



Classification and Indexing Section

<http://www.ifla.org/VII/s29/index.htm>

Annual Report 2006-2007

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, Asia and Africa. The programmes dealt with issues such as interoperability of subject access, multilingual subject access and initiatives to involve users in subject access. The next programme in Quebec will focus on expanding multilingual access. A Working Group has developed Guidelines for the Construction of Multilingual Thesauri and a final version has been finalised. 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 105 institutional and individual members from 44 countries.

Standing Committee and officers

The Standing Committee had 21 members from 15 countries during 2006-2007. 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 served as Chair and Secretary for 2005-2007. Patrice Landry was re-elected Chair for 2007-2009 (second term) and Leda Bultrini was elected Secretary. Billie Hackney will assume the tasks of Information Coordinator as well as Newsletter editor.

Durban conference, August 2007

The section's programme entitled "Partners for subject access to bring libraries and users together" was presented at the 2006 Durban Conference. The programme attracted about 200 people. This year's theme on involving users in the subject access work proved to be a very interesting and timely theme. The aspects of Library 2.0, user tagging and user feedback were the principal subjects presented and discussed. The text of the speakers can be found at: <http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla73/Programme2007.htm> (session 157)

The papers and presenters were:

- 1) James M. Turner and Suzanne Mathieu: Audio description text for indexing films
- 2) Jonathan Furner: User tagging of library resources: toward a framework for system evaluation
- 3) Sarah Hayman and Nick Lothian: Taxonomy directed folksonomy: integrating user tagging and controlled vocabularies for Australian educational networks
- 4) L. Sulisty-Basuki: Greater subject access to Dewey Decimal Classification's notation, with special reference to Indonesia's geography, period and language notations.

The Section jointly organised a session with Bibliography and National Libraries entitled "Re-thinking national bibliographies in the digital age" (session 89). A paper prepared by Françoise Bourdon and Patrice Landry entitled "Best practices of indexing in national bibliographies" was presented at this session. Three of our members also gave papers in other sessions: Gordon Dunsire gave a presentation entitled "Landscaping the future for collaborative collection management" (session 125), Dorothy McGarry with Elena Escolano Rodríguez presented a paper in session 145 entitled Consolidated ISBN: a step forward and Barbara Tillett presented a paper entitled "5th International Meeting of Experts for an International Cataloguing Code" in session 145 and a paper entitled "Library of Congress controlled vocabularies, the Virtual International Authority File and their application to the Semantic Web in session" 147.

The Section had its Standing Committee meeting in two sessions during the Seoul conference. The first session was attended by 17 members and 6 observers and the second meeting by 16 members and 5 observers. Continuing working groups reported on their activities. Plans for the 2008 and 2009 programmes were discussed and the Strategic Plan for 2007-2009 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 was prepared in 2006. During the Durban Conference, a small group met to finalise the document. The Guidelines will be issued as an IFLA Professional Report in early 2008.

2. 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 2007/2008. The WG discussed the key elements (criteria) taken from

various indexing policies of national bibliographic agencies. The elements were organised in a working model according to three categories: Policy (strategic aspects), Description (presentation of indexing tools) and Explanation (application of indexing tools). During the year, the model will be validated and each of the categories and its content will be defined. This will form the basis of the work that will be done until June 2008. A draft will be produced and discussed at the Quebec Conference. The group will continue working in collaboration with the Bibliography Section WG on Guidelines for Electronic National Bibliographies.

3. Participation in other working groups

The section is also involved in the work of 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.