Understanding of the Present State of Subject Retrieval and Looking for the Future Direction: Consideration of Some Views Given by Those Classificationists Who Participated in the 1957 Dorking Conference [in Japanese]. Keiichi Kawamura. Tokyo, Jusonbo, 2020, 84p. (ISBN 978-4-88367-345-2). Price: 1,000 yen.

Summary

The First International Study Conference on Classification Research held in Dorking, England in May 1957 brought about a breakthrough of classification theory and promoted further research and development of faceted classification. But what has been dominant in the information retrieval world is post-coordinate indexing system based on the principle of simple matching and simple coordination of words or terms. In addition to the decline in quality of retrieval, library and information science (LIS) is now faced with the problem of a paradigm shift caused by the following three factors: (1) the likely increase in general accessibility to information sources embracing all fields of knowledge because of the development of the Internet; (2) the popularization of online retrieval by users themselves; and (3) the need of fewer classifiers than before due to central classification services. Describes that a few of those classificationists who participated in the Dorking Conference pointed two alternative ways of aiding users in retrieval: (a) Eric Coates and Jack Mills suggested making good use of completely faceted new general classifications; and (b) Brian Vickery suggested the development of search interface software incorporating the technique of artificial intelligence (AI).

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