

participants from the indexing department of the Deutsche Bibliothek consider that indexing with simplified PRECIS is easier ('einfacher') than indexing with full PRECIS", reflects the political background of the project rather than the facts. In the first place, no basis for such a comparison existed, since the project workers had very limited experience with full PRECIS, while the volunteers from the DB indexing department had received no exposure at all. Secondly (and writing as a checker for a major part of the indexing produced during the project), I feel it is worth noting that indexing took longer and became less consistent as a result of the "simplification". The error rate also rose, and the great majority of these errors could be traced directly and without difficulty to the so-called "simplification" measures.

References

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Jutta Austin

Mrs. Jutta Austin
146 Bramley Road, Southgate
London N 14 4HU, England

SERRAI, Alfredo: Dai "loci communes" alla bibliometria. Roma: Bulzoni 1984. 237 p.

The fundamental problems concerning the theory of cataloging, the Bibliography as a discipline and bibliometric studies as well, are examined in four essays, published now for the first time, by Alfredo Serrai. The first two essays deal with problems concerning semantic cataloging: the longer one, devoted to *I luoghi topici* – followed by an Appendix by Maria Cochetti, in which are gathered all the editions of *loci communes* issued in the 16^o and 17^o century – analyzes the connection between dialectic-rhetoric *loci communes* and others *loci* used as indexes and information retrieval tools. The research is conducted in both the philosophical (from Aristotle, Cicero and Ramus to Descartes, F. Bacon and the logic of Port-Royal) and the bibliographical – literary fields. Dealing with the problem of the transformation of rhetoric *loci communes* into topics and subjects, the essays shows that *loci communes* in the literary field were used both as recurrent items of the literary and poetic tradition, and as headings to arrange the materials in systematic anthologies. The essay points out also how *loci communes* took on a great importance in the teaching field: according to Erasmus, they were coincident with the maxims and the aphorisms of the favourite authors, that were used for religious and ethical purposes; on the other hand, according to the tradition initiated by Melancthon, *loci communes* symbolized the fundamental topics of the theories or the sciences analyzed. However, it was by Gesner and before him by Pellikan that *loci communes* really took on the function of semantic indexes. In

fact Gesner, although the third part of the *Bibliotheca universalis* was never issued concerning the arrangement by *loci communes* of the materials of the previous two parts (and that Serrai already analyzed in *I loci communes nell'opera bibliografica di Gesner*, "Annali della Scuola Speciale per Archivisti e Bibliothecari dell' Università di Roma", XIV, 1974 (1978), p. 5–21) nevertheless gave us a complete evidence of the function of indexes that *loci communes* took on.

An interesting fact is that *loci communes*, i.e. the fundamental topics of the research in the culture of the 13^o century, formed also the semantic structure used by R. Grosseteste – franciscan philosopher and bishop of Lincoln – to index the works that he read; this semantic structure is examined in the second essay: *La catalogazione semantica di Roberto Grossatesta*. Contained in a manuscript of the Bibliothèque de la Ville at Lyon, the Grosseteste's *Tabula* (four pages of symbols and their meanings used by the philosopher to catalog the works and to retrieve easily topics of interest from them) according to Serrai was a real subject catalog. The semantic structure was classified into nine groups, each concerning semantically associated topics; but it did not allow to understand each single symbol without considering the whole group, and therefore it was not easy to constitute and to consult such a catalog: that was a real shortcoming. In spite of these deficiencies, the Grosseteste's example shows once more that the level of a culture is in some positive relation to the level of construction and of use of the indexes.

The third essay – *Bibliografia e catalogazione: unicum suum* – discussing the problems related to Bibliography as a discipline, Serrai accepts the systematization of Bibliography made up by F. Bowers, but suggests to include cataloging in the field of Bibliography. The question is aroused especially in the discussion of the difference between bibliographical description and library cataloging: according to G.T. Tanselle, the difference is based on the fact that Bibliography is devoted to describe the "ideal copy" of an edition, whereas the cataloger limits himself to describe a "particular copy". Serrai points out that the cataloger makes up a description that starts from a particular copy but is not valid only for the specific copy that he is handling. The difference established by Tanselle between Bibliography and Cataloging is not satisfactory, because cataloging does not use such constellation of data as would be essential to distinguish a concrete copy from another one. According to Serrai, the fundamental difference between the bibliographical description and library cataloging is of a strictly logical nature, depends ultimately on the number of data used in the description. The descriptions aforesaid are different owing to the different degree of depth and accuracy of the data selected and scheduled, therefore there is a connection between the nature of the description and the totality of of the examples that a description can be applied to. This corresponds to what R. Du Rietz explained by the concept of "bibliotype".

