
KNOWLEDGE ORGANIZATION

KO

Official Quarterly Journal of the International Society for Knowledge Organization ISSN 0943 – 7444

International Journal devoted to Concept Theory, Classification, Indexing and Knowledge Representation

Contents

Editor's Message 133

Obituary: Dr. Arthur Steven Pollitt 134

Articles

López-Huertas, María José, and Evaristo Jiménez Contreras. Spanish Research in Knowledge Organization (1992-2001)..... 136

Gnoli, Claudio, and Roberto Poli. Levels of Reality and Levels of Representation..... 151

Coleman, Anita S.. A Code for Classifiers: Whatever Happened to Merrill's *Code*?..... 161

Thellefsen, Torkild L., and Martin M. Thellefsen. Pragmatic Semiotics and Knowledge Organization. 177

Report

Williamson, Nancy J. Eighth International ISKO Conference, London UK, 13-16 July, 2004.....188

Book Review

SATIJA, M.P. *A Dictionary of Knowledge Organization*. Amritsar, India: Guru Nanak Dev University, 2004. (248 p.) ISBN 81-7770-101-0.196

Letter to the Editor

Nicolaisen, Jeppe, and Birger Hjørland. A Rejoinder to Beghtol (2004).....199

Knowledge Organization Literature

31 (2004) No.3202

Personal Author Index

31 (2004) No.3210

Contents page

López-Huertas, María and Evaristo Jiménez Contreras. (2004). **Spanish Research in Knowledge Organization (1992-2001)**. *Knowledge Organization*, 31(3). 136-150. 15 refs.

ABSTRACT: This study gives an initial appraisal of research activity in Spain surrounding “knowledge organization.” The sample comprises articles, monographs and PhD. dissertations identified in the following data bases: ISI, LISA, ISOC, REBIUN, RUECA and TESEO. In Spain, “knowledge organization” is a consolidated subject area that shows increasing productivity, although it cannot be considered well developed by any means. A small number of highly productive authors are responsible for the bulk of output. Most research activity stems from university departments and schools of library science, in particular the Universities of Madrid and Zaragoza. A general interest in the theoretical aspects of classification systems, documentary languages and thesauri can be seen.

Gnoli, Claudio and Roberto Poli. (2004). **Levels of Reality and Levels of Representation**. *Knowledge Organization*, 31(3). 151-160. 45 refs.

ABSTRACT: Ontology, in its philosophical meaning, is the discipline investigating the structure of reality. Its findings can be relevant to knowledge organization, and models of knowledge can, in turn, offer relevant ontological suggestions. Several philosophers in time have pointed out that reality is structured into a series of integrative levels, like the physical, the biological, the mental, and the cultural, and that each level plays as a base for the emergence of more complex levels. More detailed theories of levels have been developed by Nicolai Hartmann and James K. Feibleman, and these have been considered as a source for structuring principles in bibliographic classification by both the Classification Research Group (CRG) and Ingetraut Dahlberg. CRG’s analysis of levels and of their possible application to a new general classification scheme based on phenomena instead of disciplines, as it was formulated by Derek Austin in 1969, is examined in detail. Both benefits and open problems in applying integrative levels to bibliographic classification are pointed out.

Coleman, Anita S.. (2004). **A Code for Classifiers: What ever Happened to Merrill’s Code?** *Knowledge Organization*, 31(3). 161-176. 32 refs.

ABSTRACT: The work titled *Code for Classifiers* by William Stetson Merrill is examined. The development of Merrill’s *Code* over a period of 27 years, 1912-1939 is traced by examining bibliographic, attribution, conceptual and contextual differences. The general principles advocated, the differences between variants, and three controversial features of the *Code*: 1) the distinction between classifying vs. classification, 2) borrowing of the bibliographic principle of authorial intention, and 3) use of Dewey Decimal class numbers for classified sequence of topics, are also discussed. The paper reveals the importance of the *Code* in its own time, the complexities of its presentation and assessment by its contemporaries, and its status today.

Thellefsen, Martin and Torkild Thellefsen. (2004). **Pragmatic Semiotics and Knowledge Organization**. *Knowledge Organization*, 31(3). 177-187. 18 refs.

ABSTRACT: The present paper presents a philosophical approach to knowledge organization, proposing the pragmatic doctrine of C.S. Peirce as basic analytical framework for knowledge domains. The theoretical framework discussed is related to the qualitative branch of knowledge organization theory i.e. within scope of Hjørland’s domain analytical view (Hjørland and Albrechtsen 1995; Hjørland 2002; Hjørland 2004), and promote a general framework for analyzing domain knowledge and concepts. However, the concept of knowledge organization can be viewed in at least two perspectives, one that defines knowledge organization as an activity performed by a human actor e.g. an information specialist, and secondly a view that has the perspective of the inherent self-organizing structure of a knowledge domain the latter being investigated in the paper.