HØEDT, Jørgen; TURNER, Robin (Eds.): **'The World of LSP'**. Copenhagen: The LSP Centre, Copenhagen School of Economics. 1981. 223 p. ISBN 87-17-03369-1.

The LSP Centre at the Copenhagen School of Economics was established by UNESCO in order to support its program on Anthropology and Language Science in Educational Development (ALSED). The Centre has attempted to establish a network of institutions engaged in specialized language research and teaching. This volume brings together a listing by country of all these institutions so that, among other purposes, anyone included in the list could more easily enter into correspondence with others sharing a common interest.

While disclaiming any pretension to completeness, the work does list 157 institutions in 38 countries. Each entry contains, in principle, 14 categories of information, divided into two main parts: (1) research, and (2) courses. In addition to the names and addresses of institutions and researchers, the schedule calls for information about current and past research, courses taught, at what level, in what languages, and for what subject fields or areas of specialization. Somewhat disappointingly, many categories in a large portion of the entries have not been filled in – they are left open so that material can be added by hand.

Rather complete details, however, are provided for some important centres. Among these are, of course, the Foreign Language Faculty and Language Department of the Copenhagen School of Economics and Business Administration. Their activities include research on terminology and the maintenance of a terminology bank, plus courses on terminology. Other terminologically oriented programs are described at Laval University in Quebec, Canada (unfortunately quite out of date now); Infoterm and the Wirtschaftsuniversität in Vienna, Austria; the six-language terminology bank (EURODICAUTOM) in Luxembourg, for the European Community; the Tekniska Nomenklaturcentralen (TNC) in Stockholm, Sweden; the Deutsches Institut für Normung (DIN) in Berlin. For the most part, however, the institutions covered in this directory focus their attention on the teaching of particular languages, the preparation of teaching materials, and research into related pedagogical problems, including the analysis of special language texts.

An important distinction may be noted here between the preoccupation reflected in "LSP" contexts with the analysis and teaching of existing special language materials and, by contrast, the concerns that are a focus of attention for those interested in "language planning" and the development of special languages and terminologies in order to meet the needs of authors working in these languages. No doubt the former serves a much larger constituency, but the latter is more directly relevant to the concerns of subscribers to *International Classification.*

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GOR'KOVA, V.I. (Ed.); FID/DT (Committee on Terminology of Information and Documentation): **Essential Problems in Terminology for Informatics and Documentation. Frequency terms lists.**
Moscow: All-Union Institute of Scientific and Technical Information 1982. 212 p. = FID 617

This publication gives the results of an investigation concerning information science terms and their frequencies of occurrence in the subject index of three abstract journals, namely Referativnyj Zhurnal Informatika (1979-1980), Bulletin Signalétique No.101 and Library and Information Science Abstracts (LISA) (1980). The terms found are listed in three rank-oriented arrangements namely (1) the Russian, (2) the French, and (3) the English rank order. Lists (1) and (2) include also the term equivalents in English. In each case the term, frequency number and the rank number is given.

There are 1724 Russian terms ranging from 981 to 1, 646 French terms from 597 to 1 and 964 English terms from 1700 to 1. For each of the three lists also an alphabetical list of terms with their frequencies and ranks is given.

This research was done within the framework of the FID/DT Medium Term Programme with the aim to determine the basic terms in information science and to supply their definitions as well as to produce a trilingual dictionary of terms in Russian, French and English.

In the introduction it is stated that the technical processing was done in the following manner: (1) all vocabulary pieces appearing in the subject indexes, including synonyms, were selected; (2) phrase terms were left intact and recorded as a whole, regarding their integral value, (3) term abbreviations were expanded to their original version, with the abbreviated form added in brackets, (4) proper names were excluded, (5) nonsignificant words, e.g. prepositions, verbs, adjectives, etc. were excluded.

