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Section on Classification and Indexing
Review of activities, 2000-2001

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Aim

The aim of the Section on Classification and Indexing is to act as a forum for users and producers of classification and subject indexing tools. Its terms of reference are to promote standardization and uniform application of classification and subject indexing tools by institutions generating or utilizing bibliographic records; to initiate and promote advice on research in the subject approach to information; and to disseminate research results through open meetings and publications.

Requirements for a Format for Classification Data

The Section has monitored and supported implementation of the recommendations of the Joint Working Group on a Classification Format of the IFLA Sections on Classification and Indexing and Information Technology. The chair is a member of the Working Group and has also attended meetings of the Permanent UNIMARC Committee by invitation. Implementation involves modification of the *USMARC Format for Classification Data* and development of a UNIMARC format for classification data. The work is essentially completed and comments were requested by May 31 2001. It should be approved at the Boston IFLA meeting.

Committee members mailing list

A mailing list for the Committee may used via CLASS@INFOSERV.NLC-BNC.CA

Guidelines for the construction of multi-lingual thesauri

The Committee initiated a project to draft new guidelines for the construction of Multi-lingual thesauri, to replace the current standard which is now over 25 years old. A Working Group has been set up, chaired by Gerhard Riesthuis (University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands) and an e-mail bulletin board has been set up for discussion. The Working Group met at Jerusalem and again in January in Frankfurt. There will be a further meeting at Boston, and work is progressing well.

Working Group on Subject Access of Web Sites and Digital Libraries

A Working Group on Subject Access of Web Sites and Digital Libraries was set up at Bangkok, under the chairmanship of Marcia Zeng. It has established a mailing list as a forum for discussion and will be meeting at Boston.

Satellite Conference

The Section is holding a satellite conference "Subject retrieval in a networked world" at OCLC, Dublin, Ohio immediately preceding the Boston IFLA. This is a joint initiative of the Section with the Section on Information Technology. Thanks are due to OCLC for agreeing to host this meeting and for their sponsorship. Abstracts of papers were solicited and reviewed and twenty-four accepted for presentation at the two day meeting. It is planned to publish the proceedings.

Division project on OPAC displays

Representatives of the Committee attended meetings of the Working Group at the Jerusalem IFLA and at a meeting held in Amsterdam later in 2000. The Section has maintained involvement in this project throughout the past year.

Programme for Boston conference

The Section has a full programme for Boston. For the Open Session the theme is "Education and knowledge organization". Four papers will be presented on the following themes:
Pat OYLER, Professor, Simmons College' Boston, USA."Teaching classification in the 21st century";
Winfried GÖDERT, Professor, Fachhochschule Köln, Germany. "Knowledge organisation and information retrieval in times of change – concepts for education in Germany";
Aida SLAVIÆ, Lecturer, University of Zagreb, Croatia: "Classification in a modern and sustainable LIS curriculum: the case of Croatia";
Dr Filiberto Felípe MARTINEZ ARELLANO, Coordinador del Colegio de Bibliotecologia, Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico: "Issues on the teaching of subject retrieval at Mexican LIS schools"

All papers will be delivered in English.

The Section will also participate in the one day workshop organized by the Division of Bibliographic Control and UBCIM: "Information Exchange in the 21st Century: Formats and standardization".

Section newsletter

The section continues to publish a *Newsletter* for Section members, for members of the Standing Committee and for others interested in classification and indexing. Two issues have been published during the current year. This acts as a channel for imparting information about what is happening at national level and for sharing in the experiences of others. It is also an excellent forum for the discussion of matters of international concern relating to classification and indexing. Contributions are always very welcome. The Editor is Pia Leth, of the Swedish National Library, Stockholm.

Standing committee membership and officers

Membership of the Section at present stands at 103. The new standing committee has 19 members, representing 14 different countries. Ia McIlwaine and Edward Swanson will complete their terms of office as Chair and Secretary respectively at Boston, and elections will be held for both offices.

Co-operative projects

Ia McIlwaine (University College London) and Edward Swanson (Library Consultant) attended the meeting of the Co-ordinating Board of the Division of Bibliographic Control at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, USA in April 2001. Ia McIlwaine attended the November 2000 and March 2001 meetings of the Professional Board, in her capacity as Chair of the Division of Bibliographic Control.

The Section continues to cooperate with other IFLA Sections and Divisions and with the Permanent UNIMARC Committee in various projects and activities.