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Chandos, 2007. 206 p. (Information Professional  
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## Contents pages

Bettella, Cristiana, and Carrara, Massimiliano. **Classifications: On Philosophers and Librarians.** *Knowledge Organization*, 36(2/3), 88-91. 6 references.

**ABSTRACT:** Consider the following argument: (Premise 1) If a librarian is a classifier and (Premise 2) a librarian classifies (among the other things) the documents of a library, and (Premise 3) to classify documents is equivalent to classifying the objects of a knowledge base, but (Premise 4) to classify the objects of a knowledge base is equivalent to producing an ontology, or is equivalent to doing some ontological engineering, then (Conclusion) a classifier—i.e. a librarian—is an ontologist. The same train of thought can be followed for those disciplinary experts who support librarians in activities like classification. Thus, librarians and experts are classifiers, and if classifiers are ontologists, librarians and experts are ontologists. Here the problem arises: which specific kind of ontology is in the librarian's mind? Which one in the expert's mind? We argue that the librarians' ontology is completely different from the expert's. Experts' ontology is a thematic ontology, librarians' ontology is generalistic. This conclusion is particularly clear in the philosophical case.

Biagetti, Maria Teresa. **Philosophy in Bibliographic Classification Systems.** *Knowledge Organization*, 36(2/3), 92-102. 27 references.

**ABSTRACT:** The article aims to provide an examination of some different arrangements of the Philosophy domain in bibliographic classification systems. It is difficult to organize the scientific field of Human Sciences, because of the richness of perspectives, and of the different cultural orientations that this broad field of science presents. Furthermore, it is really arduous to organize the scientific field of Philosophy using a traditional classification system. It is hard to accommodate philosophical knowledge—elaborated inside different cultures, in many cases not compatible with each other—in a classification system created by a particular cultural system, because it depends on that specific cultural approach. General principles of bibliographic classification and also differences noticed when these are compared with the principles and laws of logical classification, are discussed. In contrast, the fact that library classifications are influenced by ideologies and po-

litical orientations, and that they are substantially arbitrary, is pointed out. In the second part of the study, the *Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC)* and the *Bliss Bibliographic Classification* second edition (*BC2*) are analysed, and at last the suggestion of *BC2* to consider philosophical problems and topics in connection with cultural tradition, ethical and religious principles, and also political and social structures, is evaluated.

Mazzocchi, Fulvio, and Tiberi, Melissa. **Knowledge Organization in the Philosophical Domain: Dealing with Polysemy in Thesaurus Building.** *Knowledge Organization*, 36(2/3), 103-112. 26 references.

**ABSTRACT:** This paper focuses on polysemy, the phenomenon by which a word has a network of multiple but related senses, as a characterizing feature of the philosophical lexicon. Many philosophical terms, in fact, are typified by a considerable stratification of meaning, which originates from the history of their semantics, where meanings accumulate over time and past knowledge is continually reintroduced and re-elaborated into new forms of theorizations. Developing a domain-specific knowledge organization system (KOS), like a thesaurus, would be largely affected by this feature. The demand for semantic disambiguation is, in fact, amplified. Furthermore, together with their frequent polysemy, the level of abstraction of the philosophical terms and the conceptual complexity of this domain make the thesaural semantic arrangement, especially the hierarchical structures, rather difficult to be set up. On the basis of a Wittgensteinian conception of meaning and its implication for information retrieval issues, some preliminary ideas on how to proceed on this topic are presented.

Granata, Giovanna. **Classification from the User's Viewpoint: Concerning the Arrangement of Collections in University Libraries.** *Knowledge Organization*, 36(2/3), 113-120. 10 references.

**ABSTRACT:** As the use of the most common classification systems for the arrangement of library material gives rise to evident problems both in terms of efficiency and

user-friendliness, the paper proposes to limit them to the bibliographic description of documents and to make reference to different classification structures specifically aimed at meeting the needs of the physical organization and local access to documents. A possible solution can be the Scientific-Disciplinary Sectors which are the principal structural references both for research and teaching activities. Such a classification, of a purely institutional type, certainly reflects the present-day university situation rather than abstract models, but at the same time it defines more concrete approaches to knowledge. Furthermore, it can be profitably used to correlate people involved in different ways in the university's institutional activities with the bibliographic material functional to such activities, thus offering a useful parameter in appraising collections.

Davies, Richard. **Should Philosophy Books Be Treated As Fiction?** *Knowledge Organization*, 36(2/3), 121-129. 5 references.

**ABSTRACT:** The thought is canvassed that any reasonably heterogeneous collection of philosophy books accessible to any public is best shelved in strict alphabetical order by the author/editor names that appear on their spines, as we often find in public libraries with open access for a general reading public. The positive good that such an arrangement seeks is philosophical neutrality, given the highly controversial and fissiparous nature of the activities that are embraced under the rubric 'philosophy.' For the rest, support for our hypothesis is mainly negative, and derives from considerations concerning the difficulties that arise in persevering with any of the obvious alternative classifications. Though some of the ordering principles that motivate more adventurous and helpful arrangements can be applied to many philosophy books, the hard cases are so hard, so many and so prominent, that they would require any conscientious cataloguer to be continuously making make choices. The upshots of such choices cannot be predicted and hence make for arbitrariness. Someone who knows their own way around will find what they are looking for; and someone who doesn't is beyond help.

