. In the second paper in this session **Francis Miksa** (USA) looked at "The influence of mathematics on Ranganathan's Classification Theory". In doing so he attempted to collate the most significant references to Ranganathan's origins in mathematics with respect to his work in training, teaching and writings in that field. Included in the coverage were Ranganathan's own writings, and the effect of his understanding of mathematics on his work in classification as well as the possible influences of other mathematicians including Georg Cantor and David Hilbert. In conclusion, Miksa summarized and evaluated his findings concerning Ranganathan's work.

In the session devoted to the "internet" two papers were given. **Marcia Zeng** (USA) made a presentation on "Searching for new ordering systems for the Internet resources: a study of the approaches to organizing information in the World Wide Web virtual libraries from 1995 to 1997". This investigation looked at approaches used by non-library and information professionals in organizing Internet resources. Approaches measured were hierarchical structure, styles of tables of contents structure and hyperlinks used. Findings suggested increased use of hierarchical classification, subject categories, facet listings, and combinations of these approaches. Nevertheless, the largest group sites did not organize their information resources by any subject means. In the second paper **Marthinus van der Walt** (South Africa) examined "The role of classification in information retrieval on the Internet: some aspects of browsing lists in search engines". Specifically, the author analyzed fifteen search engines to identify specific weaknesses and to recommend improvements. Browsing lists based on standard classification schemes were excluded. Main problems identified were related to specificity of headings and lack of systematic groupings. It was suggested that compilers of schemes should base the schemes used in search engines on the principles of library classification.

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There were two papers in the single sesson devoted to "applications". **Leonard Will** (UK) described research on "Data structures and indexing for museum collections management". Will identified the complexity of the relationships among the various facets of a single object as well as relationships between objects and other entities such as people, places and events. An important factor is the fact that while objects need to be indexed in their own right they must also be fitted into complex data structures. Special problems which need to be addressed are the component parts of the item, specific examples of general types of objects, and reproductions. In this context, Will examined the applicability of thesauri and classification schemes to various approaches to museum collections and discussed the extent to these schemes can be applied to integrate all of the information resources peculiar to museums – objects, images, documents, etc. In the second paper on applications **M.A. Gopinath** described a case study using the colon classification on "Frame-based systems and their application to design and development of classification systems".

"Theory" was a dominant theme at the conference. This category was encompassed in three of the parallel sessions, with a total of five papers. **Elin Jacob** (USA) and **Hanne Albrechtsen** (Denmark) focused on "Constructing reality: the role of dialogue in the development of classificatory structures". The authors pointed out that classification systems rely upon the assumption that there is universal consensus in language, whereas in reality the language of a discipline participates in continuous dialogue with other socio-political, ideological and cultural languages with which it overlaps. Dialogue is seen as a stabilizing influence in disciplinary language. In this context the authors argue that the design of knowledge structures for effective retrieval must incorporate a more humanistic touch than at present. Using the theories of Bakhtin on the notion of language and Foucault on the concept of episteme, the authors investigated "the nature of dialogue, the assumptions and objectives underlying the dialogic process and the composition of communities contributing to dialogue" in three controlled vocabularies in three difference subject domains – HIV/AIDS, nursing, and the diagnosis of mental disorders. In the same session, **Steven Pollitt** presented his research on "Interactive information retrieval based on faceted classification using views". It recognizes the constraints placed upon knowledge organization caused by the difficulty of separating logical views of data, information concepts and their relationships from the physical means by which we seek to implement retrieval systems. A parallel is drawn between the progression from enumerative to faceted classification systems and the emergence of relational databases to replace hierarchical structures. In the parallel, the author sees a convergence of two types of systems which have been developed independently. The role of post-coordinate retrieval systems and thesauri is examined and an interface called HIBROWSE is described which brings together faceted classification and view-based searching. **Clare Beghtol** (Canada) presented her research on "What is an event? Domain analysis of narrative documents". In the context of bibliographic classification systems, three current problems are identified: 1) academic disciplines as the main structural principle; 2) the fiction/nonfiction distinction as one secondary structural principle and, 3) common information retrieval techniques which call into question whether the document is the most appropriate unit of analysis for online retrieval. Beghtol indicates that these problems suggest a potential need for new structural principles for bibliographic classification systems. She further suggested that "text types" might be one such basis. Building on previous research the author investigated the usefulness of analyzing documents on this basis. Of the fundamental constituents of narrative, "events" appears to be the concept on which there is the least consensus. The final paper in the "theory" category was "The concept of subject: on problems in indexing by **Jens-Erik Mai** (Denmark). Recognizing the scarcity of instruction on how to identify the subjects of documents, the author investigated the indexing process and presented a step by step framework for how it might be accomplished. He identifies as problems the subjectivity of the process and the dependence on the subject cataloguer or indexer.

