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Barite, M. G. (2000). **The notion of “category”: its implications in subject analysis and in the construction and evaluation of indexing languages.** *Knowledge Organization*, 27(1/2). 4-10. 11 refs.

ABSTRACT: The notion of category, from Aristotle and Kant to the present time, has been used as a basic intellectual tool for the analysis of the existence and changeableness of things. Ranganathan was the first to extrapolate the concept into the Theory of Classification, placing it as an essential axis for the logical organization of knowledge and the construction of indexing languages. This paper proposes a conceptual and methodological reexamination of the notion of category from a functional and instrumental perspective, and tries to clarify the essential characters of categories in that context, and their present implications regarding the construction and evaluation of indexing languages.

Julián, V., Carrascosa, C., Soler, J. (2000). **A Multiagent System Architecture for Retrieving and Showing Information.** *Knowledge Organization*, 27(1/2). 11-16. 14 refs.

ABSTRACT: Over the last few years the use of the agent/multi-agent paradigm has grown sharply. This paradigm has been applied to different fields including control processes, mobile robots, and information retrieval. In this paper, we present a system architecture based on the agent and multi-agent paradigm that allows us to retrieve and manage any kind of information from the Internet. We present our architecture as a generic and open system architecture. One of its main features is the agents' independence from the network's dynamic. We explain in detail what has already been done in our architecture as well as our future plans.

Vallejo, D. B., David A. A. (2000). **Processing the User Model in IRS** *Knowledge Organization*, 27(1/2). 17-26. 9 refs.

ABSTRACT: Our hypothesis is that when a user employs an IRS, he or she has an objective to achieve. This objective concerns the user's information need. In order to achieve this objective, the user generally does some activities using the IRS. The IRS proposes to the user solutions in response to the queries formulated by the user. The main task of an IRS is to provide the user with solutions that are relevant to his infor-

mation need. This is termed personalization of information. The main axis of our study is how to personalize the system's response according to the user's objective.

We propose the use of a user model for personalizing the system's response. In our approach, the user model defines what to represent for each user. The activities of the user during the use of an IRS are recorded based on the user model. The analysis and synthesis of these activities are used to provide the user with more relevant solutions according to his objective.

Three different applications have been developed to validate our approach of personalizing the system's response and based on an architecture that we defined for a cooperative information retrieval. The three applications are METIORE_STREEMS, METIORE_LORIA and METIORE_REVUES. METIORE_STREEMS is an IRS for managing multimedia information on trees authorized for reforestation by the European Union (EU). The project was sponsored under the EU project LEONARDO. The second application, METIORE_LORIA is used for managing the publications of the computer science laboratory research center, LORIA, Nancy, France. The third application METIORE_REVUES is used for the access and analysis of a journal called Relations Publics Information.

Pathak, L. P (2000). **Concept-Term Relationship and a Classified Schedule of Isolates for the term ‘Concept’.** *Knowledge Organization*, 27(1/2).27-34. 13 refs.

ABSTRACT: Draws attention to the efforts to define the terms ‘concept’ and ‘term’ and suggests a schedule of isolates for the term ‘concept’ under eight headings:- 0. Concept; 1. Theoretical aspects; 2. Learning theory and Psychological aspects; 3. Origin, evolution, formation, construction; 4. Semantic aspects; 5. Terms and Terminology; 6. Usage and discipline-specific applications; and 7. Concepts and ISAR systems. The schedule also includes about 150 aspects/isolate terms related to ‘concept’ along with the name of the authors who have used them. The schedule is intended to help in identifying the various aspects of a concept with the help of the terms used for them. These aspects may guide to some extent, in dissecting and seeing the social science concepts from various point of views.

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Bador, P., Rey, J. (2000). **Description of a professional activity. Modelling of the activity linked with the completion of a pharmacy thesis related to its terminology environment. I. Description, analysis and activity modelling.** *Knowledge Organization*, 27(1/2). 345-43. 12 refs.

ABSTRACT: In this paper, made up of parts I and II, we investigate the complex relationships between knowledge, information and activity in order to study how a system of activity assistance can help the actor to solve his information problems.

Through the example of the completion of a pharmacy thesis, we have tried, in part I, to describe, schematize and model the successive phases that make up the whole of this activity. Our method of observation and analysis combined the observation of two students preparing their pharmacy theses, the reading of five theses and the reading of six books. We thus propose in a table form, a modelling outline that presents the sequential succession of the ten operational phases describing the completion of a pharmacy thesis following a chronological order:

(1) Subject definition, (2) Documentary research, (3) Documents analysis, (4) Conceiving of the experimental strategy, (5) Experimentation, (6) Results interpretation, (7) Writing of the thesis, (8) Administrative procedures, (9) Preparation of the viva, (10) Viva.

The table also presents the succession of the structural, operational, material and human elements: Referents of the activity, Subject of the activity, Location of the activity, Identification of the operations, Handled objects, and Actors.

We have refined the activity analysis by drawing up a structured list, showing the organization of the terms related to the different operational phases. This work is presented in part II.

Bador, P., Rey, J. (2000). **Description of a professional activity. Modelling of the activity linked with the completion of a pharmacy thesis related to its terminology environment. II. Terminology organization of the activity.** *Knowledge Organization*, 27(1/2). 44-54. 13 refs.

ABSTRACT: Following the modelling of the activity related to the completion of a pharmacy thesis, as presented in part I, we have completed the activity analysis by drawing up a structured word list to show the terminological organization around the ten operational phases. Indeed, it seemed obvious to us that the reasoning at the root of any activity is based on words used to describe it. This terminology inventory which we called Structured Terminology Environment (STE), together with the modelling diagram, could eventually be directly used during the conceiving of a software tool specific to the studied professional activity.

The STE is a thesaurus of 565 words selected on the basis of a corpus stemming from five pharmacy theses and six books, where we put the significant terms which represent the actors and actions we observed during the ten phases, as well as the handled tools. Once the terms were shared out among the ten basic operations, we structured the terminology by grouping the concepts of a same nature so that the sub-categories show a certain homogeneity around the action. We used the following basic relationships: generic/specific relationships, whole/part relationships and finally, we completed the categorization with the help of classes induced by facets (process, phenomenon, properties, material or object, tool or equipment and operating conditions.)