ISKO Scientific and Technical Advisory Council

Observing knowledge organization scholarship and applications

Annual Report 2022/2023
(ISKO Annual Meeting 2023-07-10

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Call for participation in STAC work

STAC advises the ISKO membership and the ISKO Board of Directors
on ongoing developments in KO research and technology
and on areas where more research and development is needed.

All are welcome, encouraged, and very much needed to participate
in ways put forth in this report

These slides have more depth than a five-minute presentation allows.
They will be posted on the ISKO website

https://www.isko.org/stac/

STAC's broad cross-disciplinary scope

From the STAC Terms of Reference

2 **In line with ISKO's mission (https://www.isko.org/about.html),
the Council is concerned with the scholarship, theory, principles, and
applications of the pervasive subject of Knowledge Organization**

- **as dealt with by, among others,**

  - Information Studies (including knowledge organization systems in all domains),

  - Philosophy,

  - History,

  - the Ontology community,

  - Psychology and Cognitive Science, Linguistics,

  - Computer Science (Data Modeling, Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning),

  - Taxonomies in the Sciences and the Humanities (Chemistry, Biology, Medicine, Literary Genres, Museum Objects, etc.) and

  - all kinds of data schemas and formats, including those used on the Web.

From the STAC Terms of Reference

- **applied in, among others,**

    - **libraries,** bibliographic information systems and related services, publishing, the Web, archives, museums,

    - preserving and providing access to c**ultural heritage** across domains and institutional contexts;

    - **(digital) humanities**, natural language understanding systems (including information extraction), education, instructional design;

    - **process modelling** (including business processes, production processes, etc.);

    - **health information systems**, financial information systems, legal information systems, government information systems, etc.

From the STAC Terms of Reference

This broad area of concern includes three cross-cutting issues of particular note:

- The **cultural, social, political, and economical impact** of Knowledge Organization and, reciprocally, the impact of thinking and developments in the social, political, and economical sphere on Knowledge Organization.

- The **technology** that supports the development of Knowledge Organization Systems and the application of Knowledge Organization.

- The preservation, integration, transfer, and advancement of the **corpus of knowledge of the subject of Knowledge Organization**.

STAC membership

- **26 members of maximally 30**

- **Twelve members reappointed to a four-year term 2023 - 2027**
  Wieslaw Babik, Thiago Barros, Jonathan Furner, Claudio Gnoli, Agnes Hajdu-Barat, Gercina Angela de Lima, Daniel Martinez-Avila, Widad Mustafa el-Hadi, Rosa San Segundo, Aida Slavic, Maja Zumer

- **Five new members appointed** to a four-year term 2023 - 2027

  Deborah Lee, Senior Teaching Fellow, Dept. Info. Studies, Univ. College London

  Catalina Naumis Peña, Professor and Tutor, Postgraduate Program in Library Science and Info. Studies, National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM).

  Sayed Mahdi Taheri, Associate Professor and Head of Central Library and Documentation Center, Allameh Tabataba'i University, Tehran, Iran

  Xiaoguang Wang, Associate Dean and Professor, School of Information Management, Wuhan University, Wuhan, Hubei, People's Republic of China

  Yejun Wu, Associate Professor, School of Library and Information Science, Louisiana State University (LSU), Baton Rouge, Louisiana, USA

Appointments are voted on by STAC, considering diversity of expertise and representation across ISKO chapters, and confirmed by the ISKO Board of Directors.

STAC activities

Working groups

Three active STAC working groups and more in formation looking for additional members from ISKO and beyond. Email the working group chair if you are interested or know someone who might be interested.
STAC working groups will produce publications authored by members.

ISKO conferences

Oversee the programmatic organization of the ISKO biennial conference in collaboration with the local host chapter (as specified in the ISKO conference manual) and be available for advising ISKO chapters on their conference programs. STAC worked on ISKO 2024. **Watch for ISKO 2026**

ISKO publications

Communicate with and advise the editors and editorial boards of all ISKO publications ─ the journal *Knowledge Organization* (KO), the *ISKO Encyclopedia of Knowledge Organization* (IEKO), the *ISKO Database KO Literature,* and the ISKO website, specially with respect to thematic focus and evaluation criteria for contributions. This activity was not done yet, on the agenda for the coming year.
Note: The **database needs many hands across all ISKO chapters,**
contact Inkyung Choi <inkyungc@illinois.edu>

STAC working groups

Education in Knowledge Organization across disciplines

Initial focus on collecting and unifying competencies and KO concepts students should learn for a range of professions and specializations, taking a global view.

Might be fundable by IMLS. Looking for someone to spearhead proposal preparation and submission with much support from the group Marcia Zeng <mzeng@kent.edu>

Annual cross-disciplinary
Review of Knowledge Organization

Goal: Publish an Annual Review of the global literature in the field of Knowledge Organization, broadly defined (ARKO)

The review will consist of
- sections on KO concepts as they are treated in the literatures of several disciplines
- sections focusing on specific national/regional literatures written by local experts

The review will be edited and compiled by an international board of co-editors working with two co-editors-in-chief. It will be submitted
- to *Knowledge Organization* for publication in English
- to a journal TBD for publication in Mandarin

Co-editors-in-chief:
Jonathan Furner (University of California, Los Angeles) <jfurner@ucla.edu>
Junzhi Jia (Renmin University of China, Beijing) <junzhij@163.com>

Possibly an associated project: Knowledge Organization Pathfinder
Dagobert Soergel <ds@dsoergel.com>
Global team of students working under faculty supervision for academic credit.

Metadata structure, function, and uses

Jian Qin <jqin@syr.edu>

with an active subgroup working on
Metadata Guidelines for procurement of discovery systems <D.Haynes@napier.ac.uk>

More ideas for working group topics

If interested in any, email ds@dsoergel.com and aida.slavic@udcc.org

- **KO support for the movement for social justice** <nataliatognoli@id.uff.br>
- **Knowledge Organization for learning**
- **KO support for sustainability**
- **KO support for crisis management**
- **KO support for dealing with misinformation on social media**
- **KO support for information and education on healthy behavior**
- **KO support for team science, especially interdisciplinary teams**
- **Semantic technologies in publishing, sharing, and accessing KOS**
- **Terminology shifts in KOS and management of semantic shift over-time**
- **KOS representation standards and KOS ontologies**
- **KO and subject access in information retrieval**
- **Information behaviour in relation to KO**
- **KOS visualization/GUI**

Thank you

Questions

https://www.isko.org/stac/