

concept in the systematic part and take the subordinated concepts listed there into consideration. Also, one is made aware there of useful superordinated concepts and associatively related concepts which can either themselves or in the form of related concepts be included in the query formulation.

If, however, one proceeds from a *subject* without already having a quite specific technical term in mind, access will be obtained, in the manner already described, directly via the systematic part, which in an abbreviated form, limited to the top hierarchical levels only, precedes the actual thesaurus.

Thanks to the overview afforded by the AOD Thesaurus over the technical terminology it also offers help in the formulation of queries in full or free texts, as e.g. abstracts. One takes from it the technical terms to be taken into consideration and uses these as alternative search parameters. For this, too, examples are given.

Such a readily overseable thesaurus structure permits of indexing according to the proven principle of always looking for and using, the descriptors best fitting in any given case. Hence a principle which outside of the libraries and the "controlled vocabularies" regrettably has largely fallen into oblivion. In the AOD Thesaurus, success of a search for the best fitting descriptors should be assured even under the conditions of everyday practice (e.g. under the pressure of time every indexer has to cope with).

Precombination is used only sparingly. Thus the thesaurus is kept readily overseable and the user's search for the best fitting descriptors in any given case is facilitated. At the same time the possibility is retained of perfecting the thesaurus through the later, supplementary introduction of a syntax. This might prove a most effective compensation for the well-founded dispensation with specificity as resulting from the scarcity of precombinations. For such compensation a thesaurus with only few precombinations is particularly well suited. Thus the AOD Thesaurus possesses a solid foundation for such an expansion, which will possibly prove necessary in the future.

The examples given for indexing and query formulation are instructive and sobering for all those who cherish the illusion that these processes will some day be completely automated. For the requirements imposed on the professional judgment of the indexers and their continually changing background knowledge, are far too great to permit of such automation, with a great deal depending on how thoroughly the problem of the information seeker is investigated by the system expert.

Regarding the formulation of the query it seems evident that the large majority of the information seekers will not wish to dispense with the cooperation of a system expert, for even the handling of the simplest Boolean operators alone confronts the less experienced queriers (probably the majority of the system users) with major difficulties, as experience has shown.

The AOD Thesaurus is suitable as an application model for other fields as well in which similarly high requirements

must be imposed on the recall and precision of retrieval now and/or in the future. This is facilitated by the fact that the subject-matter coverage of the thesaurus extends also into other fields on which a need for a highly developed documentation methodology exists.

An obvious pertinent example would be the indexing of books. Here, too, the searcher must not content himself with the starting subject heading coming to his mind; rather, he needs here, too, most complete references as to subject headings that are more or less closely related to the starting subject heading. Here, too, access to the contents might be thoroughly improved if a double index, an alphabetical and a systematical one, were available.

The AOD Thesaurus will permit high quality searches in that it creates the preconditions for specific and reliable indexing. However, in the future, too, the indexers must always be equipped with the required professional knowledge, and they must also be given sufficient time to do their job.

However, the indexing of literature with the aid of this thesaurus will in the initial phase require some perseverance, for there will be no lack of critics who claim that the goals pursued with this thesaurus might be reached in a cheaper and simpler fashion. But it is in the nature of such simplifications that it is only in the initial stage that they appear to be more economical, namely only as long as the large and continuously increasing effort inherently required in primitive systems for carrying out searches deceptively has not yet become apparent, and only as long as the great losses incurred in such searches have not yet become evident. Such non-fulfillable promises have already proved fatal to many a highly developed information system.

Evidently the causes for the failure of the information systems hitherto existing in the difficult and wide field of drug addiction have been clearly recognized in the USA, with the result that, as a corrective measure, the masterpiece of thesaurus-making reviewed here has now been created. The AOD Thesaurus should be taken as an example wherever similar high requirements are imposed, or will be imposed in the future on recall precision in retrieval.

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**Beghtol, Claire: The Classification of Fiction. The Development of a System Based on Theoretical Principles.** Metuchen, N.J., London: The Scarecrow Press 1994. X, 366p. ISBN 0-8108-2828-6

The subject or content analysis and the classification of fiction pose many problems:

1. It is very difficult to define what a work of fiction is about, to tell if a work of fiction has a single or many themes and to produce adequate content descriptions of novels.

