DEFINITION OF SOME TERMS USED OR RELATED TO THE STUDY

1. Classification

"Classification as process, consists of distinguishing each entity in the universe concerned from all other entities by recognizing its relationships with its coordinates, superordinates, subordinates and collaterals. For convenience of reference, these relationships can be called 'COSCO relationships.'"
G Bhattacharyya "General theory of subject headings."

"An ordering whose objects are assigned to mutually exclusive and jointly exhaustive classes. At each step of a classificatory analysis (division) its objects are treated dichotomously: they either fall or do not fall into a class. A classification thus requires a single criterion called fundamentum divisionis, the basis of division. When multiple criteria or dimensions are involved, we have a typology and/or a taxonomy." Giovanni Sartori "Guidelines for concept analysis: glossary." in Social science concepts: a systematic analysis. London, Sage, 1984: p. 73

"A documentary language which groups concepts into classes, uses mostly hierarchical relations for arrangement of classes, and reflects the structure of arrangement by notation." Gerhard Wenzig; Ulrich Neveling Comp. Terminology of documentation. Paris, UNESCO Press, 1976: p. 132

2. Classifying and Classification

"The verb classify has two meanings: primarily to relate individuals by their likeness, by a perpetual and conceptual process, that is, to regard them as being in classes, in classifications.... distinct again is the verb to class, which means to relate, to refer, to assign, a thing to a relevant class, regarding some characteristic." H E Bliss "A bibliographic classification: principles and definition." in Lois Mai Chan et al. eds. Theory of subject analysis. Colorado, Libraries Unlimited, 1986: p. 78
3. **Classificatory Language**

"A classificatory language differs from a natural language in that it does not predicate any thing, but simply states subjects. Its parts of speech will therefore not perform the same function in an analet as do the words in a sentence." B C Vickery


4. **Category**

"A category denotes either the name given to any class of things, actions, or relationships which recur with sufficient (relative) uniformity and frequency as to render the class a useful subject of a predication; or the class itself. When rigorously defined and placed in a system of classes, it becomes a scientific category. .... All technical terms and concepts in social sciences are categories in the sense that they denote or name, a class of observable things, actions, or relations. Nothing can be observed as a datum for science that can not be named or categorized."


"1. A 'class' of high generality ; 2. A general facet applying to a lot of subject fields." in Wersig *op.cit.* p. 124

5. **Compatibility**

"Compatibility is the ability of one information system to accept the original indexing and abstracting data of another information system for any given subject coverage that is common to both systems."


"Implies the use of some kind of manipulation to make the results and products of processing in one system usable in another." Alan Gilchrist *ibid.* p. 390

6. **Concept**

"Any unit of thought; a mental image formed by generalization." Wersig *op.cit.* p. 56
6. Concept (contd.)

"The basic unit of thinking, it can be said that we have a concept of A (or of A-ness) when we are able to distinguish A from whatever is not A." Sartori op. cit. p. 74

Subordinate Concept

A concept is subordinated to another concept if it has been established by one step of division, i.e., it has one 'specific characteristic' while the superordinate concept does not possess." Wersig op. cit. p. 58

Superordinate Concept

"A 'concept' is a superordinate concept if it has several subordinate concepts which are established by one step of division, i.e. it possesses an 'generic characteristic' which the subordinate concept does not possess." Wersig op. cit. p. 58

7. Context

"Any setting in which a word is used, to be specified as follows: 1. authors context; 2. disciplinary context; 3. field or subfield context; 4. Theoretical context." Sartori op. cit. p. 74

8. Controlled Vocabulary

"may be defined as a limited set of terms that must be used to index documents, and to search for these documents, in a particular system." F W Lancaster "Vocabulary control in information retrieval systems" Advances in Librarianship Vol. 7 New York, Academic Press, 1977: p. 2

9. Definition

"Concepts are constructed from definitions. A definition is a system of terms, such as the sentences of a language, the symbols of logic, or the notation of mathematics, that informs the investigators as to the phenomenon denoted by a concept. For example, the concept 'conflict' only has meaning when it is defined. One possible definition might be: 'conflict equals interactions among social units in which one unit seeks to prevent the other from realizing its goals.' Such a definition allows scientists to visualize the phenomena that is denoted by a concept." Jonathan Turner Structure of sociological theory. Homewood, Ill. Dorsey Press, 1978: p. 3
9. **Definition (contd.)**

"Verbal determination of a 'concept' by distinguishing it from other concepts." Wersig *op. cit.* p. 56

10. **Descriptor**

"The meaning to be associated with each descriptor is carefully drawn or assigned in such a fashion as to best serve the purposes of the user population—even if this privately-assigned meaning may change or distort the usual meaning publicly attached to the term. In this sense, a descriptor 'is not a word in the ordinary language'. It is a private term for retrieval purposes only. It is an arbitrary word-symbol for a particularly chosen scope of meaning or application for use by a particular group of people with a particular collection." Calvin M. Mooers "Descriptors" in *Encycl. of Lib. and Inf. Sci.* Vol 7 New York, Marcel Dekker, 1972: p. 34

"A descriptor is any authorized entity identifier that can be used for retrieving other entities. If the retrieving entities are concepts, we speak of subject descriptors." Dagobert Soergel *Organizing information: principles of database and retrieval systems.* Orlando, Academic Press, 1985: p. 52

