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# ISKO News

Edited by Hanne Albrechtsen

Communications Editor

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## Report from ISKO-Poland

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The 9th Forum for Scientific and Technical Information took place in Zakopane, 25-28 September 2007. The conference entitled "The Role of Knowledge Organization in Information Exchange and in the Development of Professional Information Services for Education, Science and Culture for the Knowledge Society" was organized by the Polish Society for Scientific Information (PSSI) in cooperation with the Institute of Library and Information Science of the University of Silesia and the Polish National Chapter of ISKO.

More than 100 participants representing first of all the Polish Society for Scientific Information and the Polish National Chapter of ISKO took part in this all-Polish conference: scholars, librarians, creators and users of scholarly information, computer specialists as well as practitioners and scholars from related disciplines and areas. The high rank of this conference was also proved and guaranteed by the participation of the representatives of almost all Polish academic schools educating information specialists and librarians. Generally, more than 50 papers regarding various aspects of information science (including both those resulting from present challenges and those referring to more traditional problems identified within this discipline) were presented.

After the welcoming speech by Prof. Diana Pietruch-Reizes, the president of PSSI and a member of ISKO, the general concept lying behind the title of the conference was explained by the head of the conference program board Prof. Wiesław Babik (Jagiellonian University, ISKO). In his introductory speech he emphasized both the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of PSSI and the new dimension of cooperation between PSSI and ISKO PL, which has resulted in the organization of the present ISKO session.

The plenary session chaired by Prof. Wanda Pindlowa was composed of 4 speeches. Prof. Wiesław Babik presented a paper entitled "ISKO PL - a New

Opportunity for Scientific Cooperation in the Field of Knowledge Organization in Poland and all over the World". Prof. Barbara Sosińska-Kalata (Warsaw University, ISKO) delivered a speech on "Development of a New Paradigm of Knowledge Resources Organization in the Network Society". Afterwards, Dr Maria Burke (University of Salford, Salford Business School-Great Britain) tried to foresee the future of knowledge management in this part of the world presenting the speech entitled: "The Future for Knowledge Management: A Rocky Road or Sunlit Greek Meadows? A Discussion of Eastern European Perspectives". The plenary session was closed by the speech delivered by Prof. Diana Pietruch-Reizes (University of Silesia, ISKO): "Access to Scientific Information and Its Dissemination in the Context of Competitiveness and Innovation Capacity in the European Union".

The scientific session of ISKO PL was chaired by Prof. Wiesław Babik, Polish national coordinator of ISKO. The essential part of this session was composed of papers on various aspects of information-retrieval languages seen as linguistic tools for knowledge organization: "Information-Retrieval Languages Applied in Indexes and Their Role in Information Organization and Dissemination" (W. Babik), "Is This the End of Information-Retrieval Languages?" (B. Bojar), "Self-Regulating Information Systems. Will They Remain Science Fiction?" (W. Daszewski), "Networked Knowledge Organization Systems" (M. Roszkowski), "Application of a Thesaurus Test Version in the ALEPH Computer System in the CIOP-PIB Library" (A. Młodzka-Stybel), "International Council on Archives Standards ISAD(G) and ISAAR(CPF) (A. Laszuk). The most vivid and lively discussion was provoked by the controversial speech of Prof. B. Bojar. She presented her opinions on the future of information-retrieval languages and information science in Poland.

Other sessions were subject or problem oriented and were focused on such issues as information services and systems, information exchange, scholarly and professional associations in the field of librarian-

ship and information science, special information, and the experiences of libraries and information centres. The members of ISKO PL and those interested in becoming its members took part in all of these sessions. The papers and presentations were devoted to: theoretical and terminological problems of opportunistic acquisition of information (Dr R. Sapa), mobile reference services (Dr K. Materska), research on information needs and competences of professional translators (K. Dziewańska, Dr A. Korycińska-Huras), optimization of information exchange in labour market, education and training sector (Prof. M. Próchnicka), information brokering in Poland (Dr S. Cisek), ephemerality of Internet documents (Dr A. Pulikowski), the history and activities of the Polish Society of Scientific Information (Prof. D. Pietruch-Reizes), the Science of Science Committee of the Polish Academy of Sciences and its activities in the field of scientific information (Prof. M. Skalska-Zlat), information services in Cracow University of Economics Main Library (A. Osiewalska) and information culture popularized by school libraries (Dr H. Batorowska).

