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FID/CR activities: International Study Conference

Preparations for the 6th International Study Conference on Classification Research, to be held at University College London, June 16-18, 1997, are now in the final stages. A goodly number of interesting papers have been accepted for presentation and it promises to be a stimulating and productive conference. For further registration and other information, please contact: Kerstin Michaels, Office Manager, School of Library, Archive and Information Studies, University College London, Gower Street, London, UK WC1E 6BT (tel: +44-171-380 7204; fax: +44-171-383 0557; email: o.manager@ucl.ac.uk)

UDC

Major activities for the year 1996 are described in the annual "Report of the UDC Editor in Chief" (Dr. I.C. McIlwaine) that appears in *Extensions and Corrections to the UDC* published by the UDC Consortium in November 1996. The following is excerpted from the full report. In her report, the Editor indicates that the work on overhauling the Medicine schedule is proceeding well and has generated interest within the medical profession in the UK. Discussions are currently underway to investigate the feasibility of using the revised scheme as the basis for organizing information for the use of General Practitioners within the Health Service of the United Kingdom. With respect to other aspects of UDC revision, she comments on the slow progress in the work on some classes, for example Astronomy. In part, this can be attributed to the problem of finding people willing to participate in the work. This is a general problem and the Editor appeals to UDC users to consider any way in which they can assist. Co-operative efforts have been used with success in revising the Vertebrates class and the Editorial Board welcomes more of this kind of participation by users of the scheme in the work of revision. The updated Table of Special Subdivisions for class 7 is described and there are plans for a similar revision to bring together the special auxiliaries in class 3 across several disciplines, especially Demography and Sociology. It is hoped that the revision

of the class 3 Table of Special Subdivisions will be published in the 1997 issue of *Extensions and Corrections*. Class 53, Physics, is cited as a class which needs urgent attention. Unfortunately, a 1993 revision of this class had to be withdrawn for a number of reasons, including difficulties arising from changes of ownership and revision procedures.

The previous version has been temporarily reinstated until a more acceptable revision can be prepared. In this context, the Editor makes a plea for assistance as follows: "Libraries who have made their own in-house changes to 53, to 621.3 Electrical and Electronic Engineering and to Nuclear Science and Technology are urgently asked to consider submitting their revisions to the UDC Consortium with a view to incorporating them in future revisions of the scheme." While these particular sections of the schedules are top priorities, she further indicates that this request is not limited to these classes and the Consortium is anxious to receive similar in-house versions of other classes to be considered in the light of future revisions. The report also cites a number of upcoming conferences which will be of interest to UDC users – these include a half-day workshop on UDC to be organized by the Editor for the 1998 IFLA Conference in Amsterdam. Persons wishing to make contributions to the workshop should contact the editor as soon as possible. Other forthcoming conferences of interest are the 6th ISKO General Conference to be held in the Netherlands just prior to the 1998 IFLA Conference and the 6th FID International Study Conference on Classification Research to be held at University College London June 16th-18th 1997.

In addition to the report of the Editor in Chief, *Extensions and Corrections to the UDC, November 1996 (E&C)* contains a number of articles on UDC as well as revised UDC tables. Articles included are as follows: An article by K. Loth entitled "Überlegungen zu einer computergerechten Reorganisation der UDK" which describes a trilingual (German, French and English) information retrieval system based on UDC and run by the libraries of the ETH in Zurich and the EPF in Lausanne; a progress report on the "Restructuring of Class 61 - Medical Sciences", by I.C. McIlwaine and N.J. Williamson which includes

tentative 61 schedules for Anatomy and Physiology, Curative Medicine, Diseases and Pathology and the Urogenital system.; "Towards a Revision of Class 51 - Mathematics", describing the current situation and calling for comments and suggestions (**Matthew Phillips**, Christ Church Library, Oxford, OX1 1DP, UK; email: matthew.phillips@christ-church.ox.ac.uk); "In-erational Exchange Languages: the Case of the Universal Decimal Classification", by **Michele Santoro**; and "Activities of the ISTEI in the Field of the UDC", by **F. Scibor**, an article on the work of the Institute for Scientific, Technical and Economic Information, the publisher of UDC in Poland. Also included in this edition of *E&C* is a list of "Recent Publications" including the most recent UDC editions and other publications on UDC and UDC-related topics. "Revised UDC Tables" include: a concordance of cancellations and recent amendments to the previously published revised schedules for Class 004 - Computer Science, the reinstated schedule for Class 531/534 Mechanics and the revised schedules for Class 566/569 + 596/599 Vertebrates.

