

# ISKO News 26

## The ISKO General Secretariat Moved from Frankfurt, Germany to Copenhagen, Denmark

With the change in the ISKO Presidency, ISKO's General Secretariat is - from now on - being hosted by the Royal School of Librarianship, Birketinget 6, DK-2300 Copenhagen S, Denmark. Please, send all requests and letters now to the new president, Prof. Hanne Albrechtsen at the given address.

## Changes in the Editorship of ISKO's Journal

An agreement was signed between the ISKO Executive Board's representatives and Mr. Charles GILREATH regarding the office of the Editor-in-chief for ISKO's journal *Knowledge Organization* beginning 1997 and lasting for the next two years. Mr. Gilreath will be assisted by a small Editorial Board and a larger, newly composed Board of Consulting Editors, the Editorial Board consisting of Prof. Hanne Albrechtsen (for ISKO News), Dr. Robert Fugmann, Dr. Ingrid Dahlberg, Prof. Dr. Nancy Williamson (for FID/CR News), Dr. Werner Bies (for the Book Reviews section), and Drs. Gerhard Riesthuis (for the KO Literature section). Please, send your manuscripts or any news items to Mr. Gilreath or the other persons mentioned. The addresses see in this issue on the reverse cover page; Mr. Ch. Gilreath lives at 217 NW 34th Drive, Gainesville, FL, 32607, USA. The address of Dr. Werner Bies is: Forststr. 52, D-12163 Berlin.

## New Publisher of ISKO's Journal and its Series

Since Oct. 1, 1996 the INDEKS Verlag has been sold to the Ergon Verlag, Würzburg, directed by Dr. H.-J. Dietrich, who has shown his interest in taking care of the distribution of ISKO's publications and thus to build up a section for Knowledge Organization in his publishing house. The representatives of the ISKO Executive Board concluded with him a contract for the next five years. The Ergon Verlag exists since 1990 and has published already some 80 books in the areas Philosophy, Theology, Education, Sociology, Politics, Law, Literature, the Arts, Ethnology, Archeology. Dr. Dietrich's special concern for ISKO's field of knowledge became visible by his personal attendance at the 4th International ISKO Conference in Washington, together with his collaborator, Dr. Christian Wacker from now on responsible for ISKO's publications. The address: Ergon Verlag, Grombühlstr. 7, D-97080 Würzburg, Tel. +49-931-280084, Fax: -282872.

## Calling for ISKO's New International WGs

In ISKO's Brochure 94-3 - of which an updating had appeared in H. Iyer's well-received book on "Classificatory Structures..." of 1995 - four German Working Groups (WGs) are mentioned to exist, which have - so far - only been active in Germany. With the new media (Internet and fax-correspondence) new communication channels are given which

prompted three of these German WGs and a new one to reach out into the international sphere for possible interested members. In our journal (KO 94-2, p.101-2) General Bylaws for ISKO Bodies had been published. Accordingly, WGs can be formed for a certain task or purpose, methodology-oriented or subject-oriented. If separate meetings should not be possible, WGs can meet at least every two years during our international conferences where results of their work can be presented and discussed at a wider forum in special sessions sponsored by such WGs. The following announcements call for international participation, we hope they will challenge your interest!

## ISKO WG "Education and Training"

The German WG on *Hochschulausbildung in Wissensorganisation* (University Education in KO) would like to extend its membership nationally and internationally. Activities so far have concentrated on devising a program for a series of so-called pocket manuals on knowledge organization. Three of these "manuals" are in preparation and will appear in German in 1997, published by Ergon Verlag. Further possible projects are:

- A collection and analysis of current curricula in the field of Knowledge Organization
- The development of an interdisciplinary curriculum for Knowledge Organization
- The development of a case study collection on knowledge organization.

Should you be interested in participating or contributing to a WG with this orientation, please write to Dr. Ewald Kiel, Institut für Interkulturelle Didaktik, Waldweg 26, D-37075 Göttingen, Fax: +49-551-399232

## ISKO WG "Knowledge Indexing and Supply"

The Working Group ISKO-KIS (formerly ISKO WG "Inhaltserschließung") invites ISKO members from all over the world to communicate on selected topics of interest. The aim of discussions in the WG is to compile recommendations of the type of the already published ones:

### User Evaluation of Information Systems

Int. Classif. 19(1992) No.3, p.151-2 and

### On the Financing of Information Services

Int. Classif. 19(1992) No.3, p.155-6

The recommendations are intended to make management and novices to the field aware of the intricate problems of knowledge indexing and supply. The next - provocative - topic proposed for discussion is:

Relevance vs Pertinence, or: The clairvoyant, omniscient, and mind-reading retrieval program

If you are interested in participating in the discussions, write to Dr. Robert Fugmann, Alte Poststr. 13, D-65510 Idstein, Fax +49-6126-4366.

