# Reports and Communications

## **British Classification Society**

Classification Society together with the British Society of Darmstadt. A registration fee will not be required. The Soil Science was held at University College London. It was complete program will be sent to all registered particiorganized by R.WEBSTER (Rothamsted Experimental pants. Station) and its topic was "Statistics and computers in soil science". After an introduction by R.Webster, the Current Situation of Library Subject Analysis. following papers were presented (as scheduled in the Report on a Working Session provisional programme): A.D.GORDON (Univ.of St. Andrews): Multivariate analysis and classification. - Group on Library Classification (SIG-BK) within the M.A.OLIVER (Univ.of Birmingham). Geostatistics and its German Society for Classification, and some guests, met application in the Wyre Forest. - A.P.WHITMORE (Rot-in Darmstadt to exchange ideas about the situation hamsted Experimental Station): Simulation modelling and of library subject analysis, and to discuss current problems the prediction of nitrate in soil. - P.F.FISHER (Kingston bearing on this. The following is a summarized report of Polytechnic): Automating soil descriptions. - M.E.PROC- this meeting to inform a wider public about the results of TOR (Soil Survey of England & Wales): Design of a soil the discussions. The members of the SIG-BK found that a information system. - P.A.Burrough (Univ.of Utrecht), continued exchange of ideas on the basic problems Mapping and map analysis. - S.P.McGrath (Rothamsted): of this discipline is of great importance. Seven papers on Computerized quality control, statistics and mapping of the subjects "Shelving Systems in Scientific Libraries" and trace elements in soil. - G.GOODLASS (Agricultural "Problems of Verbal Indexing Languages", formed the Development and Advisory Service): Computers in farm basis for this exchange of ideas. advisory work. - D.BARRACLOUGH (Imperial Chemical) Industries): Computer simulation for interpreting ferti- Regensburg) expounded the role that library shelving lizer experiments.

present.

Mr.R.W.Payne (Treasurer).

## for Statistical Purposes, March 1987

The German Zentrum für Umfragen, Methoden und Analysen e.V. (ZUMA) in 6800 Mannheim 1, Postfach 5969 invites contributions to the following topics: New items in SPSS, BMDP, SAS a.o., Comparisons of programs, implementation of graphics, software for statistics in the -PC-area, expert systems for statistics, software for statistics in research and education. The date for abstracts is Sept.1, Even in this circle, the impression prevailed that, up to 1986.

### Symmetry Symposion

1986. The main events of the project are an extensive

For the main lectures and consequent panel discussions subject analysis. the following scholars have promised to come: Rudolf

(Synergetics); Istvan HARGITTAI, Budapest (Chemistry); Elmar HOLENSTEIN, Bochum (Philosophy and Linguistics); Eberhard JÜNGEL, Tübingen (Theology); Louis MICHEL, Bures-sur-Yvette (Physics); Helga de la MOTTE-HABER, Berlin (Psychology of Music); Otto FREI, Stuttgart (Construction Engineering); Adolf Max VOGT, Zürich (History of Architecture.

Applications for the symposion should be sent in by the 30th of April 1986 to the organizer: Prof.Dr.Rudolf On March 25, 1986 a joint meeting of the British WILLE, FB Mathematik, Techn. Hochschule, D-6100

On January 16, 1986, members of the Special Interest

Following the theses of B.Fabian, B.LORENZ (UB systems can play in an integrated library system with a The officers of the British Classification Society are at wide range of freely accessible stock as a tool, not only for research, but also for teaching. The result of the Mr.J.C.Gower (President), Dr.A.J.Boyce (Secretary), and discussion was that for this classic problem of library classification - independent of the possibility of the associative search for literature on the shelves on the 4th Conference on the Scientific Application of Software part of the user which, in principle, is to be assessed positively - important questions are still open, such as -

- the search behaviour of user groups, dependent on subject, stage of training or research processes
- the optimal number of books per system class, also dependent on the subject
- personnel-economic calculations comparative for closed and open-access libraries.

now, the Federal Republic of Germany - despite all the theoretic preliminary work - has not succeeded in establishing generally accepted research procedures and rational The City of Darmstadt and the Technische Hochschule criteria for the examination and evaluation of library Darmstadt are jointly organizing a broad project on the classification systems and that hitherto, for the most part, theme of symmetry which will be held from May to June reference is made to the opinion of so-called "authorities".

