

## Contents

### Editorial

*Richard P. Smiraglia.*  
ISKO 16's Bookshelf: Knowledge Organization on  
the Verge of the Pandemic—An Editorial.....619

### Articles

*Deborah Lee.*  
Reality, Unreality, and Artistic Deception:  
The Ethical Dimensions of the Knowledge  
Organization of Art Documentation.....631

*Isidoro Gil-Leiva, Mariângela Spotti Lopes Fujita,  
Pedro Díaz Ortuño and Daniela Majorie dos Reis.*  
The Abandonment of the Assignment of Subject  
Headings and Classification Codes in University  
Libraries Due to the Massive Emergence of Electronic  
Books .....646

*Brian Dobreski, Jian Qin and Melissa Resnick.*  
Depicting Historical Persons and Identities:  
A Faceted Approach ..... 668

*Maria Luiza de Almeida Campos, Linair Maria Campos  
and Nilson Theobald Barbosa.*  
The Challenges of Semantic Interoperability in  
the Era of eScience on the Web..... 680

### Reviews of Concepts in Knowledge Organization

*Matthew S. Mayernik.*  
Metadata ..... 696

**Seventh Annual “Best Paper in KO Award”  
for Volume 46 (2019) ..... 714**

**Books Recently Published ..... 716**

## Contents pages

Smiraglia, Richard P. 2020. “ISKO 16’s Bookshelf: Knowledge Organization on the Verge of the Pandemic—An Editorial.” *Knowledge Organization* 47(8): 619-630. 11 references. DOI:10.5771/0943-7444-2020-8-619.

**Abstract:** The Sixteenth International Conference on Knowledge Organization was to have been held in Aalborg, Denmark in July 2020. Cancelled due to COVID-19, the proceedings were published online on 4 December 2020 containing 48 full papers, 17 short papers and 14 posters. Informetric analysis of the proceedings reveals the shifting intension and extension of the knowledge organization domain. International participation was extensive as usual. There is a much larger share of empirical and applied technical research, and therefore much less historical or analytical work than before. The shape of the research front continues to revolve around concept theory and domain analysis, but cultural and ethical issues are more prevalent than before, having attained nearly core status. There is new emphasis on concepts around interdisciplinarity and phenomenon-based knowledge organization systems, and facet analytical theory has been extended into new approaches in the linked data environment. There are more journal articles than before. No monographs are highly cited but interdisciplinarity, Wittgenstein, domain analysis and music classification are prominent alongside archival science and ontology construction on the bookshelf for this conference. Among conferences ISKO and its chapters predominate. The discourse represented by the works on ISKO 16’s bookshelf seems to be rooted in classical concept theory. There is some concretization of discourse concerning interoperability and the continued distancing from ideas of single or “universal” knowledge organization systems. There is a recurrence of concepts of warrant buttressing the extension of research into issues of culture and identity.

Lee, Deborah. 2020. “Reality, Unreality and Artistic Deception: The Ethical Dimensions of Knowledge Organization of Art Documentation.” *Knowledge Organization* 47(8): 631-645. 43 references. DOI:10.5771/0943-7444-2020-8-631.

**Abstract:** The ethics of describing and indexing works which have an element of deception is an important topic within the arena of knowledge organization (KO). However, what happens if the unreal element is for artistic purposes and is part of the experience of

the document? The focus of this article is on the KO of art documentation. It considers art documents where unreality and mistruth are part of a document’s creative and artistic purpose. Three examples of exhibition documentation for contemporary art are explored. These illuminate the KO implications of unreal elements in artworks, exhibitions and documents, and the interplay between them. Three models are then presented relating to the KO of unreality. Model one shows how the wishes of the creator are a significant part of ethical KO for art and the ethical KO decisions which result from the performative and experiential aspects of art documentation. Model two illustrates how the placement of the unreality in relation to metadata creation can have a critical impact on ethical decisions in KO. Model three posits unreal-ness as a novel type of information about metadata creation, introducing categories such as motive for the deception. It shows how this original way of contemplating applied ethics in KO is vital for all ethically challenging works. Ultimately, considering the KO ethics of art documentation extends our thinking about how to deal with deception and unreality and adds an important aesthetic-ethical dimension to the corpus of work on KO ethics.

Gil-Leiva, Isidoro, Mariângela Spotti Lopes Fujita, Pedro Díaz Ortuño and Daniela Majorie dos Reis. 2020. “The Abandonment of the Assignment of Subject Headings and Classification Codes in University Libraries due to the Massive Emergence of Electronic Books.” *Knowledge Organization* 47(8): 646-667. 102 references. DOI:10.5771/0943-7444-2020-8-646.