## ISKO WG "Humanities/Fiction"

At the recent Nordic, international research seminar in Copenhagen, on "Fiction, OPACs, Networks" it was found that modern information technology with its multimedia facilities such as the World Wide Web, provides quite new possibilities for integrating, organizing, sharing and studying

knowledge resources in the fields of the humanities. However, even though some common trends in research and development of knowledge organization and networking in the humanities could be found, the picture is a fragmented one in need of much more collaboration and common strategies.

The persons having organized the seminar would like therefore, to create an international forum for researchers, developers and others working within knowledge organization in the field of literature and fiction. They would like to invite ISKO members to participate in an international working group on this topic via network communication. It is planned to liaise with other scholarly communities in the field and to establish a special homepage and initiate discussion lists on the WWW.

In case of interest in cooperating in this WG or to establish one in another subfield of the humanities, please write to Prof. Hanne Albrechtsen, Royal School of Librarianship, Birketinget 6, DK-2300 Copenhagen S. Fax: +45 32 84 0201.

## Fiction, OPACs, Networks

### A Research Seminar in Copenhagen, Nov. 1996

48 people participated in the Nordic international research seminar on *Fiction, OPACs, Networks*, held from 11-13 Nov. 1996 at the Royal School of Librarianship, Copenhagen. The seminar, which was chaired by *Hanne Albrechtsen*, stressed in particular the topic of information access in the humanities, and mixed lectures on theoretical work with short presentations of ongoing experiments and projects. The seminar had two main tracks: 1) Indexing, classification, and subject searching, 2) Application of modern information technology (IT) for supporting users' access to information in the humanities.

*Annelise Mark Pejtersen* started with a lecture on the development of the syntactic indexing language for the Book House, based on user needs and literary theory. *Clare Begthol* talked about how narrative discourse analysis can be broadened from analysis of fiction towards subject analysis in other domains, and *Hans Joern Nielsen* discussed how to deal with the plenitude of very different theories and paradigms in literary theory today in relation to indexing of fiction. *Rebecca Green* lectured on the role of relational structures in indexing for the humanities, and how theories on syntagmatic relationships between concepts, in particular the work on metaphors developed by George Lakoff, may be fruitfully applied for subject analysis and index string generation in humanistic domains. *Michèle Hudon* gave a very succinct and thought-provoking lecture on multilingual thesaurus construction, emphasizing how to integrate the views of different cultures in one gateway to knowledge, and stressing the importance of developing independent thesauri for each language and culture.

*Roland Hjerpe* lectured on infotainment, edutainment, and entertainment, and demonstrated how the hitherto separate domains: information searching, publication and mass media are converging via several types of integrated media. He warned that the opportunity of creating customizable media

and services, which is an advantage for the individual, is at the same time a disadvantage, as seen from a social and a democratic point-of-view.

Among the speakers on user participation in the creation of subject access, *Pauline Rafferty Brown* talked on projects in England investigating democratic indexing, i.e. how to reconcile different individual interpretations of documents into one or more public views. *Ursula Schulz* and *Gabriela Will* presented their *Biücherschatz*, which is an icon-based OPAC developed for children, based on the metaphor of a treasure hunt, and which has been created using a participatory design approach involving both children, teachers, and children's librarians. *Lena Lundgren* and *Ringa Sandelin* presented their work on end-user indexing of fiction for children in Finnish schools, and Swedish public libraries. *Paul Solomon* presented his longitudinal studies of the searching behavior among children in an American elementary school, and showed some implications for OPAC developments. In conclusion, the two rapporteurs, *Clare Begthol* and *Hanne Albrechtsen*, contributed with some overall perspectives that they found were prevalent in the research presented during the seminar. For instance, a new trend towards creating customized and enriched catalogues, new approaches to creating subject access, involving participatory indexing and OPAC design, a tendency towards resource sharing, in opposition to the hitherto reliance on centralized library services, etc. These trends were in particular seen in European research and development projects in subject access in the humanities. They concluded with some overall frameworks for these development trends, comprising the trend in the so-called 'postmodern era' towards focussing on the individual needs and/or domain-specificity. The new conditions for knowledge production are supported by the development of information technology and networking services, facilitating the creation of customized services, supporting peer-to-peer communication, and applicable as excellent platforms for participatory design of indexing systems and other classificatory structures. Thus, the seminar was a very fruitful forum for discussing future research approaches in indexing theory and applications, and in information system design and evaluation.

The seminar was arranged by the Scandinavian Book House Consortium and was sponsored by Nordfolk, a committee under the Nordic Council of Ministers, and by ISKO. The background paper for the seminar was the report *Subject Access to Scandinavian Fiction Literature - Indexing Methods and OPAC Development* by *Annelise Mark Pejtersen* et al. This report had been published by the Nordic Council of Ministers (TemaNord 1996:608; available via Ms. Margaretha Hedling, phone +45-33-960247). A proceedings volume, to be edited by *Clare Begthol* and *Hanne Albrechtsen*, comprising the full papers of the seminar, will be published in spring 1997 by The Royal School of Librarianship.

Hanne Albrechtsen

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