

# Knowledge Organization

## Fourth Annual “Best Paper in KO Award” for Volume 44 (2017)<sup>†</sup>

*Awarded to:*

Michael Kleineberg. “Integrative Levels.”  
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**Abstract:** This article provides a historical overview and conceptual clarification of the idea of integrative levels as an organizing principle. It will be demonstrated that this concept has found different articulations (e.g., levels of integration, levels of organization, levels of complexity, levels of granularity, nested hierarchy, specification hierarchy, hierarchical integration, progressive integration, holarchy, superformation, self-organization cycles) and widespread applications based on various, often unrelated theoretical and disciplinary backgrounds. In order to determine its role in the field of knowledge organization, some common misconceptions and major criticisms will be reconsidered in light of a broader multidisciplinary context. In particular, it will be shown how this organizing principle has been fruitfully applied to human-related research areas such as psychology, social sciences, or humanities in terms of integrative levels of knowing.

Michael Kleineberg is Research Librarian at the University Library of Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and teaches library management at the University of Applied Sciences Potsdam. He is a member of the ISKO Scientific Advisory Council and the editorial board of *Knowledge Organization*. His research interest involves the intersection between knowledge organization, cognitive psychology, sociology of knowledge, and cultural anthropology. Currently, he is working on a dissertation project on the organizing principle of integrative levels of knowing



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