Introduction

The last time an International ISKO Conference was held in India was in 1992, in Chennai (then Madras). That conference - the 2\textsuperscript{nd} International ISKO Conference - marked the culmination of a series of national and international events celebrating the birth centenary of Dr. S.R. Ranganathan. The conference theme and title of the volume was ‘Cognitive Paradigms in Knowledge Organization’. The present Conference – the 12\textsuperscript{th} in the series – being held in India after 20 years marks Ranganathan’s 120\textsuperscript{th} birth anniversary, a good coincidence! During the intervening two decades developments have been taking place that are impacting the knowledge organization domain:

1. Several genres and vast quantities of information and knowledge sources (e.g. people) are accessible at any time from anywhere via the Internet and many other international, national and local networks;
2. An increasing proportion of such sources are in languages other than those derived from Latin;
3. A growing number of information seekers and users wish to contribute to, access, browse and read information materials in their respective native languages or languages they are familiar with;
4. There is a growing recognition that different cultures and associated languages impact the perception, perspective, and frames of information / knowledge generators and seekers; and
5. Additionally, thanks to developments in international travel and globalization in almost all sectors of human activities there is increasing interaction and collaboration among people at different levels.

Information science literature of recent times – conference papers, journal articles and books - provide evidence that information professionals and specialists in cognate domains have been focusing on the above issues. Studies and thinking in this regard range from questioning the relevance, utility and value of such devices as subject classification schemes and thesauri in the digital environment to studies that have been specifically examining how such knowledge organization tools could be employed to enhance knowledge discovery and information retrieval in the digital environment. Also, innovations in and with the age-old devices are being created. The papers contributed to this conference which has as its theme, Categories, Relations and Contexts in Knowledge Organization too reflect these trends. Fifty five papers and ten posters are to be presented during the conference. The papers in this volume span several different but inter-related themes: Domain of Knowledge Organization, General Classification Schemes, Knowledge Organization for the Digital Environment, Knowledge Organization as Navigation Tool, Ontology, Categories in Knowledge Organization, Knowledge Organization for Specific Domains, Knowledge Organization for Archives, Design and Development of Knowledge
Organization Tools, Information Mining/ Automatic Indexing and Users and Context. The Internet and the World Wide Web have led to a situation in which many disparate communities, including the Knowledge Organization community within the Library and Information Science community, have seriously started addressing issues related to organizing knowledge to support information retrieval and knowledge discovery. It will not be incorrect to say that enhancements and improvements in Knowledge Organization will come about in the future mainly through a cross-fertilization of ideas, tools and techniques.

We would like to convey our sincere thanks to all those who helped make this volume possible. First and foremost our thanks are due to the authors who have contributed papers reporting results of their research; our thanks are also due to the members of the International Scientific Committee who reviewed papers and provided valuable inputs in the form of suggestions to improve the quality of the submissions to the conference.

Two special lectures organized by the Sarada Ranganathan Endowment for Library Science are being delivered as part of the proceedings of this conference; The Sarada Ranganathan Endowment Lectures 2012 and the CurzonCo Seshachalam Lecture. The text of the CurzonCo Seshachalam Lecture by Prof. Carolyn Watters appears in this volume as a paper. We hope to bring out the text of the Sarada Ranganathan Endowment lectures 2012 on ‘Sharing Information Resources across Communities and over Time: Metadata, Digital Libraries & Archives, and Information Schools’ by Prof. Shigeo Sugimoto as a separate volume.

We hope the discussions will be both interesting and productive and that you will also enjoy the cultural programme and visits to places of tourist interest.

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