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Proceedings of the 7th ASIS SIG/CR Classification Research Workshop

October 20, 1996

Held at the 59th ASIS Annual Meeting
October 21-24, 1996
Baltimore, Maryland

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Printed and Distributed by the
Special Interest Group / Classification Research
American Society for Information Science

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Preface

General Comments

These proceedings constitute a working copy of the contributions to the 7th ASIS SIG/CR Workshop on Classification Research, held in Baltimore, Maryland, at the ASIS Annual Meeting on Sunday, October 20th, 1996. The purpose of publishing working papers is to provide participants and presenters with an opportunity to review the contributions before, during, and after the Workshop. As working papers, the contributions printed here are not in their final form. Therefore, please do not cite these papers. After the Workshop, authors will have an opportunity to revise and edit their papers. Workshop participants are invited to provide the authors or the editor with any comments that they feel will improve the papers or help the authors with their research. Subsequently the Proceedings will be published as an ASIS monograph by Information Today, Inc., under the title *Advances in Classification Research: Volume 7.* This title will be available for purchase as soon as possible.

Again this year, we are pleased with the diversity of viewpoints represented in these papers. The rationale for the Workshop from the beginning has been to showcase the multi-disciplinary bases of classification research. The authors of the papers in this volume have accordingly been asked to write for an audience that may be unfamiliar with the terminology and issues current in the author's own field, and they have tried to follow this suggestion with good humor. The communication across disciplines that the Workshop supports increases the value of these papers for all who take advantage of them as, in seeking to explain assumptions and perspectives that are not shared, participants in the Workshop can deepen and broaden their understanding of classificatory issues in general.

We received papers on a variety of themes for this year's Workshop. The classification of user queries or questions may provide a structure for information resources and enhance communication between information providers and information seekers. Abels starts with the input of the questions of small business owners and shares her struggles in classifying these queries. One continuing problem in

classification research is how to display the conceptual structure of the classification approaches that underlay information retrieval systems to aid their users in retrieving information. Beghtol addresses the problem of graphical representations of hierarchical systems. Davies looks at this problem in the context of the world wide web and thesauri. Library classification schemes that find their foundation in problems of access and shelving now may also assist access in electronic environments. Goldberg provides both a short history of the Library of Congress Classification and considers the implications of an electronic version as a retrieval tool and a trans-class navigation aid. Visine-Goetz and Godby, in turn, focus on the Dewey Decimal System and discuss the changes needed for that system to support electronic access.

Human behavior in classification tasks may inform the design of information retrieval systems in the worlds of sound and image. Jörgensen builds on her previous research in this regard to investigate the use of reference points in a sorting task. Other classification research strategies are interactive relating human analysts with computer support for classification or are computer-based comparing various methods for filtering documents. Korfhage and Dubin investigate the use of VIBE, a program that supports graphical depiction of similarity relations among documents, for interactive computer-supported classification. Mostafa and Jacob focus on the Internet environment and consider whether classificatory methods in consort with information filtering strategies improve results. The diversity of these interests and approaches suggests another exciting Workshop.

Bringing together classification researchers on an annual basis is one of the major accomplishments of the Workshop because we might not otherwise have the opportunity to meet, exchange ideas, and debate issues. Registrants for the Workshop will receive the Proceedings as soon as possible so that the papers can be read before the presentations are given. Once again, we are asking presenters to address the high points of their papers and not to present their papers verbatim. Participation from the audience is one of the most important aspects of the Workshop, so we provide time for questions and discussion as well as breaks for follow-up discussion. All present

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are invited to participate in advancing the state of classification research.

Organization of these Proceedings

The Proceedings contain two parts. The first section consists of papers submitted by the Workshop presenters arranged in alphabetic order by author. The second section contains brief personal statements of Workshop presenters again arranged in alphabetic order by author.

Acknowledgments

The continuing success of the ASIS SIG/CR Classification Research Workshop is the result of the work of many people. The present Editor would like especially to thank all of those who have been instrumental in organizing and supporting the six previous Workshops, in reviewing papers, and in editing the Proceedings. We would also like to thank all of the contributors/authors for their interest in the Workshop and their willingness to follow our suggestions for their papers. The ASIS administration and office staff who have supported and subsidized this Workshop and its Proceedings over the past seven years deserve thanks also.

Special thanks go to the reviewers of this year's contributions:

Hanne Albrechtsen, Royal School of Librarianship, Denmark
Clare Beghtol, University of Toronto
Efthimis Efthimiadis, UCLA
Raya Fidel, University of Washington
Stephanie Haas, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Elin Jacob, Indiana University
Barbara Kwašnik, Syracuse University
Dee Michel, University of Wisconsin-Madison

I would also like to gratefully acknowledge the general support of the School of Information and Library Science, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and the specific assistance of graduate assistants Rong Tang and Alenka Šauperl.   -PS

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