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Special Issue:

**Subject Ontogeny and Knowledge Organization
System Change,
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Reviews

Interdisciplinary Knowledge Organization by Rick Szostak,
Claudio Gnoli, and María López-Huertas. Cham:
Springer, 2016, 227p. ISBN 978-3-319-30147-1.
US\$129; 114,99 €; £86.00663

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Contents pages

Tennis, Joseph T. 2016. "Methodological Challenges in Scheme Versioning and Subject Ontogeny Research." *Knowledge Organization* 43(8): 573-580. 53 references.

Abstract: This paper describes the philosophical and operational challenges to methodology in subject ontogeny research. The observation that indexing languages, comprising thesauri, classification schemes, taxonomies, and ontologies change over time has been a concern of the first order. The need to question the methods and aims of subject ontogeny and scheme change are second order work requiring ontological and epistemic assumptions. Operational concerns for the study of scheme change and subject ontogeny are species of one two-sided issue: isolation quantification. While some foundational issues make the study of the topic difficult, there may be some helpful techniques including phenomenology.

Fox, Melodie J. "Subjects in Doubt: The Ontogeny of Intersex in the *Dewey Decimal Classification*." *Knowledge Organization* 43(8): 581-593. 31 references.

Abstract: A concept that has experienced significant change in the *Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC)* is "intersex people," historically known as hermaphrodites or the condition of hermaphroditism. The classification of the concept of intersex has changed in 14 out of the 23 editions of the *DDC*; it has changed in every edition since the twelfth. It has had its own class, been completely removed, re-added, and removed again. It has been moved around, made more specific, made more general, and become a facet. Why has this particular concept experienced so much change, and what does this mean to our libraries' collocative integrity? Why is the understanding of the concept so unstable? Is it the domain itself or the interference and dissonance of popular with scientific understandings? This piece specifically investigates the ontogeny of the concept of intersex/hermaphrodite enriching the discussion by connecting it with epistemic authority and concept theory.

Lee, Wan-Chen. 2016. "An Exploratory Study of the Subject Ontogeny of Eugenics in the *New Classification Scheme for Chinese Libraries* and the *Nippon Decimal Classification*." *Knowledge Organization* 43(8): 594-608. 22 references.

Abstract: This study explores the subject ontogeny of "eugenics" by documenting the class numbers for "eugenics" in all thirteen editions of the *New Classification Scheme for Chinese Libraries (CCL)*, and all fourteen editions of the *Nippon Decimal Classification (NDC)*. The *CCL* and the *NDC* are the major classification schemes used in Taiwan and Japan respectively. We

observe the relative stability and concentration of class numbers assigned to "eugenics" in the *CCL* and the *NDC* comparing to *DDC* (Tennis 2012), and the semantic changes of class numbers over time. Using two union catalogs, Taiwan's National Bibliographic Information Network (NBINet) and Japan's National Diet Library (NDL) Search, we retrieve bibliographic records with "eugenics" (優生學 and 優生学) as subject heading. We compare the class numbers extracted from the bibliographic records and the numbers assigned in the schemes of corresponding editions. It shows the difference between the theoretical frameworks of the schemes and the catalogers' applications. This study highlights the temporal aspect of classification schemes and how it may influence the organization and retrieval of information. It also sheds light on some limitations of current catalogs.

Higgins, Molly. 2016. "Totally invisible: Asian American representation in the *Dewey Decimal Classification, 1876-1996*." *Knowledge Organization* 43(8): 609-621. 24 references.

Abstract: The term "Asian American" emerged on college campuses in the 1960s to replace the term "Oriental." It was a political term, chosen by students to gather people from different ethnic communities under one pan-ethnic banner. We examine the representation of Asian American materials in the first twenty-one editions of the *Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC)* and discusses the findings in relation to the history of the term "Asian American." We aim to 1) relate existing literature on bias and knowledge organization to Asian American studies and critical race theories including the possessive investment in whiteness and racial formation; 2) compare the history of the term "Asian American" as a self-identifying term to the evolution of the term in *DDC*; and 3) lay a historical foundation from which to consider the treatment of the term "Asian American" in the contemporary *DDC* and by extension other modern knowledge organization systems.

Lauruhn, Michael and Paul Groth. 2016. "Sources of Change for Modern Knowledge Organization Systems." *Knowledge Organization* 43(8): 622-629. 27 references.

Abstract: Knowledge organization systems (KOSs, e.g., taxonomies and ontologies) continue to contribute benefits in the design of information systems by providing a shared conceptual underpinning for developers, users, and automated systems. However, the standard mechanisms for the management of KOS changes are inadequate for systems built on top of thousands of data sources or with the involvement of hundreds of individuals. In this work, we review standard sources of change

for KOSs such as institutional shifts, standards cycles, cultural and political changes, distribution, etc., and then proceed to catalog new sources of change for KOSs ranging from massively cooperative development to always-on automated extraction systems. Finally, we reflect on what this means for the design and management of KOSs.

Adler, Melissa. 2016. "The Case for Taxonomic Reparations." *Knowledge Organization* 43(8): 630-640. 53 references.

Abstract: Critical histories of subjects and classifications have unearthed the spatial-temporal situatedness of knowledge organization structures and terminologies. Coming to terms with the cultural foundations upon which our knowledge organizations are built and the ways they change and stay the same means that we also confront difficult truths about epistemic and systemic violence. This paper brings KO scholars into dialogue with critical race theorists, indigenous studies scholars, and queer theorists around conversations about reparations and reparative reading practices. It argues that historical studies that expose processes of exclusion and marginalization reveal the need and possibilities for creating reparative taxonomies. The paper identifies specific cases, including #BlackLivesMatter, indigenous subject headings and classifications, and the Digital Transgender Archive as models for taxonomic reparations.

Scharnhorst, Andrea, Richard P. Smiraglia, Christophe Guéret and Alkim Almila Akdag Salah. 2016. "Knowledge Maps of the UDC: Uses and Use Cases." *Knowledge Organization* 43(8): 641-654. 27 references.

Abstract: Insight into the depth and breadth of knowledge for use in and across disciplines is of vital importance. Our knowledge maps are visualizations based on empirical evidence about both collection characteristics and knowledge clusters such as disciplines. We report in this paper on collaborative efforts over several years, combining the resources of the Knowledge Space Lab and the Research and Innovation Group at DANS. In particular, we were interested in the narrative of how knowledge and knowledge systems change over time. Knowledge organization systems are evolving complex systems. Their analysis, both concerning inner structure, evolution over time, and their implementation in information spaces is important to better understand how knowledge is produced and can be navigated through.

Martínez-Ávila, Daniel. 2016. BISAC: Book Industry Standards and Communications. *Knowledge Organization* 43(8): 655-662. 32 references.

Abstract: The BISAC Subject Headings List is a standard used to categorize books in the book industry of the United States. Since the second half of the 2000s, several public libraries in the United States have experimented with BISAC as an alternative classification system to the *Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC)*. The system has been used by Google Books and other electronic platforms. This article reviews its main characteristics, structure and display, development and revision process, epistemology and approach to KO, use in libraries, and future.