Knowledge Organization

KNOWLEDGE ORGANIZATION   KO

Contents

KO   KNOWLEDGE ORGANIZATION

Contents page

ABSTRACT: This paper takes a second look at three prevailing main themes in knowledge organization: i) the academic disciplines as the main structural principle; ii) the fiction/non-fiction distinction; and iii) the appropriate unit of analysis in online retrieval systems. The history and origin of bibliographic classification [Dewey, Bliss, Mills, Beghtol] are discussed from the perspective of pragmatist philosophy and social studies of science [Kuhn, Merton, Reich]. Choices of structural principles in different schemes are found to rely on more or less implicit philosophical foundations, ranging from rationalism to pragmatism. It is further shown how the increasing application of faceted structures as basic structural principles in universal classification schemes [DDC, UDC] impose rationalistic principles and structures for knowledge organization which are not in alignment with the development of knowledge in the covered disciplines. Further evidence of rationalism in knowledge organization is the fiction/non-fiction distinction, excluding the important role of artistic resources for, in particular, humanistic research. Finally, for the analysis of appropriate bibliographic unit, it is argued that there is a need to shift towards a semiotic approach, founded on an understanding of intertextuality, rather than applying standard principles of hierarchical decomposition of documents. It is concluded that a change in classification research is needed, founded on a more historical and social understanding of knowledge.

ABSTRACT: The ways in which notation can be used to express the content of documents to which it relates are various. At the most superficial level notation can correspond to the hierarchical structure of the schedules or link to literal components. The notation of compound concepts can express the structure and composition of the compound, and systems exist in which symbols denote the functional roles of the constituent elements and the relationships between them. At the highest level notation can be used to mirror the actual structure of those entities which it represents, as in the case of mathematical systems or chemical compounds. Methods of displaying these structures are examined, and the practicality in a documentary context is questioned, with particular reference to recent revision work on the chemistry class of the Bliss Bibliographic Classification 2nd edition (BC2).

ABSTRACT: Gives an account of the editing of Universal Decimal Classification (UDC) from the full database to produce a brief, simplified version. Describes the selection criteria, difficulties in maintaining consistency and insights gained into optimizing future maintenance of the scheme.

KNOWLEDGE ORGANIZATION   KO

KO KNOWLEDGE ORGANIZATION

Publisher

Editor-in-chief (Editorial office)

Prof. Clare BEGHTOL (Acting Editor-in-Chief), Faculty of Information Studies, University of Toronto, 140 St. George Street, Toronto, Ontario M5S 3GB, Canada
Fax +1 (416) 971-1399; E-mail: beghtol@fis.utoronto.ca

Instructions for Authors

Manuscripts should be submitted in English only to the editor-in-chief in two double-spaced copies and should be accompanied by an indicative abstract of 100 to 200 words. After manuscripts are accepted for publication in *Knowledge Organization,* they must be provided on a 3.5" diskette encoded in Word, WordPerfect, or ASCII text. Our preference is Word 6.0 (or later). Diskettes should not be sent until requested by the editor.

Criteria for acceptance will be appropriateness to the field of the journal (see Scope and Aims), taking into account the merit of the contents and presentation. The manuscript should be concise and should conform to professional standards of English usage and grammar. Manuscripts are received with the understanding that they have not been previously published, are not being submitted for publication elsewhere, and that if the work received official sponsorship, it has been duly released for publication. Submissions are refereed, and authors will usually be notified within 6 to 10 weeks. Unless specifically requested, manuscripts and illustrations will not be returned.

The text should be structured by numbered subheadings. It should contain (a) an *Introduction,* giving an overview and stating the purpose, (b) a *main body,* describing in sufficient detail the materials or methods used and the results or systems developed, and (c) a *conclusion* or *summary.*

Reference citations within the text should have the following form: (author, year). For example, (Jones, 1990). Specific page numbers are optional e.g. (Jones, 1990, p.100). A citation with two authors would read (Jones & Smith, 1990); three or more authors would be: (Jones et al., 1990). When the author is mentioned in the text, only the date and optional page number should appear in parenthesis – e.g. According to Jones (1990), ...

References should be listed alphabetically by author at the end of the article. Journal names should not be abbreviated. Multiple citations by the same author should be listed chronologically and should each spell out the author's name. Articles appearing in the same year should have the following format: *Jones, T. (1990a) ... , Jones, T. (1990b) ...*

Examples:

Dahlberg, I. (1978). A referent-oriented, analytical concept theory for INTERCONCEPT. *International Classification, 5(3).* 142-151.

