Abstract

D. J. Foskett was one of the first foundational authors to raise concerns about the cultural aspects of the Knowledge Organization. This paper investigates the contributions of this author to the Knowledge Organization cultural studies, aiming to identify through the literature the extent to which his contribution has influenced Knowledge Organization Systems regarding cultural aspects. In this sense, going into the scope of our study we are committed to discussing: What are D.J. Foskett's influences on the construction of modern knowledge organization systems? The theoretical and methodological foundation of our research lies in the historical, philosophical and epistemological foundations of the Knowledge Organization.

1.0 Introduction

The research agenda of the Knowledge Organization (KO) has privileged studies and research on issues involving socio-political, ethical, cultural and technological issues regarding the representation, storage and dissemination of the knowledge produced, in order to make patent the information practices that are, social practices par excellence, involving actors who play different roles in the cycle of apprehension, production and use of knowledge to meet and satisfy the most diverse information needs to account for their personal and professional activities in contemporary society. From this perspective, we seek to establish points of interlocution between the actors involved in the production of knowledge, the construction of knowledge organization systems (KOS) and their reflexes in the knowledge representation and the information retrieval in contemporary society from the studies of Douglas John Foskett (DJF), considered here as one of the foundational authors of cultural studies within the KO.

Cultural Studies, as an academic discipline emerged in the 1970s, which corresponds to the "cultural turnaround" of the Social and Human Sciences and in the same movement contributed to the destabilization of the frontiers of older disciplines such as History, Sociology, Literature, among others. Cultural Studies work as an agent in the reconfiguration of the disciplinary structure of the Humanities and Social Sciences, in a process that is still ongoing today (Baptista, 2009).

2.0 The method

Hjorland (2002) presents eleven methods for domain analysis. These are: production of literature guides or subject gateways; constructing special classifications and thesauri; indexing and retrieving in specialties; empirical users studies; bibliometrical studies; historical studies; document and gender studies; epistemological and critical studies; terminological studies, languages for special purpose, databases semantic and discourse studies; structures and institutions in scientific communication; scientific cognition, knowledge expert and artificial intelligence. Domain analysis provides a guide to identifying a domain and a discursive community.
The theoretical and methodological basis of our research lies in Domain Analysis (Hjørland, 2002) in search of the historical, philosophical and epistemological foundations of the KO that will be used as the framework for the configuration and time-space analysis of the KO before D.J. Foskett, during his activities and the influence of his contributions to KO. To verify the production of knowledge in KO in the Social Sciences and its representation in the SOC from the cultural studies of KO based on the contributions of D.J. Foskett we will use the method of cartography (Rimbert, 1968).

3.0 Results

The Douglas John Foskett’s contributions to the theory and practice of KO. A founding member of the Classification Research Group (CRG). Indeed, he was an active contributor to the CRG’s work. In 1955 the CRG had endorsed “the need for a faceted classification as the basis for all methods of information retrieval”. This principle was later endorsed at the Dorking Conference in 1957. It was in this context that DJF’s scholarship and research made its mark through his work in the study and dissemination of the theoretical concepts of Ranganathan. Putting facet analysis into practice, he developed a number of classification schemes. Among other important works are his Classification and integrative levels (1960), The Sayers Memorial Volume edited with Bernard Ira Palmer (1961), Classification and Indexing in the Social Sciences (1963) and Science, Humanism and Libraries (1964).

4.0 Final Consideration

From this perspective, we seek to establish points of interlocution between the actors involved in the production of knowledge, in the construction of KOS and its reflexes in the knowledge representation and in the information retrieval in contemporary society from the studies of Douglas John Foskett, considered here as one of the foundational authors in cultural studies within the KO. In accordance with this study, Douglas John Foskett has contributed to the dissemination of the principle "the need for a faceted classification as the basis for all methods of information retrieval", the theory of integrative levels and the improvement of the KO in the field of cultural studies.

References