Classification and Indexing Section
http://www.ifla.org/VII/s29/index.htm

Annual Report 2005-2006

by
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Scope Statement

The Classification and Indexing Section focuses on methods of providing subject access in catalogues, bibliographies, and indexes to documents of all kinds, including electronic documents. It serves as a forum for producers and users of classification and subject indexing tools. It works to facilitate international exchange of information about methods of providing subject access; to promote standardization and uniform application of classification and subject indexing tools; to initiate and promote advice on research in the subject approach to information; and to disseminate research results through open meetings and publications.

Programmes at recent IFLA conferences included papers on subject access resources and applications in South America and Asia. The next programme will focus attention to activities in Africa. A Working Group has developed Guidelines for the Construction of Multilingual Thesauri and a final version is presently been prepared. Another working group is looking at subject access in national bibliographies. The Section also participates in other activities of the Division of Bibliographic Control, such as the FRBR model for subject authority records, which led to a new Working Group of Functional Requirements for Subject Authority Records (FRSAR). The section continues to co-operate with the Cataloguing, Bibliography Sections and UNIMARC and in other IFLA activities related to bibliographic control.

Membership

The section has 112 institutional and individual members from 45 countries.

Standing Committee and officers

The Standing Committee had 21 members from 15 countries during 2005-2006. The following nations are represented: Canada, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Germany, Iceland, Italy, Macedonia, Malaysia, Norway, Portugal, Russia, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United States. There were also five corresponding members. Patrice Landry and

Barbara Tillett are serving as the Chair and Secretary for 2005-2007. Jo-Anne Bélair is the new Information Coordinator (as of August 2006), replacing Maria Witt (2005-2006) and the Newsletter editor is Billie Hackney (as of August 2006, task done jointly by B. Hackney and J-A. Bélair in 2005-2006).

Seoul conference, August 2006

The section's programme entitled "Interoperability of subject access for multilingual and multi-script networked environment, particularly for Asia" was presented at the 2006 Seoul Conference. The program attracted about 110 people. This year's theme on interoperability was a challenging theme and our speakers presented various approaches and current research on the topic in a dynamic and informative manner. One of our scheduled speakers could not attend the conference due to illness (Leena Shah) so Marcia Lei Zeng expanded her presentation on standards for controlled vocabularies. The text of the speakers can be found at:http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla72/Programme2006.htm#23August (session 136)

The papers and presenters were:

1) Gertrude Soonja Lee Koh: Transferring intended messages of subject headings

2) Kyung-Sun Kim: Facet analyses of categories used in Web directories: a comparative study

3) Marcia Lei Zeng: Standards for controlled vocabularies

The Section participated in the Division IV open program, "**Bibliographic Control: current issues and initiatives.**" Marcia Zeng reported of the work of the section in the Division's FRSAR Working Group.

The Section had its Standing Committee meeting in two sessions during the Seoul conference. The sessions were attended by 17 members and observers (5 and 4). Continuing and new working groups reported their activities. Plans for the 2007 and 2008 programs were discussed and the Strategic Plan for 2006-2007 was revised. Working groups had their meetings separately during the conference. The officers participated in the Division's officers' meeting, held in two sessions, during the conference.

Projects and working groups

1. Guidelines for the construction of multi-lingual thesauri
The Working Group last met in Oslo (2005) after which a final draft version of the Guidelines was posted on IFLANET for a worldwide review. The review provided many comments and a final version is now in preparation for completion at the end of 2006. The Guidelines will be posted on IFLANET and will be issued as an IFLA Professional Report in 2006 or in early 2007.

2. A Virtual Clearing-House of Available Subject Access Resources
This Working Group has been discontinued. The group had made little progress over the years and there was the significant question on how the WG could create and maintain a large number of records in an ongoing way. In order to achieve the goal set out, much more human and technical resources would have been needed. The section did not have these resources at its disposal.

3. Guidelines for Subject Access by National Bibliographic Agencies
During the Conference, the Working Group met and decided on a series of tasks to be done during 2006/2007. On the basis of the national bibliographic agencies indexing policies collected, a series of criteria will be established during Fall 2006. These will form the basis of the work that will be done until June 2007. A draft will be produced and discussed at the Durban Conference. The group will work in collaboration with the Bibliography Section WG on Guidelines for Electronic National Bibliographies.

4. Participation in other working groups
The section is also involved in the work of two other WGs. The section is leading the Bibliographic Control Division's working group on Functional Requirements for Subjects Authority Records (FRSAR). The WG is composed of core members as well as an "advisory group" composed of other interested parties.

The Working Group on a Multilingual Dictionary of Cataloguing Terms and Concepts (MulDiCat) led by the Cataloguing Section working group was to have resumed its work in 2006. Unfortunately, it did not, and it is expected that this group will start again in 2007. Jo-Anne Bélair and Leda Bultrini will represent the section on this WG dedicated to building a multilingual thesaurus of cataloguing and subject indexing terms. Their task will be to contribute subject indexing and controlled vocabulary terminology terms.