Introduction

This 10th International Conference on Knowledge Organization research has as its theme, *Culture and Identity in Knowledge Organization*. The theme was chosen because of the site of the conference. Culture and identity are a powerful component of life in the Province of Québec. Montréal is synonymous with the concepts of culture and identity. In this city we find the Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec, museums and archives attesting to a history distinct from, though in constant interaction with, the Anglo-dominated conception of North America. Beyond the city we see the power of culture and identity at work in Québec. Nunavik, in the north of this province is working toward Inuit self-governance. Odanak, home of the Abenakis aboriginal people hosts one of Québec’s largest Aboriginal Museums. Thus, as we can see, cultural heritage and the identities to which it attests are part of the fabric of this place. This ethos, in situ here in Montréal, shaped our call for papers.

The papers presented in this volume, responding to our call, span nine themes: models and methods in knowledge organization; multilingual and multicultural environments; knowledge organization for libraries, archives and museums; knowledge organization for information management and retrieval; epistemological foundations of knowledge organization; non-textual materials; discourse communities and knowledge organization; users and social context; systems, tools and evaluation. The theme of the conference is present throughout the papers—many addressing multicultural issues, and issues of culture and identity in scholarly disciplines.

And it is in that vein that I want to comment that the state of research in Knowledge Organization is also about culture and identity. In helping to put this volume together I have grown increasingly aware that we occupy a particular space in the contemporary landscape. There are many communities working on problems of organizing the world’s knowledge, each with their own language; each with its own priorities, values, and ways of working. We within the province of Knowledge Organization are but one culture at work in this landscape of research. We border lands of ontology engineering, enterprise information management, social theory, and personal information management. Some of us even visit these realms to do our work. And while we may have left lands of research in descriptive bibliography, we are fast moving into the territory of folksonomy. Where we go in this *terra semantica* is up to us, but regardless of where we tread, we know we will not tread alone. And how we decide where to venture will be based on our personal and communal conceptions of the identity and culture of Knowledge Organization.

I’d like to conclude by offering thanks to those who helped make this publication possible. Thanks go first to the scholars that contributed excellent papers to this conference. Thanks also go to the reviewers who took time and effort to suggest improvements to the submis-
sions. My thanks join a chorus of thanks from the submitting authors. Finally, sincerest thanks go to Dr. Clément Arsenault of the Université de Montréal. He deftly coordinated the production of these proceedings, set the format, coordinated the indexing with the help of his colleague Michèle Hudon, and sent it all to Ergon. Thanks to all, and I wish you a good conference, as we contemplate the role of culture and identity in Knowledge Organization.

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Seattle, April 30, 2008