Not surprisingly, a large number of the papers (seven) fell into the "classification" category. Both universal and special subject systems were represented. Two papers were concerned with UDC. "Language barriers and bridges: a comparative study on three UDC editions by **Victoria Francu** (Romania) describes research focused on the hypothesis that "irrespective of the language version of the Universal Decimal Classification used in classifying, the search results will be the same". The UDC medium editions in English, French and Romanian were used in the study. The purpose was to determine the value of UDC as a switching language. Findings indicated that good results on equivalence was possible only when the level of specificity was the same – thus distinction is needed between full, medium and abridged editions. Also focusing on UDC research was a paper on "Classifications and linear order: problems of organizing zoology" by **I.C. McIlwaine** (UK). The author explained briefly revision activity in Zoology recently carried out in both DDC and UDC. Revision work had revealed that "specific problems in Zoology in reality underlie the entire

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process of information retrieval and lead to some fundamental questions". In this paper McIlwaine limited discussion to the listing and arrangement of the "Entities" or "Personality" facet in Zoology. Zoologists are concerned about sequences for the ordering of zoological specimens and writings because "changes and upheavals are taking place in zoological classifications due to increased knowledge of genetics, and the use of DNA sampling in the assignment of fauna to categories". McIlwaine examined the approaches taken in two works published in the 1990 which are concerned with the naming of genera and species and their classification. In another paper focusing on UDC, **Gerhard Riesthuis** (Netherlands) described research on the "Decomposition of complex UDC numbers". He indicates that searching notations is difficult for inexperienced users and discusses three approaches to the problem: 1) the use of UDC class numbers in post-coordinate searching, to connect each complex descriptors; 2) the connection of each complex UDC notations to one or more thesaurus terms from a thesaurus based on UDC, and 3) the connection of each complex UDC notation with the captions of the simple notations form which it is built.

The thesaurus descriptors or captions would then become search terms and could be used as the basis for retrieval, and the connection of each notation with the description. Two of the "classification" papers focused on the Dewey Decimal Classification system. **Joan Mitchell** (USA) described the "Challenges facing classification systems: a Dewey case study". Among these challenges are: keeping pace with knowledge, in particular new topics and new areas of interest; reconciling the role of a general classification with special needs of users; fostering efficiency and accuracy in the application of a scheme; providing meaningful notation; incorporating into the scheme features which will support automatic and semi-automatic classification of selected materials; accommodation of multilingual use as a switching language; and the development of end-user classification and navigation tools to facilitate use of the classification in new ways. Mitchell described work underway with DDC to address these challenges. In the second DDC paper, **Diane Vizine-Goetz** explored "Data mining and the Dewey Decimal Classification: discovering DDC relationships in library subject access systems". Discussion was based on the end use of the electronic version of DDC through OCLC FirstSearch and NetFirst systems. The project preserves the DDC structure but without displaying DDC class numbers or captions associated with the DDC summaries. Captions have been translated into end-user language. The paper looks at techniques used to automatically relate DDC to other subject access

systems and reports on results of experimentation using data to perform automatic classification of electronic documents. Papers by **Dorothy McGarry** (USA) and **Hope Olson** and **Dennis Ward** (Canada) focused on special subject domains. McGarry presented "Mathematics in four classification schemes: a discussion". This preliminary study examines the similarities and differences in order of subject arrangement in DDC, LCC, UDC and the Mathematics Subject Classification. Not surprisingly disparities among the schemes were found. Based on findings a recommendation is made for further examination of the schemes as the basis for future revisions and expansions to them. Olson and Ward in their research on "Feminist locales in Dewey's landscape: mapping a marginalized knowledge domain" addressed the problem of representing such a domain in traditional classification. This particular paper looks at the cultural limits of DDC in accommodating "feminism". The study has its roots in three theories of space: "rhetorical space", "transparent space" and "paradoxical space". The immediate product is a test database, with data consisting of term-by-term linkages between a women's thesaurus and DDC using Dewey for Windows. The authors report on the pilot study and speculate on the larger research area.