All the papers will be published as a peer-reviewed book (a collective work). We hope they will contribute significantly to the theory and practice of information science. The conference was indeed very interesting. What's more, the magic atmosphere of Polish autumn in the Tatra Mountains inspired deeper reflections and left the participants with unforgettable impressions. Because of the limited time available during the conference, it was impossible to discuss all the "hot topics" and important problems as well as consider all the questions and matters arising from the papers. This emphasizes the necessity to organize in 2009 the next research seminar of PSSI/ISKO entitled Knowledge and Information Organization for the Needs of Information Society in Poland.

*Wiesław Babik*

National Coordinator ISKO in Poland,  
Head of the Program Board of 9<sup>th</sup> National Forum  
for Scientific and Technical Information,  
Institute of Information and Library Science,  
Jagiellonian University

*Remigiusz Sapa*

Institute of Information and Library Science,  
Jagiellonian University

## ISKO-Germany

*Kompatibilität, Medien und Ethik in der Wissensorganisation: Fortschritte der Wissensorganisation, Band 10 (FW-10) [(Compatibility, media and ethics in knowledge organization: Advances in knowledge organization, Vol. 10 - Supplement)]: Proceedings of the 10th Conference of the German Section of the International Society of Knowledge Organization, Vienna, 3-5 July 2006, Edited by H. Peter Ohly, Sebastian Net-scher & Konstantin Mitgutsch, ERGON Verlag, Würzburg 2008*

The 10th volume of the German series 'Fortschritte der Wissensorganisation' (Advances in Knowledge Organization) with the title *Compatibility, Media and Ethics in Knowledge Organization (Kompatibilität, Medien und Ethik in der Wissensorganisation)* consists of papers presented at the 10th German ISKO conference on Knowledge Organisation (Wissensorganisation 2006). As it was held 2006 in Vienna in conjunction with the 9th International ISKO conference (organized by the Centre for Translation Studies and the Institute for Educational Sciences (Budin et al. 2006), it contains many contributions in English as well as a number of supplementary publications of the International Conference. This explains why the Introduction and the Subject Index are in English. Also, every essay contains at least an English abstract. We would like to thank all the authors for submitting their elaborated papers. The 31 articles in this volume were assigned to seven chapters, which are described briefly below.

### 1. Principles of Knowledge Organization

Gerhard Rahmstorf gives a determining position for the scientific understanding in the area of knowledge organization. Christine Rabl explores the relevance of ignorance (e. g. 'not knowing yet' and 'impossibility of knowing') within knowledge organisation. Rosa San Segundo Manuel looks into the limitations of traditional classification structures and opens the subject up for a non-linear general theory of knowledge classification. Mikel Breitenstein discusses social indexing approaches that include user-based information. Fulvio Mazzocchi and Paolo Plini present the EARTH (Environmental Applications Reference Thesaurus) as a case study for developing "richer" relational structures in thesauri. Referring to a 1995

ISKO-conference in Warsaw, Ingetraut Dahlberg describes recommendations for the compatibility and integration of different thesauri.

## 2. Compatibility and Heterogeneity of Knowledge

Harm Paschen gives some examples of former comprehensions of knowledge and its social and historical interdependence, which is helpful for modern tasks of knowledge integration. Michael Panzer gives a theoretical insight into the CrissCross project, in which the German Dewey-Dezimalklassifikation was connected with the Schlagwort-normdatei (SWD, German authority file for subject headings). Max Stempfhuber emphasizes the necessity to deal with heterogeneity instead of universal standardizations. Anne-Kathrin Walter and Philipp Mayr provide a short insight into the cross-concordances project "Competence Center Modeling and Treatment of Semantic Heterogeneity" (KoMoHe). Francisco Javier García Marco follows with a case study in compatibility and heterogeneity in the field of information for consumer protection. Maja flumer and Genevieve Clavel-Merrin present the results of a questionnaire for the national libraries of the ten new member states of the European Union, enabling the TEL-ME-MOR project to get an overview of subject access tools and their practice.

