ACM SIGIR 16th International Conference on Research and Development in Information Retrieval
Location, date: June 27-30, 1993, Pittsburgh, PA
Information: sigir@lis.pitt.edu
Conference chair: Edie Rasmussen, Associate Professor, School of Library and Information Science, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pa 15260. Tel: (412) 624-9459, fax: (412) 624-5231, email: emr1@vms.cis.pitt.edu
The Conference will begin with tutorials on June 27, 1993. Contributed research papers and panel sessions June 28-30. Full papers and panel proposals should be submitted to program chairs by January 8, 1993, and tutorial proposals to tutorial chairs by February 1, 1993.

Next issue deadline: February 15, 1993

Copies of this Newsletter are avaible on a trial basis as PostScript files (approximate sizes: file for page 1, 47 kB; file for pages 2 to 8, 127 kB). To be emailed copies of these files, please contact the editor.

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2nd International Conference on Ordinal Data Analysis
Location, date: University of Massachusetts, Department of Mathematics and Statistics,
Amherst, MA 01003, USA, October 15-17, 1993.
This conference continues a sequence of meetings which started with the "Arbeitstagung Begriffsanalyse" in January, 1986 (see Ganter, Wille, Wolff: Beiträge zur Begriffsanalyse, BI-Wissenschaftverlag 1987). These meetings have been organized as part of the activities of the "Arbeitsgruppe Begriffsanalyse" within the Gesellschaft für Klassifikation. The first conference on ordinal data was held at the Technische Hochschule Darmstadt in March, 1992. This second conference is sponsored by the University of Massachusetts, Technische Hochschule Darmstadt as well as the Classification Societies of North America and Germany. The theme of the conference is motivated by the fact that ordinal data occur quite frequently, but theoretical tools for handling ordinal data are not sufficiently developed. Courses on Formal Concept Analysis will be offered immediately before the conference (October 14, 1993) at the University of Massachusetts.

Information:

Professor Melvin F. Janowitz	Professor Dr. Rudolf Wille
Dept. Mathematics and Statistics	Fachbereich Mathematik
University of Massachusetts	Technische Hochschule
Amherst, MA 01003, USA	6100 Darmstadt
	Schloßgartenstr. 7
Phone (413)-545-2871	Phone 06151/163415
ordinal@math.umass.edu	wille@mathematik.th-darmstadt.de
Fax (413)-545-1801	Fax 06151/164011

An early use of hierarchical classification? - see the dendrograms to the left of the figure.

(Credit to *IEEE Computer*, vol. 16, no. 10, October 1983. Depicted are petroglyphs of the White Mountain Ute Indians in the late 1800s on a cliff near Vernal, Utah.)

Société Francophone de Classification

The first independent meeting of the SFC was held in Brest on 10-11 September, organized by J.P. Barthélemy (LIASC, TELECOM-Brittany). Although participation was not large (around 30), the topics treated were very varied: classification and image analysis, combinatorial methods for classification, classification in cognitive science and in artificial intelligence, numerical-symbolic methods, classification and remote sensing, optimization algorithms, and factor analysis.

The next meeting of the SFC will be in 1994 (since 1993 will see the IFCS-93 meeting). J.P. Asselin (E3I, University of Tours) has proposed to organise this next meeting in Tours.

IFCS-93

Location, date: Telecom-Paris, 31 August - 4 September 1993
Exhibition: a Forum will allow firms and laboratories to present software and other demonstrations
Tutorials: a number of short courses will be held on 31 August

Topics (subject to modification):

* Survey Analysis (A. Morineau)
* Phylogenetics Software (D. Goujet)
* From Data to Knowledge: Symbolic Data Analysis (E. Diday)
* Spatial Data Analysis (P. Legendre)
* Algorithms and Combinatorial Methods in Data Analysis, Learning and Pattern Recognition (J.P. Barthélemy and A. Guénoche)

Information: INRIA-Rocquencourt
IFCS-93/Bureau Cours et Colloques
Domaine de Voluceau - BP 105
78 153 LE CHESNAY Cedex (France)
Tel : (+33)(1) 39 63 56 00
Fax : (+33)(1) 39 63 56 38
E-mail : symposia@inria.fr

One summary of these short courses is available as we go to press:

Analysis of spatial data with applications to ecology and biogeography

Presenter: Pierre Legendre, Professor, Département de sciences biologiques, Université de Montréal.

