

FID/CR News 41

Ranganathan Award for Classification Research

The 7th Ranganathan Award for Classification Research was presented to *Dr. Ingetraut Dahlberg* "for her long and distinguished contribution to the field of Knowledge Organization through her research and publication and her work in FID/CR, and in particular for her leadership and sustained efforts in the founding and development of the International Society for Knowledge Organization (ISKO), an organization with a truly global influence on the progress of research in knowledge organization". This presentation was made by the Chair of FID/CR on October 22, 1996 at the 48th Conference and Congress of the International Federation for Information and Documentation, in Graz, Austria. Established in 1975 under the sponsorship of the Documentation Research and Training Centre (DRTC), Alumni Association, Bangalore, India, this award is made through FID/CR to an individual who is deemed to have made a distinguished contribution to classification research. Previous recipients of the award were *Derek Austin, Jean Aitchison, Jack Mills, Pauline Cochrane, A. Neelameghan, and Robert Fugmann*.

New Chair of FID/CR

As of January 1, 1997, the Chair of the Committee on Classification Research for Knowledge Organization (FID/CR) will be *Dr. I.C. McIlwaine*. Dr. McIlwaine is the Director of the School of Library, Archive, and Information Studies, University College London and the Editor-in-Chief of UDC. She replaces *Professor Nancy Williamson*, University of Toronto, Canada, who has been the chair since 1988. Dr. McIlwaine sees her role as Chair of FID/CR and her work as Editor of UDC as separate and distinct. She plans to initiate new projects in the work of the Committee and she is committed to continuing efforts to broaden the scope of FID/CR activities to encompass all aspects of knowledge organization. Dr. McIlwaine brings to this position a wealth of knowledge and a strong background in knowledge organization. Congratulations and best wishes to her as she assumes office.

Testimony of Gratitude

At the closing session of the 48th Conference and Congress of FID in Graz, Austria, October 25, 1996, *Nancy Williamson* was presented with a *Testimony of Gratitude* for her 8 years of service as Chair of FID/CR and „in recognition of her personal dedication and professional commitment to the objectives of the Federation“.

Annual Report of FID/CR, 1996

1996 has been a very busy year for FID/CR. The major project of the Committee, the "Feasibility Study on the

Conversion of UDC into a Faceted Classification System", begun in 1993, continued. This is a joint project being carried out at University College London and the University of Toronto under the guidance of *I.C. McIlwaine* and *Nancy Williamson*, the principal investigators. The purpose of the project is to reorganize, revise and adapt UDC Class 61 *Medical Science* using the Health Sciences portions of Class H of the *Bliss Bibliographic Classification* as the basis for reorganization. The first phase of the project, the preparation of the Bliss schedules to receive the UDC topics, is virtually complete and a sample of the work to that point was published in the *Extensions and Corrections to the UDC*, 1995. In 1996 the work has moved into the second phase, the development of the notation and the assignment of classification numbers to topics. This part of the work is tentative and may require adjustments when class numbers have been assigned to the whole of the reorganized 61 tables. For purposes of comments and suggestions from users of UDC, tables for Anatomy and Physiology, Micro and Macro Systems, Curative Medicine, Diseases and Pathology and one body system, the Urogenital System, with tentative class numbers attached, will be published in *Extensions and Corrections to the UDC*, 1996. The hope is that this tentative assignment of class numbers will be finished in 1997, and the adjustments made to complete the main tables of 61. It will remain to create the special auxiliary tables and the index, which will take the form of a thesaurus. When the work is complete it will be submitted to a panel of experts for review and the results will be tested in retrieval. While the work appears to move slowly, it is a mammoth task for 2 people with occasional student assistance. In the course of the project the principal investigators have made presentations on the project at several international conferences and a number of papers have been published.

In 1995, the new FID/CR newsletter *Classification Issues for Knowledge Organization* was launched as an insert in the *FID News Bulletin*. The 4 issues of volume 1 have been published and volume 2, No.1 is now in preparation. This publication is still in the development stage and the editor, the present chair of FID/CR, is working toward making the newsletter as international as possible in scope, with attention to the broader issues of knowledge organization, and the participation of members of FID/CR.

Membership has been a major concern in 1996. In the process of a direct mailing in September to all FID members who have signalled an interest in FID/CR, a new mailing list has been prepared and is now virtually complete. In the final stages an attempt is being made to locate correct telephone, fax and e-mail addresses for as many as possible of the 70 plus names on the list. The intention is to distribute this list to all members and hopefully it will make it easier to improve communications among those interested in FID/CR and in knowledge organization in general.

Plans are now in the final stages for the *6th International Study Conference on Classification Research* which will be held in London, June 16-19, 1997. This conference will commemorate the 40th anniversary of the first Study Conference held in Dorking, UK, in 1957. The local arrangements

chair is *Dr. I.C. McIlwaine*, University College London. A brochure announcing the conference went out in June 1996, including a call for papers. Abstracts have been submitted and are presently being refereed for the final selection of papers.

