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Lykeion – a New Forum for Transdisciplinary Concept Sharing and Definition.

On January 27, 1997, the *Danish Standards Association* held a seminar in *Copenhagen*, for a number of carefully selected participants working in different disciplines and institutions with experience and interest in knowledge organization and transdisciplinary communication and domain interaction. The topic of the seminar was common problems with the 'Babylonian' confusion or anarchy in the conceptions and definitions of metaconcepts in concept systems. The idea was to discuss the feasibility and possibility of coherence in concept systems, with a view to their functions as a basis for information systems. A Danish member of *ISKO*, Ms. Lise BORUP, did a tremendous job of coordinating the seminar and editing a comprehensive background paper.

The participants represented a truly interdisciplinary forum of the most experienced people in the fields of *linguistics, librarianship and classification, information technology, industrial informatics, construction and infrastructural informatics, statistics and medical informatics,* including the areas of *quality and environmental management systems.* The seminar was arranged according to an initiative taken by the *Danish Agency for Development of Trade and Industry,* under the Danish Ministry for Business and Industry. Standardization was found to be the ideal framework for discussing the unconventional idea. In addition, the Danish Standards Association was found to be an ideal forum for practical guidance and follow-up of discussions.

The background paper for the seminar outlined the state-of-the-art and provided statements and examples of the confusion in concept definitions in various fields and domains. The background paper was supplemented with a list of ca. 180 international standards in various fields having a basic terminological character. In addition, the participants received a *Proposition of a Framework in Concept Theory,* based on the *10 Aristotelian categories.* There were sufficient topics and substance for raising questions and discussions at the seminar.

The conclusions and recommendations from the seminar were a true sign of hope and good will to support a more interdisciplinary approach to concept sharing and definition for the design of metaconcept systems. An interdisciplinary forum was founded to continue the work that was started at the seminar, and it will draw up a programme for future work. The name of the forum is *Lykeion,* which is supposed to be the place of *Aristotle*'s school in *Greece.* Actually, on the same day, the Danish newspapers reported that some archaeologists in Athens thought they had found *Lykeion.* So, the participants in the seminar took that event as a hint for the name of the new forum for knowledge organization and interdisciplinary concept definition.

Further information on *Lykeion* and the seminar can be obtained from the *Danish Standards Association, Kollegievej 6, DK-2920 Charlottenlund, Denmark. Contact person: Mr. Klaus Soendergaard. Phone: +45 39 966101. Fax: +45 39 966102.*

307th Meeting: Classification Research Group

The meeting was held on Friday, 6 December 1996 at University College London with five members present. Mr. MILLS presented an 8-page outline of Class DG (earth sciences) in the Bliss Classification (BC2). The paper incorporated a number of changes that had been discussed by the group in February and July. The agenda for the next meeting, to be held on 21 February 1997, included the functions and form of the A/Z index to a classification, with special reference to the BC2 indexes, to their computerized production and to the potential use of BC2 and it's A/Z indexes as an aid to retrieval in computerized systems. Mr. COATES will lead the discussion. Subsequent 1997 meetings of the group were scheduled to be 25 April, 11 July, 10 October, and 5 December.

1997 Meeting of the Classification Society of North America (CSNA), 12-15 June 1997, Washington, DC

Sessions tentatively scheduled include DNA fingerprinting, public health applications, remote sensing, numerical taxonomy, and marketing.
Contact web site: http://www.pitt.edv/~csna/

14th National Conference on Artificial Intelligence: 27-31 July 1997, Providence, Rhode Island, USA

This annual conference of the American Association Society for Artificial Intelligence (AAAI) will cover a variety of AI applications. Contact AAAI-97, 445 Burgess Drive, Menlo Park, CA 94025-3496 USA; Web site: http://www.aaai.org