## 3. Ontologies in Knowledge Organization

The third chapter is based on a workshop on ontologies. In the first article, Winfried Schmitz-Esser deals with the term 'ontologies', discussing what they are about and how they could provide help, including a brief summary of the statements of Alexander Sigel, whose article can be found in a different publication (Poli, Schmitz-Esser and Sigel 2006). In the following paper, Winfried Schmitz-Esser gives examples of terminology-based knowledge using language ontologies independently from certain languages. Roberto Poli concludes with a discussion about upper ontologies and a general theory of the relations needed by concrete applications.

## 4. Knowledge Management and Knowledge Access

Kerstin Zimmermann deals with the main issues of an ontology creation process in the field of Information and Communication Technologies. As regards the Vienna talk of Edgar Schiebel on Knowledge Flows in Organizations, we have to refer to a talk by

him and others in a different publication (Noll, Fröhlich and Schiebel 2002). Jörn Sieglerschmidt points out different knowledge creation processes in the field of portals for cultural heritage, problems which might arise when interlinking these knowledge styles, as well as opening new possibilities in user accessibility. Cornelia Dippold gives a short overview of a project of the "The Research Data Centre of the German Statutory Pension Insurance (FDZ-RV)," discussing problems of data and retrieval as well as the metadata schema. H. Peter Ohly sketches Bibliometric Mining as a methodology which adds an evaluative approach to the statistical analyses by applying inference procedures as well as navigation tools.

## 5. Media in Knowledge Transmission

In order to reflect the new media in social practice, Sabrina Schrammel defines the category 'space' as a basis for examining a modified pedagogical practice. Konstantin Mitgutsch reconsiders the role of irritations and the incompatibility of facts, experiences and thoughts for knowledge organization. Sylvana Kroop discusses three fundamental encyclopaedias of the 18th and 19th century and their structure of knowledge, comparing them with networks, like Memex of Vannevar Bush.

## 6. Future of Knowledge Organization

This chapter contains statements made at a panel discussion on the future of knowledge organization. H. Peter Ohly extracts general historical patterns in the development of knowledge techniques. The statement of Gerhard Budin concerning the interdependency between knowledge and philosophy of science is only available in a former publication (Budin 2000). Winfried Schmitz-Esser states the importance of traditional libraries today and demands more user orientation. Michael Nentwich deals with the main trend in technology-based knowledge that gives new meaning to scientific information exchange. Gerhard Rahmstorf presents an essay on the relevance of language for knowledge organization and the future possibilities by using new media.

## 7. Ethics in Knowledge Organization

This last chapter includes talks that were understood as a preparation to install a special working group on ethical guidelines in knowledge organization. Martin

van der Walt discusses the necessity of an ethnic guideline for knowledge organization and, if any, which ethnical norms are basic for this subject. Erwin Lengauer explores the vast amount of possible values and normative assumptions. The aspect of privacy and law is taken in account by Michael Nagenborg, who discusses information ethics and some issues of relevance for knowledge organization. Karsten Weber presents a short overview of the ethic guidelines of the German "Gesellschaft für Informatik" and "IEEE-CS Software Engineering Code of Ethics and Professional Practice" concerning the specific problems of knowledge organization. Michael Nentwich introduces into a project of a novel base for juridical knowledge in the world wide web.

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- H. Peter Ohly  
 GESIS / IZ Sozialwissenschaften  
 Lennestr. 30 / 53113 BONN / Germany  
 Tel. : +49-228-2281-542 / Fax.: +49-228-2281-4542  
 mailto: peter.ohly@gesis.org  
<http://www.gesis.org/SocioGuide>  
<http://www.bonn.iz-soz.de/wiss-org>