The topic of "indexing" was addressed in three papers. Not surprisingly, the focus of all was machine based indexing. Two concentrated on automatic indexing. **Ernst Schuegraf** (Canada) spoke about "Classification as an aid to automatic indexing". He suggests that if a document can first be classified that it will aid in the indexing process by providing context for the meanings of words. The process used in Schuegraf's research is to generate vocabularies from a representative database of previously classified documents. Documents are then classified by matching their texts to the vocabularies and categories. The experiment was carried out with a sample of the INSPEC database used to generate 31 subject dictionaries. The dictionaries were then used to classify other INSPEC records. Results were satisfactory but problems were encountered with short documents. A byproduct of the process was the identification of domain specific words. **Natalia Loukachevitch's** (Russia) paper took a somewhat different approach focusing on the "Thesaurus as a tool for automatic indexing". In the third paper, **Widad Mustafa-Elhadi** and **Christophe Jouis** (France) were concerned with "Natural language processing-based techniques and their use in data modelling and information". The systems examined are used in the identification/extraction of terms or concept names related to a specific field of knowledge and were in the French language. Attention was given to the relevance of terms extracted and their further use in building in-

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formation retrieval tools. While the first part of the paper dealt with the process, the second part explored the possibilities of modifying the system for better results. The authors also addressed the requirements to support computationally based text analysis drawing from earlier results from this project.

Two papers examined the problems of "interface". Allyson Carlyle (USA) considered "The role of classification in the creation of author and work displays in online catalogs". Her presentation acknowledged problems in searching prolific authors such as Shakespeare and common titles such as the Bible. She explored methods by which classification might be used to improve search results in such cases. A user classification study was carried out on Charles Dicken's A Christmas Carol. The paper describes a sorting task, looks at the effect of ordering by cataloguing rules, and analyzes the applicability of three classification schemes – DDC, UDC and LCC. The potential for online catalogues to automatically create classified displays of such works was also examined. In her paper on "IR interface and data knowledge organization", Augusta Maria Paci (Italy) was concerned with data organization and record format as they relate to user interface. She cites the need to provide for end-user input and the problems of large records with data displayed in linear order. In answer to these problems, Paci suggested the grouping and clustering of like data as an effective approach to retrieval. Experimentation with an interface to address these problems was carried out using the European project SESAM (System for Electronic Support of Academic Materials). The system was conceived for the use of 3 types of users who are both information providers and end users. The experiment opens up new possibilities for user support of data retrieval from a database and offers a step forward to ease the human-computer interaction at various stages of end-user systems.

A group of three papers dealt with "concepts". In his presentation "Evolving user-oriented classifications" Alan Mayne suggested that new approaches were needed by users to organize their personal information systems. He envisaged a situation where the users had access to both personal computer systems and the Internet. His idea would be a flexible classification based on a 'map of knowledge" which could be modelled mathematically, and which would allow the user to create new and often unpredictable classes as their information needs evolve. Relations between classes would develop flexibly and content analysis could be applied. Such a system would permit the organization of large amounts of information, information retrieval, preparation of new documents from existing hyperdocuments, and the processing of ideas and information for projects. Paivi Pekkarinen

(Finland), in a presentation "On 'new' Ranganathanian laws for structuring the content of the virtual library" explored the implications of these laws in creating order and producing meaning of content in such a library. The author argues that Ranganathan's five laws are insufficient for virtual library needs and adds two laws of her own: "every user his library" and "every library a contribution by its reader". This approach assumes a reader-interface linked to a metathesaurus as the primary tool for managing and maintaining the co-operative and interactive process of the virtual library. Transparency of librarian-built relationships would be essential. Adrian Evans (UK) described "Knowledge-based concept process". In his presentation he explored eight key ideas as precepts for advanced retrieval system design. Assumptions were made that: a) intelligence is an acknowledged property of such a system, and b) that a fusion of library classification methods and knowledge engineering is a pragmatic approach for system building.