If classification systems are considered as tools for exhibition at the Mathildenhöhe and an interdisciplinary research, then a further question arises: what correlations scientific symposion at the Technische Hochschule. The could exist between research results or teaching quality symposion is mainly concerned with the scientific dis- and library subject analysis? In two-level library systems, cussion of forms and meanings of symmetry in all fields of departmental libraries are primarily the tools of research; life and science. It will take place on June 13-17, 1986. but surprisingly little is known about their methods of

O.OBERHAUSER (UB TU Vienna) reported on the ARNHEIM, Ann Arbor, MI, Sir Ernst GOMBRICH, old, but nevertheless recurringly topical and difficult London (Art); Nicolaas G.de BRUIJN, Rene THOM, problem of developing or selecting a shelving system Bures-sur-Yvette (Mathematics); Michael GAZZANIGA, according to which former stack holdings may be made New York (Brain Research); Hermann HAKEN, Stuttgart freely accessible. Oberhauser demonstrated this, using a

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new building for the university library at the TU in Vienna as an example. In Vienna, it was decided to adapt whether such theoretic criteria can be the only ones for the location-independent catalogue of the UL in Munich. the assessment of indexing languages in German libraries, This, once again, showed clearly that there will never be a or whether there are not, above and beyond such comsystem which is optimal for all libraries; there are always prehensible criteria, other factors, too, which determine some building, subject, personnel, or other conditions the acceptance of indexing languages. This question, which allow imitation, but only rarely completely identi- again, touches on the rationality of decisions in library cal adoption, unless these peripheral conditions are subject analysis. thrown overboard in favour of the extensive adoption of external services.

possible world of tomorrow's library catalogues: the ings, time headings, form headings), can be seen under the microfiche catalogue as an interim solution will disappear claim of the fixing of fundamental categories. She follows and will be replaced by the consistent continuation work done by I.Dahlberg, and arrives at the conclusion of some EDP-supported cataloguing system, the online that, in particular, the fixing of the category subject catalogue. On consideration of these problems, innumer- heading in the RSWK is unsatisfactory. able interfaces appear between problems of library subject analysis and other library disciplines, such as:

- data of subject analysis?
- subject retrieval?
- which fields in the format of a document description cordance. shall be made searchable?
- mixture of the two?
- of several search indexes?
- which to the librarian?
- which search aids must be offered to the user?

A cooperative answer to these questions is an absolute dure is used in RSWK) would not better fulfil the requirenecessity; much more can be done technically - even ments of a practical application. Using geography as an solutions which perhaps do not meet the desired intellec- example, Kalok demonstrated that there are cases for tual standard.

research on Shakespeare in the subject catalogue, once the subject retrieval. again took up the question of what requirements can be derived from the establishing of subject structures for report on the subject "Subject Analysis at the New indexing languages. He chose literary sciences as an Department for Information and Documentation at the example. In investigating literary categories, he developed Polytechnic of Darmstadt", a report which gave the a "pattern" of standardized terms which may serve as a lecturers present from various library schools the opportustandardized vocabulary for the subject cataloguing of nity to deal with comparative training problems in this relevant texts. If this approach is used, the well-known subject. question from the field of facet classification still remains The participants at this session welcomed the opportuunanswered, namely, the question whether this pattern nity to exchange ideas and experiences in a limited field can be applied in other disciplines. It would be desirable with their colleagues for a whole day, a form of communito carry out a project in which this approach to subject cation which is not often to be found in the library cataloguing could be tested on larger holdings.

One approach to the possible production of qualitative criteria for the assessment of verbal indexing languages L.Kalok (Gießen) and H.Puhlmann (Hamburg) for their was introduced by U.KRÖMMELBEIN (BIS Oldenburg). collaboration in drawing up this report. For this, she uses a grammar model for the description of natural language, N.Chomsky's generative transformation Prof.W.Gödert grammar, and also applies this model to artificial indexing Fachhochschule Hamburg. FB Bibliothekswesen languages. In this way, similarities between an indexing Grindelhof 30, D-2000 Hamburg 13 language, with regard to its syntactic characteristics, and natural language can be established. Statements about the quality of an indexing language can be obtained with the additional postulate that the more an indexing language resembles a natural language, the better the indexing language is.

In the discussion on this approach, the question arose

G.HARTWIEG (Berlin) was concerned with the question whether the fixing of subject categories in the RSWK A.VASILJEV (BTH Delft) painted a picture of the (in person headings, subject headings, geographical head-

In the discussion, various attempts to establish, in the future, a concordance between the RSWK standard how shall bibliographical elements be coupled with the subject headings list and the different classification systems (UDC, SfB, ASB, SSD) were mentioned. In this how shall the requirements of bibliographical des- connection, it was deplored that there were hardly any cription be made compatible with the requirements of criteria for the requirements a classification system should meet which is to be used to bring about such a con-

In the last lecture, L.KALOK (UB Gießen) pinpointed shall a free or a fixed indexing vocabulary be used or a the problems of subject cataloguing of literature in the fields of astronomy, biology, physics, engineering, and how shall search indexes be processed: shall every geology using RSWK. The treatment of the examples possible search index be retrievable or a combination made it clear that it is not only difficult to index such literature using RSWK, but that the isolated-case-casuistry which search functions shall be offered to the user and of the RSWK leads to considerable confusion. The question poses itself whether an "RSWK roof" with a subjectoriented partial set of rules (in some subjects, this procewhich a great deal of time-wasting effort must be used to H.SCHNELLING (UB FU Berlin), continuing his find a "narrow heading", although it is not adequate for

The programme was rounded off by G.GREINER's

world.

Acknowledgment: My thanks are due to my colleagues

Winfried Gödert

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