Unfortunately the one-day *Seminar on Knowledge Organization: Towards the 21st Century*, planned for the Graz Conference had to be cancelled. In spite of a diversified programme and the efforts which went into getting suitable speakers, there was insufficient registration. There were very few participants at the Graz Conference whose FID membership indicated a primary interest in FID/CR activities. One reason for this appears to be the number of recent and upcoming conferences featuring knowledge organization. Among these are the CRIMEA Conference in June, the ISKO conference in July, the IFLA Conference in Beijing, and the annual ASIS Classification Workshop, being held in Baltimore, USA at exactly the same time as the 48th FID Conference. In addition, the FID/CR 6th International Study Conference on Classification Research in London, planned for 1997, is imminent. As it is impossible for potential delegates to attend every such conference available, a one-day seminar may seem less attractive than a 4-day study conference.

The 7th Ranganathan Award for Classification Research was presented to *Dr. Ingetraut Dahlberg*, a former chair of FID/CR, for her work as the founder of the *International Society for Knowledge Organization* (ISKO) and her encouragement globally of research in this field.

Unfinished projects which are proposed for the coming year are the preparation of a new brochure explaining the work of the Committee and the development of a Web page for FID/CR. Also there are plans to develop cooperative programmes and other activities with other Committees and Special Interest Groups within FID. The new Chair will be looking for new projects for the Committee and welcomes suggestions from the membership. When *Dr. McIlwaine* takes over as Chair on January 1, 1997, *Nancy Williamson*, as Past Chair, will continue to edit *FID/CR News* and *Classification Issues for Knowledge Organization*, for the immediate future.

I have enjoyed very much my eight years (since 1988) as Chair of FID/CR and the contacts I have made in FID and in the Knowledge Organization world at large. I hope that in some small way I have contributed to furtherance and development of classification research for knowledge organization and I plan to continue my interest as a member of FID. As I step down, I also wish to express my very sincere thanks to all of the members of the staff at the FID Secretariat, and in particular to *Mr. Ben Goedegebuure*, the Executive Director, and *Mrs. Ritva Launo*, President of FID, for their assistance and support during my tenure as FID/CR Chair. I am very pleased that *Dr. McIlwaine* has agreed to accept the position as Chair of FID/CR. I wish her the very best of success in the position and I am very certain that I am leaving the Committee in very capable hands.

Nancy Williamson
Outgoing Chair, FID/CR

IFLA Section on Classification and Indexing

Review of Activities, 1995-1996

The Section has had a very busy year. The Working Group on *Principles Underlying Subject Heading Languages* (SHLs), chaired by *Mrs. Maria Ines Lopes* (Portugal) met during the 1995 Istanbul Conference and reviewed the Working Group's draft document. Since that time the document has been enhanced to include an introduction, the text of the principles, and an overview of examples from nine systems and countries. A decision was made at the Beijing Conference not to include MeSH headings in the text of the *Principles*. A Russian contribution would be included if it could be ready by the end of October. It is planned to send the document out for world-wide review in February 1997. The end of the review period would be July 1997 and the Working Group would discuss comments at the Copenhagen Conference.

A *State-of-the-Art Survey of Subject Heading Systems* has been carried out. Forty-five national libraries responded to the inquiry as to whether they provide subject access to bibliographic records; how long they have provided such access; what subject access systems they use; and if application manuals exist for such systems. In Beijing a Working Group was established to analyze the survey results and by the end of September 1996 to make recommendations on the next steps to be taken. Originally a second phase requiring about US\$ 11,000 was envisioned, with a comparative study of systems, collection and analysis of data and the purchase of manuals. The Working Group is to look for ways to make the second phase less costly.

The Section has also been involved in the development of a report on the *Requirements for a Format for Classification Data*. A final draft of the document, based on recommendations of a Joint Working Group on the *Format* consisting of the Section and the Section on Information Technology and suggestions from the Editor of the UDC has been distributed to the Working Group for comment in July 1996. The requirements document serves as background for proposals to extend the *USMARC Format for Classification Data* to specify script and language for translations and multilingual editions, to specify relationships among editions and to specify whether an edition is authorized or unauthorised. The Standing Committee approved the final *Requirements for a Format for Classification Data*. The Joint Working Group has recommended that "a separate UNIMARC format for classification data be created". A draft recommendation was to be sent to the Working Group with the request to respond by the end of October. A revised document incorporating the comments would be sent to the standing committees of the two sections for a response by the end of December 1996. Plans for Copenhagen in 1997

Tentative plans for the Section's Open Programme at Copenhagen include a paper on the application of the DDC at the Bibliothèque de France; a second paper would treat uses of classification in electronic environments. For the third paper, in keeping with the Section's tradition of having papers on activities in the country of the conference venue, a Danish expert would be asked to suggest a speaker on a specific

Danish project. The section will not hold a workshop at the 1997 conference.

