Proceedings:  
_Dynamism and Stability in Knowledge Organization_  

6th International Conference  
International Society for Knowledge Organization (ISKO6)

Introduction

This volume of the sixty-two papers that were presented at the 6th International Conference of ISKO, the International Society for Knowledge Organization, represents the most up-to-date thought of the international, interdisciplinary discourse community of knowledge organization scholars and researchers. Presenters at the Conference came from seventeen countries, i.e., Canada, Brazil, Denmark, France, Germany, India, Israel, the Netherlands, Romania, Senegal, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, the United States, and the United Kingdom. The Conference itself took place from July 10 to July 13, 2000, at the Faculty of Information Studies, University of Toronto, Ontario, Canada. At the Conference, the authors presented their research in a scholarly and scientific atmosphere of discussion and dialogue that encouraged an open exchange of information among researchers with different perspectives, from different basic fields of study, and from different parts of the world. The Editors are pleased to present this collection of papers to a wider audience and to recommend them highly for their exceptional intellectual diversity, breadth, and depth.

The papers were selected through a rigorous blind refereeing process carried out by the International Programme Committee for ISKO6 and they appear in the _Proceedings_ in the order in which they were presented at the Conference. A list of the members of the International Programme Committee appears at the end of this volume. The Committee members, like the authors of the papers, represent the broad-based community of knowledge organization theorists, practitioners and researchers.

In general, the papers chosen by the Committee for presentation and publication addressed the overall topic of the Conference, i.e., _Dynamism and Stability in Knowledge Organization_. The papers were further subdivided into eight of the key issues or themes of the knowledge organization field:

- Cognitive and Linguistic Foundations;
- Theories of Knowledge and Knowledge Organization;
- Information Policies and Management of Information Structures;
- Information Systems—Concepts, Design and Implementation;
- Culture, Language and Communication in Knowledge Organization;
- Knowledge Organization of General and Special Systems;
- Global Users and Uses of Knowledge and Knowledge Organization; and
- New Information Technologies for Knowledge Organization.

Like all categorical systems, this set of themes is incomplete and exhausts neither all possible important issues for knowledge organization, nor all possible categorization systems for those issues. Nevertheless, these themes were chosen for their ability to reflect and support ISKO's goal of providing:
a programme for the improvement of classification methods and processes, [and] a forum for discussion for all those interested in the organization of knowledge on a universal or a subject field scale, using concept-analytical and/or concept-synthetic approaches as well as numerical procedures and comprising also the intellectual and automatic compilation of classification systems and thesauri in all fields of knowledge, with special attention being given to the problems of terminology.

The papers in the Proceedings approach these goals from different, theoretical backgrounds, research methodologies, and practical mandates, but, in addition, all focus on the need for improvements and refinements in knowledge organization principles and practices in the effort to fulfill the conflicting desiderata for both dynamism and stability.

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