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ISKO's Chapter Contacts now online

You want to be active within ISKO? Please contact your nearest chapter coordinator or enquire at ISKO's General Secretariat in Amsterdam on how to set up a chapter in your area. Currently there exist chapters in France, Germany-Austria-Switzerland, India, Russia and Spain, and chapters for the Czech Republic and Mercosur (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay) are being founded. See: http://www.isko.org/ChapterCoordinators.html

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German Society for Classification (Gesellschaft für Klassifikation e.V.)

The society held its 24th Annual Conference at the University of Passau March 15-17, 2000. More than 200 authors contributed with about 130 papers (many in English), including two tutorials and 17 plenary or semi-plenary lectures. Most topics covered cluster analysis and other multivariate statistical aspects. Nevertheless, some remarkable papers covered information processing in medicine, archaeology, and social sciences, as well as linguistic analysis, information systems, data and text mining, web analysis and new media. Notable papers in these fields were (citations abbreviated and translated):

Batschi: Visualization of Multilingual Thesauri
Bodendorf: Lecture on Demand
Cleff: Global Sourcing
Dösselmann: Nowshow Recognition
Erben: Benchscoring of Hospitals
Esswein: Knowledge Discovery
Florescu: Searching in XML Documents
Frankewitsch: Standardized Vocabulary to Index Multimedia
Fronk: OO-Construction and Maintenance of Hypermedia
Geyer-Schultz: Virtual Universities
Hainerl: Dialectometrics
Kelle: Virtual Dialect Landscapes
Kindermannn: Text Classification with Support Vector Machines
Levene: Web Interaction
Mehler: Text Mining
Meyer: Direct Marketing Visualization
Müller: Geolinguistics
Mobasher: Mining Web Usage Data
Nerbonne: Dialect Distances
Ohly: Concept Associations in Nutrition Research

Quasthoff: Semantic Classification
Strahl: Information Needs in Poland
Tepel: Text Mining - Technology Watch Tool
Velin: Cartography for Web Site Promotion
Weihs: XML Thesaurus
Weippl: Knowledge Landscapes.

The conference programme and the abstracts are available from http://stoch.fmi.uni-passau.de/gfkl2000/programm/indexen.html. The proceedings volume will be published by Springer in the series "Studies in Classification, Data Analysis, and Knowledge Organization."

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Towards Knowledge Organization with Topic Maps

The new ISO/IEC standard 13250 defines a syntax that allows interchange of information necessary to collaboratively build and maintain indexes. Topic Maps can provide a basic service for modelling and merging semantic networks (such as thesauri and more formal ontologies) and for associating documents with metadata. However, the standard cannot solve semantic problems, e.g. how to deal with different conceptualizations when merging. Hence, classic challenges within knowledge organization remain (e.g. how to achieve comparability and compatibility of knowledge order systems). Close cooperation between experts from Knowledge Organization and Information Technology is highly needed.

Alexander Sigel's request for discussion of the relationship between Knowledge Organization and Topic Maps (see http://www.isko.org/topic-maps.html) has recently led to a talk (full paper available at: http://index.bonn.iz-soz.de/~sigel/veroeff/XML-Europe2000/KM_and_TM-full.html) on that topic at XML Europe 2000 (see http://www.gca.org/). Anyone interested in the subject may contact sigel@bonn.iz-soz.de.

5th International Meeting on Information and Documentation Systems, Spain

A session on knowledge representation and organization will be held at the 5th International Meeting on Information and Documentation Systems to be celebrated in Zaragoza November 6-10, 2000. Persons interested in delivering a paper or a conference are kindly invited to participate. Contact person: **Fran-**