Bettella, Cristiana, Capodaglio, Cristina, Ramous, Cristina, and Vettore, Maria Cristina. **Declassifying the Library of Congress Classification: The Case of the Department of Philosophy Library at the University of Padova (Pa-**

**dua, Italy).** *Knowledge Organization*, 36(2/3), 130-140. 0 references.

**ABSTRACT:** The ongoing project to revise the arrangement of the open shelves library collections occasioned a historiographic account of the implementation phases of the Library of Congress *Classification* (LCC), subclasses B-BJ – Philosophy and Psychology, at the Library of the Department of Philosophy of the University of Padua (Italy). The schema was adopted as a collection shelving and location device since the Library institution in 1997. The LCC international acknowledgement and the neutral framework of the schema have undoubtedly played a role of driving factors at the first stage of the selection process. However, the implementation of the classification scheme had to consider critical issues like the shortage of the library area, the selection criteria of the appropriate bibliographic material, as well as the effort to settle and tailor the original schema to the specific needs of the library collections and its end-users. The purpose of this paper is twofold: from one hand, we aim to examine in detail each stage of the implementation project in order to provide a preliminary impact evaluation of the classification schema both on the collections management and development and on the research practices of the local users community; from the other, we intend to highlight the principal factors that have implied a sort of declassification process of the system itself. In conclusion, we argue that the declassification of library collections can be read, from a bottom-up perspective, as index of vitality of the collections themselves, as well as a valuable basis for planning the next steps of the Library project.

Giampietro, Raffaele. **Classifying Philosophy at the Library of the Scuola Normale Superiore (Pisa, Italy), Part A.** *Knowledge Organization*, 36(2/3), 141-145. 7 references.

[No abstract]

Manzi, Stefania. **Classifying Philosophy at the Library of the Scuola Normale Superiore (Pisa, Italy): Part B, Evaluation and Experience.** *Knowledge Organization*, 36(2/3), 146-149. 2 references.

**ABSTRACT:** The verification of the functionality of the Philosophy classification schema adopted at the Library of

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the Scuola Normale Superiore needs to take into account the context: the Library is both a special and a multidisciplinary library; its collections reflect the history of the SNS. The philosophy collection has a specialized and selective nature, as do others within the same Library; the Library is open shelves, and classification is used as a shelving and location device. Bearing in mind the above conditions, the second part of this paper examines the strengths and weaknesses of the schema in order to highlight its suitability to match a coherent classification of documents with the effective fruition by the users.

Frigerio, Laura. **From Disorder to Order: A Challenge for the Philosopher and the Librarian (Milan, Italy)**. *Knowledge Organization*, 36(2/3), 150-159. 2 references.

**ABSTRACT:** The Philosophy Library at the University of Milan was born in the fifties by the merger of the two Institutes of Philosophy and the History of Philosophy. Once the restoration had been completed, it was necessary to devise a suitable classification system in order to arrange the books and to meet the new research needs of the Institutes. The project was entrusted to Prof. Corrado Mangione and Prof. Maria Assunta del Torre, with the theoretical contribution of Giuliana Saponi, chief Director of Central Library of the Faculty of Laws and Humanities. The model had been conceived as completely anew, without any reference to other existing classification systems. The inspiring principles were from one hand the choice for an open shelving system, from the other one the idea that the orientation criteria and the book search had to be user-friendly for everyone. This paper provides an in-depth analysis of the making-up of the call number as applied to each section of the collection, and how the scheme has been developed over the past fifty years. Points of strength and weakness of the scheme are also discussed at the light of the technological innovations which have gradually affected the whole of the library activities, notably with the introduction of the electronic catalogue. The original classification scheme has maintained its coherence and functionality over time, in spite of the expansion of the collection and the automation of all stages of the classification process. This is the main reason to keep using it in the future.

De Gaetano, Maria Angelica. **Looking at the Library, Seeing Philosophy (Trieste, Italy)**. *Knowledge Organization*, 36(2/3), 160-168. 0 references.

**ABSTRACT:** This paper focuses on the job undertaken between 2003 and 2004 in order to plan a new location arrangement for the Philosophy collection of one of the libraries at the University of Trieste. The paper describes the basic needs which played a fundamental role in the planning phase. Furthermore, it examines in detail how the most widely known classification systems – particularly the DDC- did not seem the best answer to the specific needs in this context. The solution was to develop an original classification system in order to answer the specific needs. The paper describes its development and the basis upon which it was built: the classification schemes used were those of the most authoritative periodical bibliographies in this field. Among them, the International Philosophical Bibliography system seemed to be closer to the continental tradition of the organization of knowledge in the discipline. Conclusions deal with the management of the transition from the old to the new system giving some information about the possible evaluation of the work that has been carried out.