11. **Discipline**

"The word is used here in the sense of a field of related studies in which there develops a community of scholars with common interests who stimulate one another in their investigations, a set of related techniques, a cumulative body of knowledge and certain generally accepted principles of practice. Such a discipline also tends to acquire an apparatus—associations, periodicals, publications, and research and training centres." Frank Lorimer "Development of demography" in P M Hauser; O D Duncan eds. *The study of population.* Chicago, Univ. of Chicago, 1959: p. 158

"When we consider any branch of learning as an intellectual discipline, we have in mind the premises on which the men in the field rest their work, the ideas and currents of thought which unite or separate them, the characteristic style of reasoning or argument which they use, the types of data considered, the manner in which they are collected, and the manner
in which they are treated." Alex Inkeles What is sociology: an introduction to the discipline and profession. New Delhi, Prentice Hall, 1971: p. 106

"Sociology is an academic discipline. The word discipline is important, for it implies an order, a systematic study of a topic. A discipline has a history, a group of scholars who together investigate a portion of reality and are viewed by themselves and others as a branch of knowledge. All disciplines have rules that scholars must follow to prove their ideas and to check each other's work." Joel M Charon Sociology: a conceptual approach. 2nd ed. Boston, Allyn and Bacon, (1986) 1989: p. 4

"An organized field of study or branch of learning dealing with specific kinds of subjects and for subjects considered from specific points of view." L H Harrod: Librarian's glossary. London, Clarion Books, 1977 : p. 278

12. Document Analysis

"The analysis of the subject contents of documents with the aim to select all the characteristics according to which the documents should be able to be found in retrieval." Wersig op. cit. p. 98

13. Documentary Language

"An 'artificial language' used by documentation systems for purposes of indexing, storage and retrieval." Wersig op. cit. p. 67

14. Facet


15. Hierarchy

"The network between concepts constituted by hierarchical relations." Wersig op.cit. p. 127

16. Indexing

"Assignment of index terms to documents or objects with the aim to be able later on to retrieve the documents or objects according to the selected concepts designated by the index terms." Wersig op.cit. p. 98
17. Indexing Language

"The task of an indexing language is to represent concepts and statements with a sufficient degree of predictability and fidelity. Any kind of language that serves this purpose is (or can be used as) an indexing language." Robert Fugman "Towards a theory of information supply" and indexing: Treatise IV-on retrieval system theory." Inti, Classification 6(1), 1979: p. 14

18. Information Retrieval

"The action of, or methods and procedures for recovering specific information from a collection of stored data." Wersig op.cit. p. 140

"It consists of four stages:
1. Identifying the exact subject of the search;
2. Locating this subject in a guide which refers the searcher to one or more documents;
3. Locating the document;
4. Locating the required information in the documents."


19. Information Retrieval Language

"If we take the loose definitions of 'information' to mean knowledge in transit; 'retrieval' to mean recovery by investigation; and 'language' to mean a vocabulary and way of using it, then we can perhaps, accept the suggestion that an IRL is a vocabulary and way of using it to recover by investigation, knowledge which is in transit. Furthermore, by loosely defining: 'vocabulary' to mean the works in a language (in an alphabetical list) and 'index' to mean a list of names, subjects etc. with references, we can see that 'IRL' is approximately synonymous with 'index vocabulary' A G A Pickford "Some problems of using an unstructured information retrieval language in a co-ordinate indexing system." ASLIB Proceedings 23(3), March 1971: p. 133

20. Isolate

"An isolate is an object or class of objects, a process or class of processes, or an abstract term or class of such terms." J E L Farradane "A scientific theory of classification and indexing." J. of Document. 6, 1950: 83-99; 8, 1952:73-92 (reprinted by Vickery in L M Chan op.cit. p. 131)
20. **Isolate** (contd.)

A single concept of any degree of complexity which can be considered in isolation for purposes of definition, or for placing in a classification." Wersig *op.cit.* p. 127

21. **Lead-in-term**

"is any term or other symbol for which a relationship to a descriptor is established so that a user looking under the term is directed to the descriptor." Dagobert Soergel *Organizing information* *op.cit.* p. 62

22. **Subject**

"Any concept or concept combination looked as an entity." Wersig *op.cit.* p. 58

23. **Subject Heading**

"A word, term or a phrase chosen to express a concept or a concept combination in indexing and to constitute an entry." Wersig *op.cit.* p. 115

24. **Term**

"Although a word may have several senses, only one of them is intended when it is used as a term. Hence, a word is a term only when it designates one of its possible meanings." Fred W Riggs "A new paradigm for social science terminology" *Intl. Classification* 6(3), 1979: p. 152

25. **Terminology**

"Terminology is the system of terms to denote—that is to name—the classes or ranked isolates in a scheme for classification." S P Ranganathan *Prolegomena to library classification*, 3rd ed. Bombay, Asia Pub. House, 1967: p. 201

"Terminology of a scheme for classification is the system of terms in a language, denoting or naming the classes of the scheme, the language being the natural one or the jargon of a profession or trade." *ibid.* p. 72
25. **Terminology** (contd.)

"The discipline concerned with the formation and naming of a concept, either in a special sub-field or in the aggregate of all subject fields."

"An organized set of technical terms whose meanings have been explained or defined." both in Wersig _op. cit._ p. 55

"'important words' that are carriers of concepts, that can be said to constitute, in some meaningful sense, units of thinking." Sartori _op. cit._ p. 17