



Classification and Indexing Section

Annual Report 2004-2005

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 Europe and South America. Future programmes will include attention to activities in Europe, Asia, and Africa. A Working Group has developed Guidelines for the Construction of Multilingual Thesauri and released it for a world-wide review. Other Working Groups are continuing their work in establishing a Virtual Clearinghouse for Subject Access Resources that are used world wide and the Guidelines for Subject Access by National Bibliographic Agencies. The Section also participates in other activities of the Division of Bibliographic Control, such as FRBR model to 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, and Information Technology Sections and UNIMARC and to participate in other IFLA activities related to bibliographic control.

Membership

The section has 115 institution and individual members from 44 countries (as of October 2004).

Standing Committee and officers

The Standing Committee had 20 members from 14 countries during 2004-2005. The following nations are represented: Canada, Czech, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Italy, Macedonia, Portugal, Russia, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United States. There were also five corresponding members. Marcia Lei Zeng and Barbara Tillett were the Chair and Secretary for 2003-2005. The Information Coordinator and Newsletter editor was Patrice Landry. Eight committee members finished their terms at the Oslo Conference and nine new members joined the Committee. They are from France, USA, Germany, Malaysia, Estonia, Norway, Portugal, and Sweden. The new committee elected Patrice Landry and Barbara Tillett to serve as the Chair and Secretary for 2005-2007. Maria Witt became new Information Coordinator of the Section. Billie Hackney and Jo-Anne Bélair are section newsletter editors.

Oslo conference, August 2005

A programme jointly organized the Cataloguing Section, entitled “**Cataloguing and Subject Tools for Global Access: International Partnerships**” was presented at the 2005 Oslo Conference. The program attracted about 200 people. Simultaneous translations were provided for all IFLA languages. The Classification and Indexing Section’s part focused on subject tools such as classifications and subject headings. This year our speakers were from Czech Republic, Switzerland, Germany, Canada, and France. Their presentations covered many more than the countries they came from. The experiences of collaborative projects involving Slovakia, Slovenia, Croatia, Macedonia, Lithuania, Latvia, Austria, Germany, Switzerland, Canada, and France brought us to the most exciting approaches to global subject access.

The papers and presenters are:

- 1) Maria Balikova: Multilingual Subject Access to Catalogues of National Libraries (MSAC): Czech Republic’s collaborations with Slovakia, Slovenia, Croatia, Macedonia, Lithuania and Latvia;
- 2) Patrice Landry and Magda Heiner-Freiling: The use of the Dewey Decimal Classification for the organisation of national bibliographies: the German language approach proposed by Austria, Germany and Switzerland; and
- 3) Jo-Anne Bélair and Françoise Bourdon: The Répertoire de vedettes-matière and RAMEAU : two indexing languages in French : a necessary luxury.

After the presentations, a panel discussion was monitored by Gunilla Jonsson, Chair of Cataloguing Section on the principles and strategies from different aspects, such as access and sharing of subject and name authority data as well as authority work in the archival context. Marcia Zeng talked about Sharing and Use of Subject Authority Data at the panel.

The Section participated in the Division IV open program **Bibliographic Control: current issues and initiatives**. Marcia Zeng reported recent activities of the

Classification and Indexing section and Division's new FRSAR Working Group activities.

The Section had its Standing Committee meeting in two sessions during the Oslo conference. The meeting was attended by 20 members and many observers (11 and 9). Continuing and new working groups reported their activities. Plans for the 2006 and 2007 programs were discussed. The Strategic Plan for 2005-2007 was revised. Working groups had their meetings separately. Committee members also participated in the Division IV Social Hour activity where they met committee members from other sections in Division IV. 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 met in Oslo after the meetings in Buenos Aires (2004), Berlin (2003), Glasgow (2002), and Amsterdam (2002). A decision was made to publish the Guidelines for the Construction of Multilingual Thesauri by early 2006. A final draft version of the Guidelines was posted on IFLANET for a worldwide review and received great feedback within two months. The Working Group has been chaired by Gerhard Riesthuis. Professor Ia McIlwaine are working on the final English version based on the comments received.