Summary: The course will be structured around a series of objectives. What is spatial autocorrelation; its nuisance for statistical analyses. Description of spatial structures and testing for the presence of spatial autocorrelation: correlograms and variograms. Modelling from resemblance matrices: Mantel test and derived forms. Modelling from raw data: partial canonical analysis. Mapping and space-constrained clustering. The course will be illustrated with demonstrations of computer programs allowing to carry out the methods presented in the course.

Patrice Bertrand
bertrand@icare.inria.fr

Meetings

See elsewhere in this issue for other meetings organized by BCS, SFC, CSNA, GfKl, ...

Analysis of Categorical Data -
Fourth Course in the European Courses in Advanced Statistics (ECAS) programme
Location, date: Leiden (Oegstgeest), The Netherlands, 20-24 September 1993
Information: W.J. Heiser, Chair Local Organizing Committee (tel: 31 (0)71 273829). Or: I.A. van der Lans, Secretary Local Organizing Committee (tel: 31 (0)71 273827). Department of Data Theory, University of Leiden, PO Box 9555, NL-2300 RB Leiden. Fax: 31 (0)71 273865. Email: ecas93@rulfsw. leidenuniv.nl
Provisional topics: graphical models, optimal scaling approach, GLM, analysis of ordinal categorical variables, and latent class models.
Participation of young researchers will be favoured by a number of scholarships.

Sixth International Symposium on Applied Stochastic Models and Data Analysis
"The Ins and Outs of Solving Real Problems"
Location, date: Chania, Crete, Greece, May 3-6 1993
Information: Professor Jaques Janssen, CADEPA-ULB, Ecole de Commerce Solvay, 50, av F.D. Roosevelt cp 194/7, B-1050 Brussels. Tel: + 32 2 6503883, Fax: + 32 2 6502785
Registration: Professor Christos H. Skiadas, Dept. Production Engineering and Management, Technical University of Crete, 73132 Chania, Crete. Fax: 30 821-64824 or -42176. Email: ergasya@omalos.ced.tuc.gr
Three types of presentation: (a) invited papers; (b) contributed papers as "solution of problems"; and (c) contributed papers as "classical" communications.

Marketing, Statistique et Analyse de Fichiers
Location, date: Hôtel Lutetia, Paris, Friday 20 November 1992, 9:00-17:30.
Contact: A.A.E. - I.S.U.P., (Colloque Marketing), Tour 45-55, 3ème étage, 4, place Jussieu, 75252 Paris Cedex 05
Information: A.I.D., Colloque Marketing ISUP, 27 ter, rue Sainte-Adelaïde, 78000 Versailles. Tel: (1) 30 84 13 48
Topics include: Reference and specific typologies in banking and assurance; scanned data; expert systems; and a round table on ethical problems related to data usage in marketing.
Speakers include: M. Daniel Bachelet (Peugeot), M. Michel Masson (CETELEM), M. Loïc Viger (CNCA), M. Gilles Laurent (HEC), Mme. Anne-Therèse Domanska (La Redoute), M. Michel Volle (Eutélis).

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VOC - Dutch/Flemish Classification Society

Mixed news from the VOC this time. The date for the Spring meeting, to be held in Leiden on April 6, was chosen in coordination with the meeting of the German Gesellschaft fur Klassifikation, which was from April 1-3. In the latter meeting the cooperation with the VOC was emphasized. The following VOC members presented papers in Dortmund:

R. van Blokland-Vogelesang: Lattices, unfolding and medians.

C.J.F. ter Braak: Integrating correspondence analysis in the PLS framework with ecological applications.

J.J.F. Commandeur: A Distance approach to principal component analysis of incomplete data.

J. Gower: Neighbour-regions for categorical data.

J. Gower & B. Zielman: The Cappadocian tablet problem.

P.J.F. Groenen: Two methods for global optimization in multidimensional scaling compared.

W.J. Heiser: Clustering in low-dimensional space.

I. van Mechelen: Approximate galois lattices of formal concepts.

J. Meulman & W.J. