

Contents

Special Section:

Papers from the 5th ISKO Italy Meeting, Venice, 2011

Maria Teresa Chiaravalloti, Erika Pasceri,
Maria Taverniti.
URT “Indexing and Classification Systems”
Projects and Biomedical Knowledge Standards..... 3

Roberto Raieli.
The Semantic Hole: Enthusiasm and Caution
Around MultiMedia Information Retrieval..... 13

Carlo Bianchini.
Colon Classification and *Nuovo Soggettario*:
The Case of the Library of the Natural History
Museum of Udine, Italy..... 23

Forum: Philosophy of Classification

Alberto Marradi.
The Concept of Concept: Concepts and Terms29

Classification Issues in 2011. Report

Nancy J. Williamson.
International UDC Seminar 2011, The Hague55

Brief Communication

Mohinder Partap Satija.
Enhancing the Subject Headings Minting Capacity
of the Sears List of Subject Headings:
Some Suggestions.....60

Index to Volume 3864

Contents pages

Chiaravalloti, Maria Teresa, Pasceri, Erika, Taverniti, Maria. **URT “Indexing and Classification Systems” Projects and Biomedical Knowledge Standards.** *Knowledge Organization*, 39(1), 3-12. 6 references.

ABSTRACT: This paper presents an overview of the activities of the “Unità di Ricerca presso Terzi” (URT) – “Indexing and classification systems” of the National Research Council (CNR), which deals with research in organization and document management systems, indexing, classification, knowledge, and content management. Particular attention will be focused on the project of the Electronic Health Record Technological Infrastructure (INFSE), in which the URT works on the definition of ontological models, and vocabularies supporting EHR with the aim to build an updated Italian version of a unified medical reporting language. Although current Italian legislation makes mandatory the use of internationally recognized classification systems to help interoperability and exchange of information, the current structure of those systems does not allow their full use in the Italian context. For all these reasons, it is necessary to make some adaptations in the International Classification of Disease 9th Revision terminology, used for diagnosis encoding, and in the Logical Observation Names and Codes, used for encoding laboratory observations.

Raieli, Roberto. **The Semantic Hole: Enthusiasm and Caution Around MultiMedia Information Retrieval.** *Knowledge Organization*, 39(1), 13-22. 8 references.

ABSTRACT: This paper centres on the tools for the management of new digital documents, which are not only textual, but also visual—video, audio or multimedia in the full sense. Among the aims is to demonstrate that operating within the terms of generic Information Retrieval through textual language only is limiting, and it is instead necessary to consider ampler criteria, such as those of MultiMedia Information Retrieval, according to which, every type of digital document can be analyzed and searched by the proper elements of language for its proper nature. MMIR is presented as the organic complex of the systems of Text Retrieval, Visual Retrieval, Video Retrieval, and Audio Retrieval, each of which has an approach to information management that handles the concrete textual, visual, audio, or video content of the documents directly, here defined as

content-based. In conclusion, the limits of this content-based objective access to documents is underlined. The discrepancy known as the semantic gap is that which occurs between semantic-interpretive access and content-based access. Finally, the integration of these conceptions is explained, gathering and composing the merits and the advantages of each of the approaches and of the systems to access to information.

Bianchini, Carlo. **Colon Classification and Nuovo Soggettario: The Case of the Library of the Natural History Museum of Udine, Italy.** *Knowledge Organization*, 39(1), 23-28. 10 references.

ABSTRACT: The paper presents the results of five years of application of *Colon Classification* (CC), 6. ed., in the Library of the Natural History Museum of Udine, Italy. Research confirms that CC still presents those positive characteristics that gave fame to it. The paper compares CC and the *Dewey Decimal Classification* by means of a special indicator (resolution power), and it shows how the use of CC could greatly help Italian cataloguers using *Nuovo Soggettario*, the new thesaurus developed and used at the Biblioteca Centrale Nazionale di Firenze, where *Bibliografia Nazionale Italiana* is also produced. Use of CC6 during these five years demonstrated that a faceted classification offers great advantages in organizing documents in a modern library, even if CC is surely in need of updating and revision.

Marradi, Alberto. **The Concept of Concept: Concepts and Terms.** *Knowledge Organization*, 39(1), 29-54. 221 references.

ABSTRACT: The concept of concept has seldom been examined in its entirety, and the term very seldom defined. The rigidity, or lack thereof, and the homogeneity, or lack thereof, of concepts, are only two of their characteristics that have been debated. These issues are reviewed in this paper, namely: 1) does a concept represent its referent(s), or is it a free creation of the mind?; 2) can a concept be analyzed in parts or elements?; 3) must a concept be general, i.e., refer to a category or a type, or can it refer to a single object, physical or mental?; 4) are concepts as clearly delimited as terms are? Are concepts voiceless terms?; and, 5) what do

terms contribute to an individual's and a community's conceptual richness? As regards the relationship of concepts with their referents in the stage of formation, it seems reasonable to conclude that said relationship may be close in some concepts, less close in others, and lacking altogether in some cases. The set of elements of a concept, which varies from individual to individual and across time inside the same individual, is called the intension of a concept. The set of referents of a concept is called the extension of that concept. Most concepts don't have a clearly delimited extension: their referents form a fuzzy set. The aspects of a concept's intension form a scale of generality. A concept is not equal to the term that describes it; rather, many terms are joined to concepts. Language, therefore, renders a gamut of services to the development, consolidation, and communication of conceptual richness.

Satija, Mohinder Partap. **Enhancing the Subject Headings Minting Capacity of the Sears List of Subject Headings: Some Suggestions.** *Knowledge Organization*, 38(1), 60-63. 2 references.

ABSTRACT: *Sears List of Subject Headings* (Miller and McCarthy 2010), first published in 1923, is now in its 20th edition. Like most subject headings lists, apart from being a list of preferred (and non-preferred) headings, it also pro-

vides patterns, clear instructions, and examples for coining new subject headings not explicitly listed. Key headings form a vital part of the system of coining new headings. It is proposed that more key headings should be designated. Some candidate headings are described. One far-reaching provision seems to be the use of a subdivision of a preferred heading with all of its NTs. Thus, every preferred heading is a potential key heading for all of its NTs. This proposal works on the principle that what is true of a class is true of its narrower classes of all types. Applying this principle will enormously enhance the capacity of the *List* without adding even an iota to its text and size.