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## FID/CR News 32

### FID/CR Ranganathan Award for Classification Research

It is with great pleasure that FID/CR announces that Professor A. NEELAMEGHAN, of the Documentation Research and Training Center (DRTC), Indian Statistical Institute, Bangalore, India has been chosen to receive the FID/CR Ranganathan Award for Classification Research 1992. Professor NEELAMEGHAN, who is presently teaching at the School of Information Studies for Africa, Addis Ababa University, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, has been chosen for his distinguished contributions to classification research and publications over the past several years. He is the 5th recipient of the Award and joins an eminent group of classification researchers, including Derek AUSTIN, Jean AITCHISON, Jack MILLS, Pauline COCHRANE, previous recipients of the Award.

Professor NEELAMEGHAN's most recent research is described in the following papers:

- *Concept categorization and knowledge organization in specialized databases: A case study.* In: *Int.Classif.*18(1991)No.2, p.92-97

- *Application of Ranganathan's General Theory of Classification in designing specialized databases.* In: *Libri* 42(1992)No.3, p.202-226

- *Ranganathan's generalised model of subject-structure and modes of formation of subjects.* In: *Cognitive Paradigms in Knowledge Organisation. Second International ISKO Conference, Madras 26-28 Aug.1992.* Bangalore: Sarada Ranganathan Endowment for Library Science 1992. p.269-285

- *Application of S.R.Ranganathan's postulates and principles of the General Theory of Classification to database design and information retrieval.* Paper presented at the Meeting of the Section on Classification and Indexing, IFLA Conference, Sept.2, 1992.

The Award will be presented at the First Joint FID/CR-ISKO Meeting, Oct. 20, Madrid, in conjunction with the 46th Conference and Congress of FID. In choosing Professor NEELAMEGHAN, the Award's Subcommittee felt it very appropriate that in the Centenary Year of Ranganathan's birth the Award should be given to a distinguished Indian librarian and classification researcher who was a former student of Ranganathan.

This Award, normally presented every two years established by the DRTC in 1974 is administered by FID/CR. It is being revived now after 6 years during which no award was made. It is intended that the Award be reinstated on a regular basis and a Subcommittee, whose members are: Ingetraut DAHLBERG (Germany), M.A. GOPINATH (India, representing DRTC), Ia McILWAINE (United Kingdom), Elaine SVENONIUS (United States) and Nancy WILLIAMSON (Canada) will be working over the next two years and soliciting suggestions for a recipient for the 1994 award.

### ISCCR'91 Proceedings

*Classification Research for Knowledge Representation and Organization: Proceedings of the 5th International Study Conference on Classification Research*, edited by Nancy J. Williamson and Michele Hudon, was published in June 1992 by Elsevier Science Publishers. Conference participants' copies and pre-publication orders will be mailed to those individuals from FID in The Hague. Requests for review copies should be sent to the Chair of FID/CR at the Faculty of Library and Information Science, University of Toronto, 140 St.George Street, Toronto, M5S 1A1, Canada.

### Universal Decimal Classification

The administrative and management operations of UDC have been restructured under a Consortium and work on revision is proceeding under the new structure. A new French Medium Edition of UDC has recently been published.

A research project has been developed to consider the possibilities for restructuring UDC for an improved organization of topics and sub-topics and enhanced flexibility. A new "Guide to the Use of UDC", prepared by I.C. McILWAINE, is nearing completion. It will be published by FID and it is expected that it will be suitable for translation from English into other languages.

### IFLA 58th Conference

IFLA celebrated the centenary of Ranganathan's birth and paid special tribute to the distinguished Indian librarian at its 58th Annual Conference, held in New Delhi, Aug.29-Sept.5, 1992. FID/CR member, Professor Eric de GROLIER presented the keynote address of the conference on "*Ranganathan's Heritage and Library/Information Policy Perspectives*" at the first plenary session following the official opening of the conference. As is typical of Professor de GROLIER, he attacked his subject with thoroughness and vigor, presenting a very comprehensive and analytical overview of S.R.Ranganathan and his contributions to all aspects of library and information science research and practice.

### IFLA Section on Classification and Indexing

As is the Section's custom, its programme for the New Delhi conference included papers from librarians in the host country. Professor A. NEELAMEGHAN's paper on the "*Application of S.R.Ranganathan's Postulates and Principles of the General Theory of Knowledge Classification to Database Design and Information Retrieval*" examined the application of Ranganathan's analytico-synthetic methodology to the structuring of knowledge bases and object-oriented databases and to the organization of concepts in such databases. His paper discussed also the application of this methodology in the design of classification systems and vocabulary control in tools such as thesauri, in structured indexes, in providing browsing assistance to readers, in facet analysis of queries in online retrieval and as a basis for user friendliness in the retrieval interface. His presentation was very comprehen-

sive and all encompassing of the application of Ranganathan's theories and principles to modern information storage and retrieval systems.

