Challenges and opportunities for Knowledge Organization in the digital age

Proceedings of the 15th International Conference International Society for Knowledge Organization

Introduction

The digital and networked society in which we live is shaped by two paradigms that, since the middle of the last century, have been structurally changing our lives: the technological paradigm (Manuel Castells) and the paradigm of complexity (Edgar Morin). On the one hand, we are witnessing an increasingly accelerated evolution of technologies and communication networks, which means rapid change and constant dynamism; on the other hand, we live within a framework of complexity, challenges, new ideas and new forms of relationships and attitudes, which we cannot completely dominate given the fact that we are actors in the process and do not have enough critical distance to reflect on it. The information phenomenon has a central position in this context, since in symbiosis with technology it is the engine of change and innovation in which we are daily involved. In academia and in business, as well as in the professional and leisure activities that we pursue, we perceive that the world is changing in an accelerated way and that the processing, organization, dissemination and management of information in general requires study, research and development of theoretical and applied models that respond to the needs of society.

It is in this context that the 15th International ISKO Conference is held in Porto (Portugal) under the topic Challenges and opportunities for KO in the digital age. ISKO has been organizing biennial international conferences since 1990, in order to promote a space for debate among Knowledge Organization (KO) scholars and practitioners all over the world. The fourteen conferences already organized have focused on a wide variety of topics related to KO and its fundamental role in social, economic and cultural scenarios: tools for KO (Darmstadt, Germany, 1990), Cognitive paradigms in KO (Madras, India, 1992), KO and quality management (Copenhagen, Denmark, 1994), KO and change (Washington, USA, 1996), Structures and relations in KO (Lille, France, 1998), Dynamism and stability in KO (Toronto, Canada, 2000), Challenges in knowledge representation and organization for the 21st century (Granada, Spain, 2002), KO and the global information society (London, UK, 2004), KO for a global learning society (Vienna, Austria, 2006), Culture and identity in KO (Montréal, Canada, 2008), Paradigms and conceptual systems in KO (Rome, Italy, 2010), Categories, contexts and relations in KO (Mysore, India, 2012), KO in the 21st century - between historical patterns and future prospects (Krakow, Poland, 2014), KO
for a sustainable world (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 2014).

This time, organization of the International ISKO Conference is the responsibility of the ISKO Iberian Chapter, in association with the Faculty of Arts of the University of Porto, through CIC.digital - Center for Research in Communication, Information and Digital Culture - Porto.

The ISKO Iberian Chapter was founded more than two decades ago and, from 1993 to 2017, it has organized thirteen biennial conferences besides publishing the respective proceedings, which can be consulted from its website (http://www.iskoiberico.org/congresos/).

The topics under discussion in the 15th International ISKO Conference are intended to cover a wide range of issues that, in a very incisive way, constitute challenges, obstacles and questions in the field of KO, but also highlight ways and open innovative perspectives for this area in a world undergoing constant change, due to the digital revolution that unavoidably moulds our society. Accordingly, the three aggregating themes, chosen to fit the proposals for papers and posters to be submitted, are as follows: 1 – Foundations and methods for KO; 2 – Interoperability towards information access; 3 – Societal challenges in KO. In addition to these themes, the inaugural session includes a keynote speech by Prof. David Bawden of City University London, entitled Supporting truth and promoting understanding: knowledge organization and the curation of the infosphere.

In response to the call for papers, 162 proposals were submitted, including papers, posters and workshops, from which 110 papers and 24 posters were selected by the Programme Committee for oral presentation at the Conference as well as two workshops, the latter taking place after the conference, on 12th July. Although not all of the papers are included in the proceedings, the wide-ranging volume now published contains about 88% of the texts approved and it should be noted that some of these papers were also submitted to the Best Doctoral Student Paper Award established in recognition of PhD students’ work.

The Conference was supported by the University of Porto, the Foundation for Science and Technology - FCT, Banco Santander, and the company Recondicionados.pt, which sponsored the Best Doctoral Student Paper Award. We gratefully acknowledge all of them and express publicly our thanks.

At a time when we are constantly facing challenges and opportunities, we hope that the texts now published will be a useful tool for reflection and work, and constitute a further step forward in the field of KO.

Fernanda Ribeiro
Porto, May 2018