Graesser, A., Person, N. & Huber, J. (1992). Mechanisms that generate questions. In T. W. Lauer, E. Peacock, & A. C. Graesser (Eds.). *Questions and Information Systems.* Hillsdale, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates. 167-187.

Sager, J.C. (1990). *A Practical Course in Terminology Processing.* Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

Sukiasyan, E. R. (1996). Change as a problem of classification system development. In R. Green (Ed.). *Knowledge Organization and Change: Proceedings of the 4th International ISKO Conference.* Frankfurt: Indeks Verlag. 119-122.

Footnotes should be kept to a minimum. They should be indicated in the text with numbered superscripts, and the corresponding notes should be collected at the end of the article, before the *references,* under the heading *Notes.*

Illustrations should be kept to the necessary minimum. Graphs and diagrams should be supplied as black and white drawings suitable for reproduction. Half-tone illustrations should be sharp, well-contrasted glossy prints. Illustrations should be numbered lightly with a soft pencil on the back, and a numbered legend should be attached on a separate sheet. Clear copies of the illustrations should accompany the submitted manuscript, but camera-ready originals should not be sent until requested by the editor. *Tables* should contain a number and a title at the top, and all columns and rows should have headings. All illustrations should be cited in the text as Figure 1, Figure 2, etc. or Table 1, Table 2, etc.

Upon acceptance of a manuscript for publication, authors must provide a wallet-sized photo and a one-paragraph biographical sketch. Authors will receive from the publisher 25 reprints of their articles free of charge. Additional reprints may be ordered before publication.

Advertising

KNOWLEDGE ORGANIZATION   KO

Scope

The more scientific data are generated in the impetuous present times, the more ordering energy needs to be expended to control these data in a retrievable fashion. With the abundance of knowledge now available the questions of new solutions to the ordering problem and thus of improved classification systems, methods and procedures have acquired unforeseen significance. For many years now they have been in the focus of interest of information scientists the world over.

Until recently, the special literature relevant to classification was published in piecemeal fashion, scattered over the numerous technical journals serving the experts of the various fields such as

> philosophy and science of science
> science policy and science organization
> mathematics, statistics and computer science
> library and information science
> archivistics and museology
> journalism and communication science
> industrial products and commodity science
> terminology, lexicography and linguistics

Beginning 1974, KNOWLEDGE ORGANIZATION (formerly INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION) has been serving as a common platform for the discussion of both theoretical background questions and practical application problems in many areas of concern. In each issue experts from many countries comment on questions of an adequate structuring and construction of ordering systems and on the problems of their use in opening the information contents of new literature, of data collections and survey, of tabular works and of other objects of scientific interest. Their contributions have been concerned with

(1)   clarifying the theoretical foundations (general ordering theory/science theoretical bases of classification, data analysis and reduction)
(2)   describing practical operations connected with indexing/ classification, as well as applications of classification systems and thesauri, manual and machine indexing
(3)   tracing the history of classification knowledge and methodology
(4)   discussing questions of education and training in classification
(5)   concerning themselves with the problems of terminology in general and with respect to special fields.

Aims

Thus, KNOWLEDGE ORGANIZATION is meant to be a programme for the improvement of classification methods and processes, a forum for discussion for all those interested in the organization of knowledge on a universal or a subject-field scale, using concept-analytical and/or concept-synthetical approaches as well as numerical procedures and comprising also the intellectual and automatic compilation and use of classification systems and thesauri in all fields of knowledge, with special attention being given to the problems of terminology.

KNOWLEDGE ORGANIZATION publishes original articles, reports on conferences and similar communications, the Newsletters of the International Society for Knowledge Organization (ISKO News) and the Committee on Classification Research of the International Federation for Information and Documentation (FID/CR News) as well as book reviews, letters to the editor, and an extensive annotated bibliography of recent classification and indexing literature, covering some 500 items in each issue.

KNOWLEDGE ORGANIZATION should therefore be available at every university and research library of every country, at every information center, at colleges and schools of library and information science, in the hands of everybody interested in the fields mentioned above and thus also at every office for updating information on any topic related to the problems of order in our information-flooded times.

KNOWLEDGE ORGANIZATION was founded in 1973 by an international group of scholars with a consulting board of editors representing the world's regions, the special classification fields, and the subject areas involved. From 1974-1980 it was published by K.G. Saur Verlag, München. Back issues of 1978-1992 are available from ERGON-Verlag, too. (The 14 volumes of 1978-1992 are offered now at the highly reduced price of DM 200,-)

As of 1989, KNOWLEDGE ORGANIZATION has become the official organ of the INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KNOWLEDGE ORGANIZATION (ISKO) and is included for every ISKO-member, personal or institutional in the membership fee (US $ 55/US $ 110).