

**Proceedings of the 1st ASIS SIG/CR  
Classification Research Workshop**

(Distributed to registrants October, 1990)

**November 4, 1990**

**Held at the 53rd ASIS Annual Meeting  
Toronto, Ontario, Canada  
November 4-8, 1990**

**Editors and workshop co-chairs:**

**Susanne M. Humphrey**

**Barbara H. Kwasnik**

**Printed and distributed by the  
American Society for Information Science  
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*Reynolds Nelson*

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8720 Georgia Avenue, Suite 501, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3602  
PH/301-495-0900 FAX/301-495-0810

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## PREFACE

### General Comments

The purpose of these *Proceedings* is to enable registrants of this 1st ASIS SIG/CR Classification Research Workshop to read ahead of time about the projects, proposals, systems, and other work that will be presented on November 4, 1990.

It has been an enlightening and fascinating experience for us to have read these papers. The work that has been brought together here has served to show not only the breadth of Classification Research (CR), but also the commonality, making this a truly inter-disciplinary area.

Generally speaking, the application areas seem to divide into Information Retrieval and Problem Solving; we also have papers that emphasize theory. However, in considering the semantic organization of knowledge, as is the primary concern of CR, there is great interplay between theory and application. One of the things we hope will come about is that participants will not only convey to each other the originality of their work but also mentally explore the work of other participants. We think if they do this, they will detect many implications for their own work in the work of others even though these may not be obvious on the surface of it.

A particular issue that did arise early on and remains an issue has to do with terminology of CR itself. One of the editors did lean on a few authors to adopt a specific distinction between constructing classifications and applying them, calling the former *classification* and the latter *classing* or alternatively *indexing*. However, she has recently had some misgivings about having done this (although some authors chose rather to use and define their own terms), as there is considerable disagreement about this terminology. The contention here seems to us to be largely terminological rather than definitional. We suspect there would be agreement about distinctions, but it seems that these distinctions do not have common labels across disciplines, nor even within Information Science itself. There furthermore may be distinctions and correlations depending on whether the viewpoint is Information Science or Cognitive Science, for example the possible correlation between constructing classification schemes and learning, respectively. In any case, it probably is futile to expect terminological unity, but perhaps we can at least organize the definitions in CR and not worry about giving them one-word names. We invite readers of these *Proceedings* to think about this problem and let us know their views.

### Organization of these Proceedings

As seen by the Table of Contents, papers in these *Proceedings* are in alphabetical order by last name of first author. Other authors are cross-referenced to the first author. Included are indexing terms associated with each paper. These forty-three terms were selected and applied by us, the editors. Although at some point we did verify the appropriateness of these indexing assignments with authors (presenting them with all terms and the terms we selected for their individual papers), as we approached the final stages of preparing these *Proceedings*, we inserted some new terms and made adjustments accordingly without this verification.

Following the Table of Contents is the Subject Index to Table of Contents. This is merely an alphabetical arrangement of these same indexing terms as pointers to first authors. ISSN: 2324-9773

Following this, we have the Name Index to Table of Contents. We thought it might be useful to gather the various names associated with the papers. These include names of systems, software, affiliations, sponsors, databases, and so forth. We had originally tried to distinguish between home-grown software and commercial software, but this blurred in a few cases. It is easy enough to find out from authors the status of software used in their projects.

The workshop agenda and directory will be distributed separately.

### **Acknowledgments**

We wish to first of all acknowledge the authors themselves. As editors, we have had detailed discussions with all authors on the writing of their papers. We think that the effort and time they have expended to clarify their expressions and expand them with examples are self-evident.

We also wish to thank consultants who have generously given their time and the benefit of their knowledge and understanding in helping us review the papers with respect to particular subject matter in their areas of expertise. These are: Alan Aronson, Joseph Busch, De-Chih Chien, Lawrence Hunter, Michael Lesk, Sung Myaeng, Peter Patel-Schneider, and Irene Travis.

Finally, we wish to thank ASIS officials for their support and ASIS Headquarters staff for their able assistance in preparing and arranging for the forthcoming workshop. In addition, the research environments of the institutions with which we are affiliated — National Library of Medicine and Syracuse University — greatly facilitated our efforts in bringing this workshop and these *Proceedings* to fruition.

S.M.H. and B.H.K.

Comments may be sent to the editors as follows:

Susanne M. Humphrey  
Information Scientist  
Lister Hill National Center for Biomedical Communications  
National Library of Medicine  
Bethesda, Maryland 20894, USA

Barbara H. Kwasnik  
Assistant Professor  
School of Information Studies  
4-206 Center for Science and Technology  
Syracuse University  
Syracuse, New York 13244-4100, USA

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\* provided by the editors

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AUIMS (Allied Signal Aerospace Co. User Interface Management System)		Ventura Conway
Australian Defence Force Academy Library		Micco
Bendix Test Systems Division		Ventura Conway
CACM (Communications of the ACM)		Krovetz
Cambridge Crystallographic Database		Glasgow
Carlyle Systems		Micco
CAS (Chemical Abstracts Service)		Smith
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