Plans for Amsterdam in 1998

Tentative suggestions for topics for the Open Programme at Amsterdam were a cooperative indexing project in the Netherlands, the use of the Library of Congress Subject Headings in a non-North American environment and the Russian edition of DDC. The Section will sponsor a half day workshop on UDC with the usual limit of 50 attendees.

Participation in the Beijing Conference

During the 1996 IFLA Conference in Beijing, the Section on Classification and Indexing participated jointly in two workshops. One was a full-day workshop in conjunction with OCLC Forest Press on the *Dewey Decimal Classification: Edition 21 and International Perspectives*. The Dewey 21 Workshop, chaired by *Donna Duncan*, included an introduction to DDC 21 by the Editor, *Joan Mitchell* (USA). Special attention was given to the following topics: the Revisions of 350-354, Public Administration and 560-590 Life Sciences, by *Giles Martin* (Australia); Dewey for Windows, by *Julianne Beall* (USA); The Dewey Decimal Classification System in National Bibliographics, by *Barbara Bell* (USA); Dewey in the Asia-Pacific Region, by *Giles Martin* (Australia); and The Translation of the DDC: the Experience of the Spanish Version, by *Octavio Rojas L.* (Columbia). DDC Edition 21 and International Perspectives, a summary and closing remarks was presented by *Lois Mai Chan* (USA).

The other workshop, presented in conjunction with the Section on Library Services to Multicultural Populations, was on *Serving Multicultural Populations in the 21st Century: Universal Standardized Subject Headings - Present Status and Future Prospects*. Moderated by *Donna Duncan*, the morning session was devoted to general multilingual issues in the development and use of a universal standardized subject heading system. Papers were presented on the following topics: Historical Overview of the Development of a Universal Standardized Subject Heading System: Individualized Subjects vs. Universally Controlled Subject Headings, by *Barbara Tillett* (USA); Modern Technology and the Digitization of Subject Headings in a Multiscript/Multicultural Environment, by *Carole Moore* (Canada); and Access to Multilingual Databases through Universal Standardized Subject Headings: Pros and Cons of Implementation, by *Marcia Lei Zeng* (USA). The afternoon session, moderated by *Suzine Har Niculescu*, was devoted to issues of particular interest to libraries in countries of the Far East. Papers were presented on the following topics: Adaptation of a Universal Standardized Subject Heading System in the SJK (Chinese/Japanes/Korean) Environment, by *Naito Eisuke* and *Aihara Nobuya* (Japan); Chinese Multi-language Document Cataloguing and Retrieval with Multicultural Characteristics, by *Li Jingqi* (China); The Features of Chinese Thesauri in China, by *Kom Tae-soo* (Korea); Usefulness of Standardized Sub-

ject Headings for Thai, by *Somlux Suwanpanich* and *Yukoi Sinjermisiri* (Thailand); Usefulness of Standardized Subject Headings in Malaysia, by *Tan Seiw Eng* (Malaysia); Accessing Multilingual Materials Through Standardized Subject Headings: Practices in Some Philippine Libraries, by *Augurio Collantes* (USA); and What's Next: Issues Arising from the workshop, by *Lei Zhou* (Canada).

In addition the Section sponsored an Open session Programme which included three papers. *Songqiao Liu* (USA) presented a paper on "Decomposing DDC Synthesized Numbers". The author's paper draws on previous research carried out by *Arnold Wajenberg* and *Karen Drabenstott* on the potential for more effective retrieval if the individual components of synthesized DDC class numbers could be identified and indexed. Based on an analysis of the instructions for synthesizing numbers in DDC Class 700 Arts and the DDC Tables, 17 composition rules were defined together with 13 rules covering the 'Add Notes' and 4 on the Standard Subdivisions. 1701 DDC synthesized numbers were decomposed by a computer system called DND (Dewey Number Decomposer) developed by the author.

In a paper on "National Problems and International Cooperation in Classification", *Friedrich Geißelmann* (Germany) described the current situation and historical development of classification in academic libraries in Germany noting the lack of joint national development and addressing the question, "what are the reasons for this development?" In the second part of his paper, the author makes suggestions on how the situation might be improved, addressing the issues of the grounds for thinking about a change. His first recommendation is that libraries adopt a classification scheme and secondly that a group of libraries use the same scheme. Thirdly he raises the question of which scheme should be adopted. It should not be a new scheme but the use of already available systems. He suggests that a concordance of classification schemes be prepared, linking the existing German schemes together with the DDC, the LCC and the UDC for international needs. The author sees the importance of providing for both national and international requirements to permit world-wide as well as national use.

The third paper, presented by *Zhang Qiyun* (China) focused on "Contemporary Classification systems and Thesauri in China". The paper gives a brief history and describes the current status of the development and application of these systems in China over a period of 46 years with emphasis on the most recent 15 years. In conclusion, the author felt that developments in research had raised the theoretical level of Chinese contributions and narrowed the gap between China and other advanced countries".

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