A second paper by Dr. M.P. SATIJA, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, India, on "*Classification and Indexing in India: The State of the Art*" described the background for the development of modern classification and indexing in India, through the contributions of Ranganathan and the Colon Classification, the contributions of the Documentation Research and Training Centre (DRTC) since 1962 through the work of such scholars as A. Neelameghan, G. Bhattacharyya and M.A. Gopinath. This was followed by an overview of contributions to subject cataloguing with reference to such systems as POPSI and the Classaurus, to classification terminology and the practice of classification in India as reflected through the use of the Dewey Decimal, Colon, Universal Decimal and Library of Congress Classifications. Contributions to classification through teaching, research, publication and professional conferences were also reviewed. In conclusion, Dr. SATIJA called for emphasis to be placed on the role of classification in databases and national bibliographic networks.

A third presentation at the programme meeting of the Section on Classification and Indexing was a paper by Werner STEPHAN (Germany) on the "*Guidelines for Subject Authority and Reference Entries*". STEPHAN holds the Chair of a Working Group of the Section which has been working since 1988 on the preparation of guidelines for subject authority work to be used as a companion to the "Guidelines for Name Authority and Reference Entries" prepared by the IFLA Section on Cataloguing and published by IFLA several years ago. STEPHAN explained the problems in arriving at consensus on guidelines in the area of subject cataloguing where practices are very diversified internationally. The text of the proposed guidelines had been submitted for world wide review early in 1992 and STEPHAN's presentation evoked much discussion, and numerous questions and suggestions will aid the Working Group in finalizing the text of the Guidelines. The Guidelines are presently being revised as a result of comments from the world wide review and it is expected that the text will be presented for final approval at the 1993 IFLA Conference in Barcelona. If approved they will be published by IFLA shortly thereafter.

During the New Delhi conference, the Section established tentative plans for a Satellite Meeting on "Subject Indexing Principles and Practices in the '90s" to be held in Lisbon, Portugal, prior to the General IFLA Conference in Barcelona. Plans are still tentative, but the meeting is expected to be a two-day meeting. Tentative dates have been established as August 17 and 18, 1993, and attendance will be limited to 50 participants. Featured will be presentations by experts on national subject cataloguing systems from a wide variety of countries throughout the world as well as papers on general problems and issues in subject cataloguing, indexing and retrieval. Chair of the Satellite Meeting will be M. Inez LOPES, Biblioteca Nacional, Lisbon.

## USA: ASIS SIG/CR

At the 55th Annual Meeting, October 26-29, 1992 in Pittsburgh, PA, of the American Society for Information Science, ASIS SIG/CR will hold its 3rd Classification Research Workshop. This Workshop, which has now become an annual event, will be based on refereed papers and will be designed to be an exchange of ideas among active researchers who have an interest in the creation, development, management, representation, display capability, and theory and application of classification schemes. All position papers will be published in the ASIS Proceedings prior to the workshop.

ASIS SIG/CR will also take an active part in the general programmes of the ASIS Annual Meeting where the SIG is responsible for several meetings featuring panels of experts. A panel on "*Classification and Retrieval for Software Reuse*" (with Suzanne HUMPHREY, Ruben PRIETRO-DIAZ, Hanne ALBRECHTSEN, Lynn STREETER, Bill FRAKES) will focus on programmer productivity, reliability of software and cost efficiencies. The session will emphasize various aspects of the topic including experiments in classification and retrieval of software for reuse.

Another panel on "*The Use of Thesauri to support End-User Searching*" (with Raya FIDEL, James ANDERSON, Alexa McCRAY) will explore issues in the use of knowledge structures to support and user searching.

A programme on "*Frames in Support of Information Retrieval*" (with Rebecca GREEN, Suzanne HUMPHREY, Phil SMITH) will consider frame based systems and their use to promote recall in retrieval through the suggestion of additional indexable concepts to help users locate appropriate search terms. Beginning with an explanation of the structure and processes of frames including several prototype systems, the panel will explore the role which frames can play in navigating between representations of user needs and document representations. A goal of this exploration is to uncover recurrent patterns of correspondence.

In another programme "*Knowledge Management Systems: the Role of Classification Research*" (with Matthew MOORE, William W. NOAH, Dagobert SOERGEL, and Irene TRAVIS) advances on a number of technical fronts, including communications, distributed databases and artificial intelligence, will be considered as a means for aiding organizations in making the flow of knowledge more efficient. The session will bring together classification researchers, organization theorists, software developers and managers to aid in gaining an overall perspective of the problems.

Finally, a programme "*Standards for Information Retrieval Indexes*" (with James ANDERSON, Bella Hass WEINBERG, Raya FIDEL and Marcia BATES) will consider the feasibility of such standards in relations to the work of the NISO Committee to revise the American National Standard Criteria for Indexes.

ASIS SIG/CR publishes *SIG/CR News* which includes a bibliography of "*Selected CR-Related Dissertations*"