Four papers were presented in the "thesaurus" category. In their paper on "A multilingual thesaurus for indexing descriptions of goods: characteristics and links with the corresponding classification schemes", Corentin Roulin (Belgium) and Alan Gilchrist (UK) described the development of the EBTI Thesaurus, a European multilingual thesaurus used to index descriptions of goods (or products) which are also classified according to the European tariff and statistical "Combined Nomenclature". The thesaurus has some non-standard features to allow for the indexing of objects and products. The paper describes the use made of the descriptions, and of the classification in maintenance of the thesaurus, as well as the theoretical relationships involved. The nomenclature of the classification scheme is also explored. Ewa Chmielewska-Gorczyca (Poland) discussed "Polyhierarchy as a Means of Knowledge Representation". Traditional systems have tended to be monohierarchical expressing one hierarchy and neglecting others. The author states that "modern thesauri" particularly those constructed and maintained with the help of computers, are "cautiously" moving in the direction of polyhierarchical structure. She discusses the nature of polyhierarchies and their dependent factors, including level of vocabulary, scope of the thesaurus, and disparity among users. Peter Gillman (UK) emphasized the need for "Thesauri to aid retrieval from very large text bases". In doing so, he focused on the fact that the growth of full text databases and the increasing access to full text resources provides less and less opportunity for manual indexing and leads to the increasing effect of terminological ambiguities. The problem is particularly acute in corporate information systems. In this environment the traditional thesaurus can only be used as a retrieval tool since "pre-

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retrieval indexing is not possible". Moreover the traditional thesaurus structures are not suited to the multi-terminology, multi-subject retrieval. This points to the need for exploitation of the thesaurus concept as a" switching mechanism between terminologies and between different subjects that share some common subject terms". This paper describes work being done at University College London to study the problems of ambiguity and to develop a topology of problems which thesauri could address in document management and retrieval of large text resources. **Stella Dextre Clarke** described work on "The Construction of a multilingual thesaurus, based on a classified structure" in conjunction with the CAB Thesaurus which is used to index two agricultural databases, CAB Abstracts and AGRICOLA. To correct long-standing anomalies, this hitherto monolingual thesaurus has been reconstructed on the basis of a custom made classification scheme and the resulting structure used to translate the thesaurus into Spanish and Portuguese in order to facilitate multilingual access to the two databases. The paper focused on methodology of the translation and the types of problems encountered.

In the final session of the Study Conference, **Brian Vickery**, a former member of CRG and a participant in the 1957 Dorking conference summarized the "Issues in Knowledge Organization" as they emerged from the presentations and discussions over the three days. He observed that many of the themes of the Dorking conference were revisited 40 years later in 1997. Nevertheless, he saw a changing and expanding role for classification in the present and the future. Vickery stated that the 1957 conference "agreed that the central problem was that of relationships between subjects and between the concepts that the constituents of subjects". This has not changed in forty years. What has changed and will continue to change is how we develop and make use of those relationships. There are many kinds of relationships – among others generic relationships, grouping and clustering through facet analysis and semantic categories, as well as other relationships such as cause, effect, use and source. Vickery highlighted the many uses to which classification is being put. These uses go far beyond the traditional uses of the arrangement of books on shelves and entries in bibliographies and many of them have arisen as a result of technological changes. Such uses of classification include: classification as an aid in thesaurus construction and revision; the use of faceted display in search interfaces and in online browsing; its use as an aid in automatic indexing; the use of hierarchies and semantic categories; the use of generic classification for discovery of new knowledge and, the application of new knowledge in artificial intelligence in the construction of hierarchical ontologies to display

the structure of concepts in a subject domain. Focusing on the papers themselves, Vickery concentrated on four themes which he regarded as important in the future of classification in information systems. The first of these themes was "polyhierarchy", the placing of a concept or term in more than one hierarchy in a classification, or multiple BT links in a thesaurus. Several papers demonstrated the need to provide for different perspectives and different contexts of generic relations.

Recognition of this need can be used to resolve ambiguities and clarify meanings. The second theme to which he referred was the sharing of vocabularies by two or more user communities. There is a link here with the growth of interdisciplinarity and the important realization by the conference that "academic disciplines are no longer a sufficient basis for classification". Evidence of this could be seen in the papers which dealt with the virtual library and the Internet. Vickery spoke of the perpetual flux of the Internet, a flux "which has caused change in the structures of public knowledge to occur more rapidly than before". The Net makes possible easy public display of " personalized knowledge organization" easy, but Vickery predicts that "insofar as such organizations are personalized, idiosyncratic, tied to local perspectives, they will in turn disappear". However he noted problems of structure are much more serious than the personalized structures. In his third theme Vickery expressed his approval of the choice of the term "knowledge organisation" rather than " classification" as the theme of the 1997 conference, but suggested that "its implications have not been fully accepted within information science". Thus, he advises that we need to "examine more closely the variety of ways in which public knowledge can be organised, and consider the implications for information systems". From this he raises the question as to what public knowledge can tell library and information scientists about the knowledge structures they currently use and the future of knowledge organization. Would a closer examination of public knowledge support our presupposition that generic relationships are the most useful? Would it modify our thinking? If modifications are needed can they be incorporated into our existing tools, or will we need to devise new ones? In this context, he suggested that we should be mindful of the fact that database management systems some time ago abandoned the hierarchical model for the relational one. Vickery recommends that we look beyond relationships in existing thesauri to the knowledge structures found in literature. Summarizing his comments on this theme he suggested that "if we are to be concerned with knowledge organisation for information retrieval, we must be prepared to study all forms of knowledge organisation, and be ready to change the

