



KNOWLEDGE ORGANIZATION

INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION

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INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL
Devoted to Concept Theory,
Classification, Indexing,
and Knowledge Representation

Special Issue
on
Knowledge Organization
in the Visual Arts

INDEKS Verlag, Frankfurt
ISSN 0943 - 7444 Knowl.Org.
Vol. 20 (1993) No. 1

<https://doi.org/10.577/0943-7444-1993-1-1>

Generiert durch IP '18.190.176.253', am 27.07.2024, 08:38:12.

Das Erstellen und Weitergeben von Kopien dieses PDFs ist nicht zulässig.

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KNOWLEDGE ORGANIZATION

Devoted to Concept Theory, Classification, Indexing, and Knowledge Representation

The journal is the organ of the INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KNOWLEDGE ORGANIZATION (General Secretariat: Woogstr. 36a, D-6000 Frankfurt 50)

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UDC 025.4+168+001.4(05)

KNOWLEDGE ORGANIZATION

Devoted to Concept Theory, Systematic Terminology, and Organization of Knowledge

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Editorial Office: c/o Dr.I.Dahlberg, Woogstr. 36a, D-6000 Frankfurt 50. Tel.069-52 36 90, FAX: 069-52 05 66

Issue frequency: 4x/ann. *Annual subscription rates:* Institutions per volume DM 97.-, Individuals per volume 20% less, if directly ordered from INDEKS Verlag. Single issues: DM 28.- Back issues available, ask for special offer. Subscription included in membership fee for members of the International Society for Knowledge Organization (ISKO). MwSt (domestic only) and postage are not included; for Air Mail delivery an additional DM 4.- per issue is required.

Advertising rates: Advertising rate card No.3. Advertising fact sheet with details of mechanical requirements and closing date available upon request.

Publisher: INDEKS Verlag, Woogstr.36a, D-6000 Frankfurt 50, Tel.069-52 36 90; FAX 069-52 05 66.

Bank Account Nos: INDEKS Verlag, Postgiro-Konto Frankfurt No.151208-608 (Bl.Z 500 100 60). Frankfurter Sparkasse No. 852082 (BLZ 500 502 01)

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Vol.20(1993)No.1

Bower, J.M.: Vocabulary control and the virtual database.

Knowl.Org. 20(1993)No.1, p.4-7, 21 refs.

Efforts to build "virtual museums" have focussed predominantly on solving problems of rapidly changing interface technology. Insufficient effort has been spent on planning for the "virtual databases" on which these multimedia environments depend, particularly from the viewpoint of scholarly research. The Getty Art History Information Program has developed vocabularies that encourage consistency among scholarly documentation projects — regardless of their technical implementations — through terminology standards. Two vocabularies intended for control of terminology at the point of data capture are described, and scenarios are proposed for their further utility in navigating the complex databases that underlie the virtual museum.

(Author)

Brandhorst, J.P.J.: Quantifiability in iconography.

Knowl.Org. 20(1993)No.1, p.12-19, 11 refs.

It has rarely been seen as a task for art history to give systematic, consistent and detailed access to the subject matter of large numbers of historical images. This lack of systematic documentation severely handicaps all historical research that involves the interpretation of iconographic detail. It leaves us unable to count the frequency with which subjects have been represented, or with which iconographic particularities occur. This article asks whether the use of the iconographic classification system ICONCLASS will help to create countable iconographic information. Its first part deals with the considerations that have guided the shape of the computer edition that has recently been made available. These may be relevant for the electronic publication of classification systems in general. In the second part a few statements about gestures are analyzed against the background of an existing corpus of systematically described images. This analysis draws attention to the paradox that iconographic detail often plays a key role in art historical discourse, but must do so on the basis of incidental information.

(Author)

Grund, A.: ICONCLASS. On subject analysis of iconographic representations of works of art.

Knowl.Org. 20(1993)No.1, p.20-29, 32 refs.

The special classification system ICONCLASS, created by Henry van de Waal for the description of occidental art, is considered against the background of art-historical iconography. By means of a number of examples the structure and use of ICONCLASS and its importance for art-historical documentation are illustrated.

(Author)

Molholt, P., Petersen, T.: The role of the Art and Architecture Thesaurus in communicating about visual art.

Knowl.Org. 20(1993)No.1, p.30-34, 4 refs.

The paper addresses the ways in which computerization and a thesaurus like the Art and Architecture Thesaurus (AAT) influence the organization, description, and understanding of the visual arts. It discusses these issues from the point of view of the AAT and considers how its structure and content serve as a bridging mechanism between the many different manifestations of the visual arts and the different types of organizations serving the viewers of art, whether as students, scholars, collections managers, or the enjoying public. This paper shows how a knowledge base like the AAT helps this variety of users develop approaches to the visual arts and suggests that the special nature of dealing with image rather than text influences how the thesaurus is structured and applied.

(Authors)

Nauta, G.J.: HYPERICONICS: Hypertext and the social construction of information about the history of artistic notions.

Knowl.Org. 20(1993)No.1, p.35-46, 24 refs.

Some 25 years ago the Leiden art historian Van de Waal, inventor of ICONCLASS, developed an 'icon knowledge system' called Beeldleer. After a brief review of this system the author does borrow some central ideas of Beeldleer to discuss a method of studying historically the elementary means of artistic expression with the use of hypertext concepts. The potential of a social construction of information in this field is being emphasized. Finally the design of a pilot study in an educational context will be discussed.

