

**ISKO Scientific and Technical Advisory Council**  
Observing knowledge organization scholarship and applications

**Annual Report 2020/2021** (ISKO Annual Meeting 2021-06-16)

**Action items for all ISKO members**

- Visit the new STAC website <https://www.isko.org/stac/> (thanks to Claudio Gnoli)
- Send comments on the new Terms of Reference (on STAC website) to <aida.slavic@udcc.org>
- **STAC is looking for additional members** of STAC and its working groups.  
Consider responding to the Call for Expression of Interest (<https://www.isko.org/stac/interest>)  
The Terms of Reference give a good overview of the criteria for STAC membership.

**Report**

Dagobert Soergel was elected chair in May 2020. Later, Aida Slavic was appointed vice-chair. As of now, STAC has 14 members (see website). All terms end at the ISKO Annual Meeting 2023. Work on reorganizing the Council under the new ISKO charter began in earnest with a meeting on 2021-03-21, followed by several meetings of the full Council and committees (for formulating the Terms of Reference, chair Dagobert Soergel, and Membership, chair Birger Hjørland).

**The major achievements are as follows:**

A	A <b>draft of the Terms of Reference</b> , approved by the ISKO Board of Directors on 2021-04-21 for distribution as draft for comment. The main provisions are:
A1	<b>Change the name to Scientific and Technical Advisory Council</b> to signal that the Council is concerned not only with Knowledge Organization scholarship but also with its applications to improve practice and that it welcomed eminent practitioners as members.
A2	<b>Expand the definition of the scope, as summarized here:</b> In line with ISKO's mission ( <a href="https://www.isko.org/about.html">https://www.isko.org/about.html</a> ), the Council is concerned with the scholarship, theory, principles, and applications of the pervasive subject of Knowledge Organization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• as dealt with in Information Studies, Philosophy, History, the Ontology community, Psychology and Cognitive Science, Linguistics, Computer Science (Data Modeling, AI, ML), Taxonomies (Chemistry, Biology, Medicine, Literary Genres, Museum Objects, etc.) and all kinds of data schemas and formats used in databases and the Web.</li> <li>• applied in, among others, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ libraries, bibliographic information systems, publishing, the Web, archives, museums,</li> <li>○ preserving and providing access to cultural heritage across domains and institutional contexts;</li> <li>○ (digital) humanities, natural language understanding, education, instructional design;</li> <li>○ process modelling (including business processes, production processes, etc.);</li> <li>○ information systems, including health, finance, legal, government, etc.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
A3	Expand the size of STAC to 30 with up to 5 members who are not members of ISKO in order to cover the breadth of expertise needed to cover the scope as defined above.
B	Developed a plan for recruiting new members, casting a wide net.
C	Started developing a work plan including an <i>Annual Review of Knowledge Organization</i> and forming Working Groups on topics such as <i>KO support for social justice movements</i> , <i>KO for learning</i> , <i>KOS standards &amp; ontologies for describing KOS</i> , and <i>KOS visualization</i>