The last essay, on *La validità delle distribuzioni bibliometriche*, analyzes the validity of the statistical approach, and in particular the validity of the study of bibliometric distributions, as the Bradford's law. Bibliometric distributions, instead of being predictive or usable

for decision making with regard to the acquisitions in the library, can give information about the fact that all the cases in which a bibliometric approach can be used, must be the result of stochastic processes involving homogeneous elements. Therefore, the study of bibliometric distributions allows us to get, for instance, a better awareness of the structure of semantic fields. The topics (an Appendix explains the real nature of the topics, as well as of "constellations" and "galaxies" of topics) forming the semantic fields will be arranged according to Pareto's law if the field is homogeneous. Bradford's law can be used to identify the semantic fields resulting from the research of the topics, and therefore to know the degree of the semantic compactness of many possible semantic fields. The evaluation of a library collection can be performed (as showed by Price using Lotka's law) arranging and listing the books with regard to a specific topic; it will be an easy arrangement if homogeneous collections are concerned. Serrai, instead, extends that evaluation to a general collection too, i.e. a fusion of many particular collections: a linearly table shows how the usefulness of a collection does not increase with the number of the books.

Maria Teresa Biagetti

University degli Studi di Roma. Scuola Spec.
per Archivistici e Bibliotecari, Roma, Italia.

RONDEAU, G.: *Introduction à la terminologie*. (Introduction to terminology) Québec, CA: Gaetan Morin Editeur 2nd ed. 1984. 238 p., ISBN 2-89105-137-8

In Canada, considerable attention has been paid to practical work in the field of terminology and related theoretical questions since the beginning of the 1970s; the study of terminology in Canada has, in the meantime, gained an excellent reputation internationally. This remarkable development was initiated by the decision of the Canadian parliament to grant French – the native language of 6 million Canadians – full equality everywhere with English. In the efforts to remove the manifold handicaps which French previously had to face, especially in the business sector, the systematic development of French terminology and its spread deserve an important role. For that reason, the universities of the Frenchspeaking province of Québec in particular have introduced the study of terminology in their curriculums. Guy Rondeau teaches this still very young discipline as a professor in the Department of Languages and Linguistics at the Université Laval in Québec.

After discussing the basic concepts of terminology in chapter 1, the author goes into detail in chapter 2 on the relationship between terminology and documentation. He understands "documentation" on the one hand to be such works as deal with the theory and methodology of terminology, and on the other hand to be the actual terminology sources. The most important schools of terminology are presented in a vivid comparison; at the same time the specific characteristics of the young Franco-Canadian school are brought out in detail. An attempt is also made at developing (for the

most part) objective criteria for qualitatively judging terminological sources.

Chapter 3 deals with the methods of terminologists which the author clearly distinguishes from those of lexicographers – in particular with reference to the standardizing character of terminology. He differentiates clearly between terminology work relative to individual terms (terminologie ponctuelle) and relative to a group of terms connected by meaning (terminologie thématique). This chapter devotes considerable attention to the problem of separating terms from syntactical groups and paraphrases ("découpage"), a problem rooted in the structure of French. The material in the first three chapters is supplemented by a detailed appendix with excerpts from fundamental works on terminology.

In chapter 4, the theoretical basis for terminological standardization is presented, as well as the structures and methods of the practical work of standardization nationally and internationally. The following discussion of the socio-linguistic problems associated with terminological standardization forms a link with the preface by Jean-Claude Corbeil, "Aménagement linguistique et développement" (pp. IV–XXXIV); in this article – which I highly recommend – Corbeil investigates how the Canadian experience can be made useful for the terminological extension of the languages of developing countries.

Chapter 5 deals – from the French point of view – with the complex problems of terminological neologisms ("néonymes"), a phenomenon in which French linguists have been particularly interested for a long time.

The next and final chapter, despite its brevity, provides a clear and easily understandable introduction into how terminological data banks work. In this connection, however, the question of classifying according to subject is only touched upon, although important strides had already been made in this field. The last part of this chapter is very informative, characterizing a number of important terminological data banks in various countries clearly and concisely, and comparing them with each other.

This book has arisen from the concrete situation in Canada and addresses – at least first of all – Franco-Canadian readers. For that reason, its focus is placed on the standardizing character of terminology; and it deals mainly with monolingual, namely French, terminology, although methodological questions of multilingual terminology are treated as well, of course; of particular interest here are the French terminological neologisms. Just as understandable is the fact that terminologists and terminology theoreticians who – as is frequently the case in Europe – are primarily interested in the needs of multilingual lexicography or of translation, place more emphasis on bilingual and multilingual comparative terminology than on the methods of terminological standardization. Therefore in textbooks which have arisen from this type of situation, questions dealing with the comparative systematization of concepts take on a more important role.

However, a more concrete treatment of the manifold problems which arise when systematizing concepts would also have been helpful for readers of this book who are primarily monolingually oriented, as problems such as synonymy or concept overlapping also have to