
Nancy J. Williamson & Clae Beghtol Eds. *Knowledge Organization and Classification in International Information Retrieval*. Binghamton, NY: Haworth Information Press, 2004. 244 pp. ISBN 0-7890-2355-5 (soft, \$ 29.95), 0-7890-2354-7 (hard, \$ 49.95) Published simultaneously as *Cataloging & Classification Quarterly*, vol. 37, nos. 1/2

The blurb contains an impressive load of praise from known academics. It is a collection of 14 papers written by authors from six countries, amongst which Canada clearly dominates with six contributions (this being the editors' own background). The aim is to address major themes for internationalized information and knowledge, and it does this in four sections.

The first section, *General Bibliographic Systems*, comprises four papers on the role of general and special classification systems in the contexts of interoperability (regarding subject representation) and worldwide access; the adaption of the DDC for use in a feminist issues context; the difficulties of translating classifications from a source language and culture to another language and culture; and with multilingual access to information contained in bibliographical databases through multilingual descriptors mapped to UDC numbers. The second section, *Information Organization in Knowledge Resources*, also has four papers on the weaknesses of library subject access systems in an international Web context; access to education-related resources in Web subject trees and virtual libraries; text and data mining techniques in knowledge organisation and discovery; and approaches to knowledge discovery in non-bibliographic databases. The third section, *Linguistics, Terminology, and Natural Language Processing*, covers applications of human language technology for information access and dissemination across language boundaries; the impact of different language varieties on lexical knowledge patterns; and a "gateway" to cross-domain knowledge repositories using a set of common terms taken from nine different metadata schemes. The last section carries the mysterious heading,

Knowledge in the World and the World of Knowledge, and contains such heterogeneous contributions as an outline of an axiomatic approach for the semantic integration of ontologies; a comparison of the influential knowledge management approaches by Nonaka/Takeuchi (Japan) and Davenport/Prusak (USA); and a comparison of the representation of national and international agricultural economic information in the LCC and the NAICS (North American Industrial Classification System).

In my opinion, the hymns of praise mentioned above appear slightly over the top. This book is a rather typical collection of scholarly papers of varied quality. Some are in clear language (e.g. the short article on general vs. special classification schemes by J.-E. Mai), others are practically unreadable for the average LIS person (such as the one on ontologies by R. E. Kent, which requires an understanding of first order logic and its formal language). Some of them I found quite interesting, others a bit boring. Most of the papers will appeal to academics and researchers rather than to practitioners. It should be mentioned that the book contains a usable index (which cannot be taken for granted these days). All in all, I would recommend this volume to libraries specialised in LIS as well as to large academic and research libraries.

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