

Contents

**Special Issue: “A Festschrift for Hope A. Olson,”
Guest Editor Thomas Walker**

Articles

Birger Hjørland.
The Paradox of Atheoretical Classification..... 313

Jens-Erik Mai.
Marginalization and Exclusion:
Unraveling Systemic Bias in Classification..... 324

Dietmar Wolfram.
The Power to Influence:
An Informetric Analysis of
the Works of Hope Olson 331

José Augusto Chaves Guimarães, Fabio Assis Pinho
and Suellen Oliveira Milani.
Theoretical Dialogs About Ethical Issues
in Knowledge Organization:
García Gutiérrez, Hudon, Beghtol, and Olson..... 338

Richard P. Smiraglia.
Empirical Methods for Knowledge Evolution
across Knowledge Organization Systems 351

Daniel Martínez-Ávila and Jihee Beak.
Methods, Theoretical Frameworks and Hope
for Knowledge Organization.....358

Barbara H. Kwaśnik.
The Web and the Pyramid:
Hope Olson’s Vision of Connectedness
in a World of Hierarchies.....367

Melodie J. Fox.
“Priorities of Arrangement” or
a “Hierarchy of Oppressions?”:
Perspectives on Intersectionality
in Knowledge Organization.....373

Feature

Susan Gold Smith.
OBSERVATIONES IN: For Hope.....384

Contents pages

Hjørland, Birger. 2016. "The Paradox of Atheoretical Classification." *Knowledge Organization* 43: 313-323. 68 references.

Abstract: A distinction can be made between "artificial classifications" and "natural classifications," where artificial classifications may adequately serve some limited purposes, but natural classifications are overall most fruitful by allowing inference and thus many different purposes. There is strong support for the view that a natural classification should be based on a theory (and, of course, that the most fruitful theory provides the most fruitful classification). Nevertheless, atheoretical (or "descriptive") classifications are often produced. Paradoxically, atheoretical classifications may be very successful. The best example of a successful "atheoretical" classification is probably the prestigious *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM)* since its third edition from 1980. Based on such successes one may ask: Should the claim that classifications ideally are natural and theory-based be reconsidered? This paper argues that the seemingly success of atheoretical classifications hides deeper problems and that the ideal of theory-based classification should be maintained.

Mai, Jens-Erik. 2016. "Marginalization and Exclusion: Unraveling Systemic Bias in Classification." *Knowledge Organization* 43: 324-330. 25 references.

Abstract: This paper explores the knowledge organization landscape in which Hope Olson's numerous contributions to the field are situated. The paper first explores some of the foundational conceptual notions within knowledge organization that today are well accepted. The paper then reviews Hope Olson's contributions to that landscape and places her work in the context of Borges' essay about John Wilkins' project to develop a universal language that would organize and contain all human thought. The paper shows how Hope Olson's work on marginalization and exclusion of specific topics and groups of people in large library classification has unraveled the systemic bias found in all classifications. The paper calls for stronger engagement between scholarship and practice to address marginalization and exclusion in further work on classification systems.

Wolfram, Dietmar. 2016. "The Power to Influence: An Informetric Analysis of the Works of Hope Olson." *Knowledge Organization* 43: 331-337. 12 references.

Abstract: This paper examines the influence of the works of Hope A. Olson by conducting an ego-centric informetric analysis of her published works. Publication and citation data were collected from Google Scholar and the Thomson Reuters Web

of Science. Classic informetrics techniques were applied to the datasets including co-authorship analysis, citer analysis, citation and co-citation analysis and text-based analysis. Co-citation and text-based data were analyzed and visualized using VOSviewer and CiteSpace, respectively. The analysis of her citation identity reveals how Dr. Olson situates her own research within the knowledge landscape while the analysis of her citation image reveals how others have situated her work in relation to the authors with whom she has been co-cited. This reflection of Dr. Olson's research contributions reveals the influence of her scholarship not only on knowledge organization but other areas of library and information science and allied disciplines.

Guimarães, José Augusto Chaves, Fabio Assis Pinho and Suellen Oliveira Milani. 2016. "Theoretical Dialogs About Ethical Issues in Knowledge Organization: García Gutiérrez, Hudon, Beghtol, and Olson." *Knowledge Organization* 43: 338-350. 82 references.

Abstract: Considering the need for a constant questioning on the role of the information professional, more specifically with respect to the ethical aspects of their practice, this study discusses how information science has been addressing over the past decades the ethical aspects inherent to the field of knowledge organization. In this context, we discuss the concepts of interactive epistemography and transcultural ethics of mediation by Antonio García Gutiérrez, multilingualism in knowledge representation by Michèle Hudon, cultural hospitality by Clare Beghtol and the power to name by Hope Olson, in their aspects of convergence, complementarity and dialogicity.