Classification Research Group

The CRG held its 304th, 305th and 306th meetings on April 26th, July 12th and October 18th, 1996 respectively. As its major focus of current interest, CRG continues to discuss the development of, and revisions to, the *Bliss Bibliographic Classification*, second edition (BC2). At its April meeting, Editor, **Jack Mills** presented for consideration the outlines for the three separate fields which will make up volume 2 of BC2 - Class 2 Generalia; Class 3 Phenomena; and Classes 4/9 Prologomena to a general bibliographic classification. The purpose of the outlines was to consolidate the findings of various previous discussions so that the content and structure of the whole volume would be more or less finalized, thus bringing it into line with all the other as yet unpublished classes. The Generalia class presented few problems, whereas the phenomena and prologomena classes provided the bases for most of the discussion. At the July meeting a 10 page outline of BC2 Class DG Earth Science was considered. Topics discussed with respect to DG were: the enumeration of dependent processes under special parts; the process of "Deformation" (Class DJG) which is the central process of Geology; the problem of dependency and overlap between processes and structures; and the hierarchy of parts in the main facet. Tectonics and large scale structures and their place in the sequence were also debated and the difficulty of finding a satisfactory definition discussed. The culmination of the discussion was the suggestion that despite all the problems implied in earlier considerations, it might be simpler in the long run and in

accord with standard citation order and the inverted schedule to opt for a complete separation of the processes and structures facets. However, it was noted that in the case of Geomorphology this could result in some unsatisfactory separations. At the October meeting the principal topic for discussion was the Physics Class of BC2. At the July meeting attention was also drawn to an article by Steven Steinberg in *Wired* (May 1996) on the need for organizing information in the Internet. It was noted that the article makes justifiable criticisms of the library profession's addiction to 19th century models, but it displays almost complete unawareness of the developments in classification since 1945, thus giving little recognition to the work of the CRG and the importance of facet analysis in modern information retrieval systems.

ASIS SIG/CR

The ASIS Special Interest Group on Classification Research participated actively in the 59th ASIS Annual Meeting held in Baltimore Maryland, October 21-24, 1996. Prior to the main ASIS meeting SIG/CR held the 7th ASIS SIG/CR Classification Research Workshop. During the main ASIS Meeting a programme on indexing and abstracting was held and SIG/CR co-sponsored a number of programmes with other ASIS SIGs. The *Proceedings of the 59th ASIS Annual Meeting* contains the papers from the Indexing and Abstracting session and abstracts for the SIG co-sponsored programmes. A working copy of the Workshop papers was provided for the participants at the time of the Workshop and these papers will be published shortly under the title *Advances in Classification Research*, volume 7.

SIG/CR Workshop

During the one-day Workshop, eight papers on a variety of topics related to classification research were presented. **Eileen Abels**, University of Maryland, spoke on "Classifying the Questions of Small Business Owners: A Top-Down & Bottom-Up Approach". She described a project in which a classification scheme for business information was developed through question analysis of a set of business requests posed by small business entrepreneurs in the state of Maryland. Using online databases, searches were performed within the context of "a real-world contractual setting" while respecting "market standards of timeliness, quality and overall professionalism". Types of requests used included: literature on a given topic, lists of companies with their addresses, vendors of projects, patent and trademark information and identification of experts. Data were drawn from requests received over a period of a year. Existing classification schemes were examined and deemed to be unsatisfac-