2. Fiction is characterized by a great variety and a potential universality of subjects.

3. Data elements in fiction, often based on subjective perceptions, tend to be uncertain, fuzzy, vague, ambiguous, neither verifiable nor replicable. In consequence, literary criticism is characterized by rather inexact terminologies and literary research seems resistant to traditional classificatory concepts.

4. Fiction can contain both possible, 'real', existent and impossible, unreal, non-existent, imaginary entities: a handicap, however, that can easily be eliminated, if one assumes that a fictional world simply has to be taken as "true".

5. It is difficult to determine basic data categories for the classification of fiction.

Beghtol discusses all these problems and, in the light of her findings, evaluates previous fiction analysis theories and systems (Chapter 3, p. 42-90): F. Haigh's adaptation of DDC3 (1933); A. Cameron's *Fantasy Classification Scheme* (1952); R. S. Walker's "Problem child" System (1970); A. Croghan's *Classification for Science Fiction* (1981); A. M. Pejtersen's *Analysis and Mediation of Publications* (AMP) system (A. M. Pejtersen and J. Austin, 1983-84; L. P. Goodstein and A. M. Pejtersen, 1989; A. M. Pejtersen, 1989).

This evaluation precedes the 'centre' of Beghtol's study: the presentation, application and evaluation of the Experimental Fiction Analysis System EFAS (Chapter 6, p. 157-235, chapter 7, p. 236-273). Influenced by Ranganathan's fruitful faceted classification and the CRG's classificatory concepts and techniques, EFAS postulates "Character" (C, definition: p. 203), "Event" (E, definition: p. 194), "Space" (S, definition: p. 187), and "Time" (T, definition: p. 181) - called "Major Elements" - as the four general facetlike data categories for fiction analysis; in addition it offers a default element ("Other"). The number of characters, events, spaces and times that can be documented are not limited. EFAS does not intend "to summarize document content or show what the document is 'about' ", but, instead, "attempts to state that certain instances of certain kinds of data exist in the work of fiction. Conclusion about the 'meaning' of the data are not drawn because the issue is not what the document is about, but what it contains" (p. 159). The subjects of fiction are represented by rather complex, often quite lengthy notations. Since EFAS is intended for a computerized environment - an issue about which Beghtol is rather reticent - and not for conventional shelving, EFAS notations are not call number notations. Defined parts of other systems, notational (UDC, 1985; DDC 20) or verbal expressions (LC Name Authorities, LCSH), may be interpolated at specified points. Miss Jessel, a character in Henry James's *The Turn of the Screw*, e.g., is given the following notation:

"jst(133?)jrtjqv(056)jqt(042)jpv(21)jpp(649.1)jo(Miss Jessel)" (p. 264).

Key : j: base notation for characters, jo: name, jp: general socio-economic characters, jpp: occupation, jpr: religion,

jpt: social and economic condition, jpv: racial/ethnic/national group, jq: personal characteristics, jqq: physical and mental characteristics, jqt: sex, jqv: age, jr: living/non-living, jst: type of being (p. 178). All notations are interpolations from DDC20, Table 5 "Racial, Ethnic, National Groups" and Table 7 "Groups of Persons". Ambiguity (presence or absence of ghosts?) is marked by a question-mark. The citation order is one of decreasing concreteness. In order to ensure the representation of the syntactical dimension of data, EFAS allows the relationships between different instances of the same Major Element and the existence of co-occurrences between individual data elements in different Major Elements to be reported. Thus, completed EFAS notations - owing to shortage of space they cannot be explained in detail here - have the following exemplary design:

"T1 cu(+197)cm(+322) [S1,E1,C1,2] [...]"

C2 jst(599)jrsjqv(056)jqt(041)jo(Bear) [C1jkm] [T1,S1,E1]" (p. 326).