Smiraglia, Richard P. 2016. "Empirical Methods for Knowledge Evolution across Knowledge Organization Systems." *Knowledge Organization* 43: 351-357. 28 references.

Abstract: Knowledge organization systems, including classifications, can be evaluated and explained by reference to what is called concept theory, attributing to concepts atomic status as basic elements. There are two ways to test knowledge organization systems; both are means of measuring the efficacy of concept theory in specific situations. These are: 1) analyze how well a system represents its warranted concepts; and, 2) analyze how well individual knowledge organization systems are populated with classified target objects. This paper is an attempt to bring together examples from ongoing research to demonstrate the use of empirical approaches to understanding the evolution of knowledge across time as it is represented in knowledge organization systems. The potential for using knowledge organization as a roadmap for the world of knowledge is revealed in the ca-

pability of knowledge organization systems to serve as roadmaps and data-mining tools for the knowledge landscape.

Martínez-Ávila, Daniel and Jihee Beak. 2016. “Methods, Theoretical Frameworks and Hope for Knowledge Organization.” *Knowledge Organization* 43: 358-366. 41 references.

Abstract: This paper analyzes the epistemic stances and research methods and techniques of the thirty-three journal articles that Hope Olson published during the period 1991-2015. For the analysis of the epistemic stances, we use Hjørland’s classification of epistemological stances (namely rationalism, empiricism, historicism, and pragmatism), and for the classification of methodologies and methods we use the taxonomy used by Beak et al., loosely based on the consulted literature. Results of the analysis are presented and discussed in the context of the poststructuralist stance adopted by Hope Olson throughout her career. We highlight the impact of the innovative research methods and techniques and poststructuralist theoretical frameworks that Hope Olson introduced and used in knowledge organization.

Kwaśnik, Barbara H. 2016. “The Web and the Pyramid: Hope Olson’s Vision of Connectedness in a World of Hierarchies.” *Knowledge Organization* 43: 367-372. 2 references.

Abstract: Hope Olson’s mission is to analyze our traditional knowledge-representation systems from the point of view of those whose voices are not well reflected. Her focus is not only on the content of these schemes but also, and perhaps especially, on their structures. There is no structure more established than the hierarchy, and yet the hierarchy makes assumptions and imposes rules that have shaped our world view. In her 2007 *Library Trends* article, “How We Construct Subjects: A Feminist Analysis,” she takes apart the the notions behind hierarchies and brings to bear feminist thinking to offer a penetrating critique followed by a careful evaluation of implications. By way of examples she explores several existing schemes: The *Dewey Decimal Classification*, thesauri, and the *Library of Congress Subject Headings* to demonstrate how there do exist ameliorating (non hierarchi-

cal) techniques, but how they do not adequately solve the problem. Having laid out the limitations of our existing tools, both in content and in structure, she suggests rewriting and restructuring our schemes so that the all-important connections are visible—a web instead of a hierarchy. The article, written almost a decade ago, continues to be prophetic of what modern approaches and ways of thinking can achieve. As such, an analysis of the article serves here as a way of explicating Hope’s rich and penetrating intellectual contributions and her critical yet hopeful vision.

Fox, Melodie J. 2016. “‘Priorities of Arrangement’ or a ‘Hierarchy of Oppressions?’: Perspectives on Intersectionality in Knowledge Organization.” *Knowledge Organization* 43: 373-383. 60 references.

Abstract: The hallmark of Hope Olson’s work has been to use a different set of analytical tools to examine our knowledge organization systems from humanistic, feminist, and philosophical angles. These perspectives have led to the uncovering of many instances and types of bias that lead to the marginalization of human groups. An important phenomenon her work has illuminated is intersectionality, a concept that arose from identity studies but has a literal embodiment in knowledge organization environments. Intersectionality describes the transformative, interlocking, and conflicting oppressions that occur when humans belong to more than one identity category. The concept arose with black women (but is not restricted to women) and has since extended to different variables beyond gender and race, such as sexual orientation, national origin, or able-bodiedness. In knowledge organization systems, mutual exclusivity, linearity, and hierarchy prohibit an easy solution for intersectional topics. Topics can be structurally or semantically misrepresented or erased. This article builds upon Olson’s research to provide theoretical context from identity studies, further examples from knowledge organization, and describes some of the proposed methods of managing intersectionality.

Gold Smith, Susan. 2016. “OBSERVATIONES IN: For Hope.” *Knowledge Organization* 43: 384-389. 4 references.