**Abstract:** The massive and unstoppable emergence of electronic books in libraries has altered their organization. This disruptive technology has led to structural changes. Currently, an e-book exists only if its metadata exists. The objective of this article is to analyse the impact that the massive incorporation of electronic books in university library systems is having in the processes of assignment of subject headings and classification codes. We carried out a survey of more than six hundred libraries, which means almost all the university libraries in Portugal, Spain, England, United States, Brazil, Sweden, Norway, Finland and Australia. From the results obtained, it is deduced that: 1) librarians expect e-books to be provided with descriptive metadata related to the subject headings and classification codes; 2) the bibliographic records provided by publishers/providers seem to be improvable; 3) the quality of the

metadata provided by the providers does not seem to be taken into account when selecting publishers for the purchase; 4) the discovery tools are also clearly improvable; 5) it seems that there is no “frustration” or “stress” among librarians about the changes produced in relation to technical processes; and, 6) it does not seem that we are facing a paradigm shift motivated by these issues.

Dobreski, Brian, Jian Qin and Melissa Resnick. 2020. “Depicting Historical Persons and Identities: A Faceted Approach.” *Knowledge Organization* 47(8): 668-679. 22 references. DOI:10.5771/0943-7444-2020-8-668.

**Abstract:** Archives are responsible for presenting historical materials to users while also placing them in context. Historical individuals and their identities pose specific challenges for the archive, including how to negotiate changing cultural perspectives on identity and how to convey and explain contexts to modern audiences. Contemporary subject representation practices in cultural heritage tend to offer a reductivist view of personal identity. Using a collection of visual images of nineteenth and twentieth century sideshow performers, the present work explored a faceted approach to representing personal identity in order to: 1) offer a more holistic view of historical individuals, their identities, and relationships; and 2) help place historical terms and perspectives into context in order to better support user understanding. Utilizing an inductive approach, the researchers developed a framework of seven facets of personal identity. A textual keyword analysis of existing title metadata for images in the collection was implemented in order to identify distinct individuals depicted and any facets associated with them. Finally, collection-based language and closest matches from several controlled vocabularies were used to assign values to the facets for all individuals. The resulting metadata offers a flexible, richer, more holistic analysis of personal identity for these materials, while also exposing some deeper issues concerning identity, performance, and visual imagery. Opportunities exist for further automation and application of this faceted system to other historical collections.

Campos, Maria Luiza de Almeida, Linair Maria Campos and Nilson Theobald Barbosa. 2020. “The Challenges of Semantic Interoperability in the Era of Escience on the Web.” *Knowledge Organization* 47(8): 680-695. 75 references. DOI:10.5771/0943-7444-2020-8-680.

**Abstract:** This article is an exploratory study that intends to present semantic interoperability initiatives in the area of information science and computer science. It discusses these initiatives, focusing on open science and eScience, aiming at pointing out similarities and differences in the methodologies used for an intelligent retrieval of data in heterogeneous environments that do not benefit a universal language. We will illustrate seminal initiatives regarding the compatibility of languages in information science and the alignment and semantic mapping in the area of computer science, emphasizing what they have in common and their differences, showing that those seminal initiatives are still relevant nowadays. In this perspective, we want to bring up discussions about methodologies that supports a kind of “intermediate language” that allows the compatibility of research resources, semantically interconnecting their contents without forcing the use of a single language, but of a switching language, such as a metalanguage that guarantees to keep the differences of each community of speech.

Mayernik, Matthew S. 2020. “Metadata.” *Knowledge Organization* 47(8): 696-713. 133 references. DOI:10.5771/0943-7444-2020-8-696.

**Abstract:** Metadata in various forms pervades our institutions, technologies, and daily lives. Metadata is a distinct focus of academic research and professional practice for many people within the library and information sciences (LIS). This article is an exploration of the concept of “metadata.” It presents a high-level introduction to the topic with analysis of key research problems and practical challenges. The paper discusses varying understandings of what “metadata” means, the origin and evolution of metadata as an important topic within information and data fields, and the central characteristics of that which gets called “metadata.” Metadata can be understood as both process and product and can result from both human effort and computational techniques. Given the central role metadata have in the establishment of knowledge, evidence, and truth, it is necessary for researchers and professionals within LIS to think critically about our metadata practices and systems.