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presuppositions on which we currently base our search tools". In other words information specialists must develop their thinking and research beyond classification in its narrow sense. The fourth theme focused on the change in the structures of knowledge, the issues being "how to monitor changes occurring in the structure of knowledge that need to be incorporated into our classifications, thesauri and other forms of knowledge organisation". Reference was made to citation indexing and its use in intermeshing separate fields, relating this to the current use of hyperlinks. In the light of these innovations Vickery posed the question "... are there ways in which we can scan and analyse the hyperlinks of the WWW to identify new subject links?" This question provides a fertile field for research in the field of knowledge organization. In his concluding remarks, Vickery returned to 1957 and the Dorking conference, to the work of John Wilkins, the first joint secretary of the Royal Society, published in 1668 and to Roget. reflecting that there is a long tradition in attempting to organize knowledge. That tradition is expected to continue and it must grow and develop in conjunction with new thoughts, new research and new technologies. "The development of knowledge is endless, so will be our work."

FID/CR Meeting, June 17, 1997

FID/CR met in London on June 17, 1997 during the 6th International Study Conference on Classification Research. Chaired by I.C. McIlwaine, those present included A. Gilchrist, M. Gopinath, D. McGarry, G. Riesthuis, E. Svenonius, and N. Williamson (secretary).

The Chairman announced plans for the FID/CR to be held at the 1998 FID Conference and Congress to be held in New Delhi in October 1998. A half-day seminar on classification will be held and the time has been blocked into the conference plan. Three invited papers will be presented and A. Neelemeghan is to be contacted to suggest speakers. "Classification Systems in Digital Libraries" was suggested a theme for the seminar.

Also, it was announced that a workshop on UDC will be held during the IFLA conference in Amsterdam in August 1998. The 8th Ranganathan Award is scheduled to be presented during the 1998 FID Conference in New Delhi. The Award Subcommittee is to consist of I.C. McIlwaine (chair), G. Riesthuis, Dorothy McGarry, A. Neelemeghan (representative of DRTC) and N. Williamson. A call for nominations will be placed on the FID web page and the deadline for submissions will be May 15, 1998.

A discussion was held on the place, time and location of a proposed 7th International Study Confer-

ence. M. Gopinath announced an invitation to hold the proposed conference in North Carolina, USA in the year 2000. I.C. McIlwaine thanked Gopinath and said she would write to Ben Speller thanking him for the invitation. Further discussion suggested that it was too early to make definite plans. The year 2000 did not seem to be appropriate since the ISKO biennial conference is scheduled to held in Toronto that year. Other dates suggested were 2001, 2003 and 2005. It was also noted that since most of the previous Study Conferences have been held in country of the FID/CR chairman this would need to be taken into consideration. At this point in time it is not known who the chairman will be at the time of the next study conference but the chairman at the time of the conference should have a say in the matter.

Possible new projects for FID/CR were discussed. There was strong agreement among those present that efforts should be made to build up a base of members – the use of the website for this purpose was suggested as an approach. Another suggestion was a "virtual hyper glossary" to be put up on the website.

On behalf of those present, M. Gopinath expressed thanks to I.C.McIlwaine and her staff and the local arrangements committee for their hard work in organizing the very successful 6th International Study Conference. This expression of thanks was unanimously supported by those present.

Nancy Williamson,
Secretary.

Publication

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A collection of reprints to commemorate the forty year span between the Dorking Conference (First International Study Conference on Classification Research 1957) and the Sixth International Study Conference on Classification Research, held in London 1997.

Following a brief introduction by the editor, this volume contain a section on the "Dorking Legacy" which includes recollections of the Dorking conference written by nine of the participants in that conference. Also included in this section are two papers which establish the historical context of classification research. The first is the 1955 Memorandum from the Classification Research Group (CRG) to the Library Research Committee of the Library Association (UK) explaining "The need for a faceted classification as the basis of all methods of information retrieval". This