2. A Virtual Clearing-House of Available Subject Access Resources

The Working Group was established during the Berlin Conference to create a virtual clearing-house of available subject access tools. The WG, chaired by **David Miller**, had met online frequently and in person during the conferences. Members of the WG have prepared sample annotations of about 20 subject access tools. For the coming year, the WG plans to focus on identifying subject access resources, which are either used by national libraries or used on the national level. Examples of the latter would be in national union catalogues, or national bibliographies not maintained by a national library. In a second tier, the effort will be to include other important resources. Subgroups to deal with specific issues or regions of the world was formed at the Oslo Conference.

3. Guidelines for Subject Access by National Bibliographic Agencies

This Working Group was established at the Berlin Conference in 2003 and re-launched at 2005 Oslo Conference. This WG is chaired by **Patrice Landry**. The tasks are identified as to: collect and study the indexing policies and practice of the national bibliographic agencies, analyze data, and draft guidelines. It is expected that the WG will issue the Guidelines in 2007

4. Division Working Group on Functional Requirements for Subject Authority Records (FRSAR)

The Classification and Indexing Section is taking the lead role for the new Division-level Working Group FRSAR. Marcia Zeng, Maya Zumer, and Athena Salaba are in charge of the WG which has eight members. An Advisory Group of six members was also formed in 2005. The terms of the references of this WG are: to build a conceptual model of Group 3 entities within the FRBR framework as they relate to the aboutness of works; to provide a clearly defined, structured frame of reference for relating the data that are

recorded in subject authority records to the needs of the users of those records; and to assist in an assessment of the potential for international sharing and use of subject authority data both within the library sector and beyond. The chairs met several times before and during the FRBR Dublin Workshop “FRBR in 21st Century Catalogues: An Invitational Workshop” in May 2005 and presented at the Workshop. The WG and AG met at Oslo Conference and decided to start examining the definitions related to Group 3 entities and investigating how real users use subject authority data. Two subgroups were formed.

5. Cross-Section Working Group on MulDiCat.

This is a Working Group on Multilingual Dictionary of Cataloguing Terms and Concepts, established by the Cataloguing Section in 2002. Jo-Anne Bélair and Leda Bultrini will coordinate the involvement of Classification & Indexing members and volunteers.

Section newsletter

The section continues to publish a Newsletter for Section members, members of the Standing Committee and 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 the national level and for sharing the experiences of others. Countries that have reported activities of classification and subject indexing resources during recent years include Canada, Czech, Estonia, France, Germany, Iceland, Italy, Macedonia, Norway, Romania, Russia, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, and the United States. The newsletter is also an excellent forum for the discussion of matters of international concern relating to classification and indexing. Contributions are always very welcome.

Future conferences

Seoul, 2006

A programme for the 2006 IFLA Conference was discussed at 2004 and 2005 conferences. It is planned that the programme will focus on “Subject access for multilingual and multi-script networked environments” or “Subject access for networked resources.” Possible speakers and topics from Asian countries were considered. A call for paper was planned to be sent in October 2005.

Durban, 2007

A programme for the 2007 IFLA Conference was also discussed during the committee meetings. A theme was proposed for building partnerships for subject access to bring libraries and users together.

Relationships with other Bodies

The Section continues to cooperate with other IFLA Sections and Divisions and with the Permanent UNIMARC Committee in various projects and activities. Barbara Tillett, secretary of the Classification and Indexing Section and chair of Division IV, serves as the chair of the planning committee for the series of cataloguing experts on an International Cataloguing Code (IME ICCs). She is also the liaison to the UBCIM

Working Group on FRANAR. Barbara Tillett also continues to participate in the FRBR review group.