EFAS has indeed many advantages:

- It has a welcome philosophical and epistemological bias and is a theoretically cogent system.
- It makes use of a default miscellaneous category.
- Its hospitality allows the interpolation of familiar classifications such as DDC.
- It may be used as a tool of classification complementary to descriptive cataloguing, subject analysis and call numbers.

On the other hand, EFAS has some disadvantages, too. No one should blame EFAS records for being reductive, but, all in all, EFAS favours the factuality and topicality, the "frames" and settings of fiction, while it neglects its forms and techniques. So it is characteristic of EFAS that great care is devoted to physiogeographic features and that its space and time notations display an extremely high level of specificity (e.g., "July in the Late iron age at dusk", p. 187, "Savannas of ancient India", p. 194). At the same time EFAS pays little attention to authors' intentions and attitudes, central ideas, ideological backgrounds, dominant emotions, stylistic devices, tonal and atmospheric aspects, literary traditions, references and allusions. As far as characters are concerned, it emphasizes their socio-economic conditions (e.g., racial/ethnic/national groups) rather than their cultural environments. Besides, EFAS gives more information about objects than about situations, motifs and events. In addition, the ambitious formal sophistication and the complicated notational "pictures" of EFAS are likely to lessen its chances of success. Perhaps EFAS could still be improved, if its hospitality were used to interpolate classifications more specific to the narrative aspects of fiction such as Stith Thompson's *Motif-index of folk-literature: A classification of narrative elements in folktales, ballads, myths, fables, mediaeval romances, exempla, fabliaux, jest-books and local legends*. 6 vols. Rev. and enl. ed. Copenhagen 1955-58.

Beghtol's theoretically interesting study offers fascinating insights into fiction-specific classificatory problems, but

has not yet been exposed to practical testing. Interdisciplinary research (history, sociology, anthropology, cultural studies) using literature as a cultural information resource and as reference material is, however, expected to benefit more by EFAS than the specialized scholarship of fiction. And despite its - at the worst - deterring abundance of technicalities, time-consuming rules and procedures EFAS deserves the special attention of public librarians particularly interested in the classification of fiction. Although not easy to apply in its most developed and puristic form, EFAS abounds in inspiring ideas and proposals. A helpful bibliography completes Beghtol's noteworthy and recommendable study ("References", p. 327-358).

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BEST, Heinrich; ENDRES-NIGGEMEYER, Brigitte; HERFURTH, Matthias; OHLY, Peter H. (Hrsg.): **Informations- und Wissensverarbeitung in den Sozialwissenschaften.** (Beiträge zur Umsetzung neuer Informationstechnologien). Opladen: Westdeutscher Verlag 1994. 623p., ISBN 3-531-12501-X

Die 36 Beiträge des Sammelbandes befassen sich mit einem Überschneidungsbereich aus Informationswissenschaft, Informatik und den Sozialwissenschaften. Einzelthemen behandeln auf den ersten Blick so unterschiedliche Bereiche wie die Theorie der Informationswissenschaft (Ingwersen), Wissensbasierte Systeme, Objektorientierung, Konnektionismus, Hypertext (Henning, Meder, Kobsa, Rittberger) und infometrische Analysen zu sozialwissenschaftlichen Literaturbeständen.

Die verbindende Klammer bildet das nunmehr seit 25 Jahren bestehende Informationszentrum Sozialwissenschaften (IZ), ein Dienstleistungsunternehmen für die Sozialwissenschaften, das vor allem das Forschungsinformationssystem Sozialwissenschaften FORIS und das sozialwissenschaftliche Literaturinformationssystem SOLIS mit über 200000 Dokumenten betreibt. Die Beiträge sind größtenteils überarbeitete und aktualisierte Fassungen von vier Veranstaltungen des IZ seit Ende 1989, zum Teil in Verbindung mit Komitees der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Dokumentation (DGD), mit denen das IZ die aktuelle Diskussion um Einsatz und Nutzen von moderner Informationstechnologie in den Sozialwissenschaften gefördert hat (Vorwort, S.1). Diese Förderung schließt nicht aus, daß die IZ-Betreiber durchaus auch an sich selbst gedacht haben, als sie die in dem Sammelband repräsentierten Wissenschaftler zu ihren Veranstaltungen einluden. Deshalb spiegeln die Aufsätze auch all das wider, was ein Informationszentrum wie das IZ braucht, um seinen Auftrag effizient durchführen zu können.