(Author)

Veltman, K.H.: Electronic Media and Visual Knowledge.

Knowl.Org. 20(1993)No.1, p.47-54, 7 refs.

The real challenge of today lies in exploring how computers will enable us to do what was not possible previously. The paper attempts to provoke thought about new frontiers of visual knowledge organization. Computers introduce the possibility of interchangeable media. They offer multiple nodes of access to a given term or object. They enable us to approach knowledge on different levels. A scheme of 10 levels is proposed and some consequences for visual knowledge at each of these levels is considered briefly. The final section of the paper considers four navigational tools: questions, maps, meters, and tracking.

(Author)

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Scope

The more scientific data are generated in the impetuous present times, the more ordering energy needs to be expended to control these data in a retrievable fashion. With the abundance of knowledge now available the questions of new solutions to the ordering problem and thus of improved classification systems, methods and procedures have acquired unforeseen significance. For many years now they have been in the focus of interest of information scientists the world over. Until recently, the special literature relevant to classification was published in piecemeal fashion, scattered over the numerous technical journals serving the experts of the various fields, such as

philosophy and science of science
 science policy and science organization
 mathematics, statistics, and computer science
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 archivistics and museology
 journalism and communication science
 industrial products and commodity science
 terminology, lexicography and linguistics

Beginning 1974, KNOWLEDGE ORGANIZATION (formerly INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION) has been serving as a common platform for the discussion of both theoretical background questions and practical application problems in many areas of concern. In each issue experts from many countries comment on questions of an adequate structuring and construction of ordering systems and on the problems of their use in opening the information contents of new literature, of data collections and survey, of tabular works and of other objects of scientific interest.

Their contributions have been concerned with

- (1) clarifying the theoretical foundations (general ordering theory, science theoretical bases of classification, data analysis and reduction)
- (2) describing practical operations connected with numerical taxonomy/classification, as well as applications of classification systems and thesauri, manual and machine indexing
- (3) tracing the history of classification knowledge and methodology
- (4) discussing questions of education and training in classification
- (5) concerning themselves with the problems of terminology in general and with respect to special fields.

Instructions for Authors

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Criteria for acceptance will be appropriateness to the field of the journal (see Scope and Aims) taking into account the merit of the content and its presentation. Papers are accepted with the understanding that they have not been published, submitted or accepted for publication elsewhere and that, if the work received official sponsorship, it has been duly released for publication. Authors will usually be notified within 6 to 10 weeks. Unless specifically requested, manuscripts or illustrations will not be returned.

The text of the contributions should be structured by subheadings; it should contain (a) an introduction, stating the purpose, (b) a description of materials and methods in sufficient detail, (c) information on results or systems developed, and (d) a conclusion on and/or summarization.

References should be listed at the end of the paper with the numbers in brackets referring to such numbers in brackets within the text part.

Additional notes should be indicated in the text by lifted single numbers behind a word and equally collected with their texts at the end of the paper under the heading *Notes*.

Journal References should contain the names and initials of all authors, full titles of the publication, abbreviation of the journal

Aims

Thus, KNOWLEDGE ORGANIZATION is meant to be a programme for the improvement of classification methods and processes, 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-synthetical approaches as well as numerical procedures and comprising also the intellectual and automatic compilation and use of classification systems and thesauri in all fields of knowledge, with special attention being given to the problems of terminology.

KNOWLEDGE ORGANIZATION publishes original articles, reports on conferences and similar communications, the Newsletters of the International Society for Knowledge Organization (ISKO News) and the Committee on Classification Research of the International Federation for Information and Documentation (FID/CR News) as well as book reviews, letters to the editor, and an extensive annotated bibliography of recent classification and indexing literature, covering now some 500 items in each issue.

KNOWLEDGE ORGANIZATION should therefore be available at every university and research library of every country, at every information center, at colleges and schools of library and information science, in the hands of everybody interested in the fields mentioned above and thus also at every office for updating information on any topic related to the problems of order in our information-flooded times.

KNOWLEDGE ORGANIZATION was founded in 1973 by an international group of scholars with a consulting board of editors representing the world's regions, the special classification fields, and the subject areas involved. From 1974-1980 IC was published by K.G.Saur Verlag, München. Back issues of 1978-1990 are available from INDEKS Verlag, too. (The 10 volumes of 1978-1987 are offered now at the highly reduced price of DM 350.-).

As of 1989, KNOWLEDGE ORGANIZATION has become the official organ of the INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KNOWLEDGE ORGANIZATION (ISKO) and is included for every ISKO-member, personal or institutional in the membership fee (DM 60.-/DMI20.-).

Rates: From 1990 on for 4 issues/ann. (including indexes) DM 97.- + postage (DM 6.-). For air mail delivery add DM 4.- per issue. Membership rates see above. - INDEKS Verlag, Woogstr.36a, D-6000 Frankfurt 50.

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Examples: Brandhorst, J.P.J.: Quantifiability in iconography. Knowl.Org. 20(1993)No.1, p.12-19, 11 refs.

Hunter, E.J.: Classification made simple. Aldershot, GB: Gower 1988. 115p.

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