Within the terms listed a certain percentage belongs to the field of classification. I tried to get an idea of how many and which indeed these were and here are my results:

	Russian	*French*	*English*
Altogether	1724	646	964
Classif.& index.terms	319	87	104

In Fig.1 the 10 most frequently occurring terms in each language group are given (for Russian and French by their English equivalents):

It would of course be interesting to reflect on these results, namely regarding the differences and the similarities of the terms, the frequencies and the ranking. However, having looked at all of the terms in our field in these three lists, I must confess that I am deeply puzzled and I cannot imagine how on this basis alone a satisfying list of basic concepts and the selection for a trilingual dictionary could be accomplished.

The rather mechanical and also more or less arbitrary method based on the material of only one-to-two years of an abstract journal does not seem to provide the necessary amount of terms for a study on the concepts of such a field. Besides, are the basic concepts indeed those with the highest occurrence frequency of their terms? What is basic in such a highly occurring term like

RUSSIAN	*Frequency*	*Rank*
information retrieval languages	171	40
terminology	157	42
indexing	135	50
classification systems	127	53
classifications	124	57
terminological science	106	73
terms	94	88
indexes	90	97
concepts	78	110
epistemology	64	133
FRENCH	*Frequency*	*Rank*
classification	177	25
thesaurus	127	33
indexing	124	36
terminology	114	41
coding	61	88
index	61	89
natural language	37	135
document analysis	32	150
filing	32	151
automatic indexing	30	169
ENGLISH	*Frequency*	*Rank*
subject indexing	1453	3
computerized subject indexing	382	15
post-coordinate subject indexing	300	18
coordinate indexing	200	25
classification	81	56
classification schemes	67	62
classification schemes (general)	53	81
alphabetical subject indexing	41	103
thesauri	33	124
terms	19	169

Fig.1: The 10 most frequently occurring classification terms of the FID/DT MTP-Project.

"computerized subject indexing"? In the case of LISA one may perhaps have used the postings of the classification scheme which stem of course already from a controlled language whereas the Russian and the French terms seem more genuinely to refer to the text of the titles and abstracts.

If this FID/DT project should lead to reasonable results I would recommend (1) to enlarge the basis for the selection of the terms to cover more years before and after 1980, and (2) to make sure that the index terms are taken from the titles and abstracts but not from a controlled list (classification scheme or thesaurus).

But all of this is a term-oriented and not a concept oriented procedure. What we need to know are the concepts used in our differing cultures. In order to comply with the latter necessity we would have to use a totally different approach, namely the classificatory one. Why not translate into Russian, French and perhaps also German, Spanish, Portuguese and other languages the elaborate classification system by R.Daniel and J.Mills of the British Library Association "A classification of library and information science", London 1975? Such a basis of concepts could perhaps be augmented by those listed in the 14 languages Dictionary of Informatics Terms published by the International Center for Scientific and Technical Information in Moscow 1975 as well as by those that were developed after its completion in the last 8 years. This approach would perhaps even be less time-consuming but much more rewarding and surely more fruitful - in my opinion.

Ingetraut Dahlberg

Letter to the Editor

Sir,

It is a well-known fact in our profession that we – librarians – are opinionated and stubborn. Everybody of us tries to develop an own system which possibly would bear his name after his death.

Our past boss used to say having been asked why he introduced a particularist classification to our Library: "It is not particularist. If everybody will accept it, it will become a universal one."

For generations enthusiasts strove for general acceptance of universal classification schemes such as Dewey or UDC. Their attempt seemed rewarded to some point by adopting by the publishers of the "Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data" and later on of the "British Library Cataloguing (!) in Publication Data", both using Dewey Decimal Classification and Library of Congress Classification.

As genuine librarians the colleagues of the British Library do not use the Library of Congress Cataloging Cards integrally but made changes:

- *they do not use the Cutter numbers derived from the author's name;*
- *they changed the rank order of author's name and title;*
- *they double the work of the Library of Congress classifiers by making their own Dewey and Library of Congress codes.*

It becomes obvious when in some books both cataloging cards are printed (Appendix).

It is clear that some co-ordination and control (also by publishers) would be of advantage.

Yours truly,
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