Für Informationswissenschaftler dürfte letzterer Aspekt einen der Hauptreize der Publikation ausmachen, geht doch das Spektrum weit über das hinaus, was vordergrün-

dig zu genügen scheint, die Auseinandersetzung mit bestehenden Werkzeugen der Informationsverarbeitung. Was ist die Aufgabe eines IZ Sozialwissenschaften? Mit welchen Fragen müssen sich Betreiber von Informationszentren befassen, um die Informationsversorgung ihrer Klientel dem informationswissenschaftlichen "state of the art" entsprechend sicherzustellen? Welche Rückwirkungen ermöglicht eine speziell sozialwissenschaftlich ausgerichtete Blickrichtung auf die Weiterentwicklung von Informationssystemen?

Um die aus dem Sammelband ableitbare Antwort auf die ersten Fragen vorwegzunehmen: Ein IZ muß sich mit Theorie und Zukunftsperspektiven informationswissenschaftlicher Forschung auseinandersetzen. Im Gegensatz zur Buchproduktion verträgt die Informationsproduktion keine Bewahrmentalität in Bezug auf die verwendeten Instrumente. Es gibt im Bereich der Informationssysteme noch recht wenig, was für die nächsten 50 Jahre bewahrens-wert erscheint. Informationssysteme der heutigen Generation sind Notbehelfe, die wir in Ermangelung besserer Werkzeuge einsetzen, nicht weil wir mit den Ergebnissen zufrieden sind. Ein IZ muß diese Schwächen aufspüren, die nichts anderes sind als die Unzufriedenheit ihrer Kunden, eine berechnete Unzufriedenheit, nicht weil das IZ schlecht arbeitet, sondern weil die informationswissenschaftliche Entwicklung die Zeit ihrer Reife noch vor sich hat. Ein IZ muß in dieser Situation auch selbstständig auf seinen Bereich bezogene Forschungen betreiben, die diesen Zustand verbessern.

All dies ergibt einen ausgezeichneten Einblick in Probleme einer angewandten Informationswissenschaft und in die heute vertretenen theoretischen Grundlagen und wissenschaftlichen Thesen zum Umgang mit den Informationstechnologien. Und genau hierzu schließen sich die einzelnen Aufsätze des Sammelbandes zusammen. Vor allem die Beiträge der ersten drei Hauptgruppen A, B und C bieten auch für Fachfremde einen guten Einblick in die theoretische Diskussion informationswissenschaftlicher Fragestellungen und in heute diskutierte Lösungsansätze.

Ausgezeichnete Aufsätze wie der von Ingwersen stehen hier allerdings neben solchen, die besser der redaktionellen Erarbeitung zum Opfer gefallen wären. Verärgert dürfte der Leser vor allem auf die Beiträge von Spieß und Manecke/Claus reagieren. Der fünfseitige Beitrag von Spieß zum hochaktuellen Thema "Repräsentation unsicheren Wissens" ist nichts anderes als ein etwas zu lang geratener Klappentext für sein - im übrigen ausgezeichnetes - Buch "Unsicheres Wissen", auf S.160 angegeben als "im Druck, 1992". In die Thematik führt er nicht sinnvoll ein, was auf fünf Seiten wohl auch nicht geht. Warum dann nicht ganz streichen oder den Autor bitten, Substantielleres zu bieten, was er zweifellos könnte. Tiefergehende Verärgerung hat bei mir allerdings der Beitrag "Referieren auf der Basis von Textrelationen" ausgelöst. Manecke/Claus finden es offensichtlich nicht einmal für nötig, ihre Stichwortnotizen zu ganzen Sätzen auszuformulieren. Ist schon nicht verständlich, daß ein Wissenschaftler solch einen "Un-Text" zur Buchpublikation freigibt, sollte zu-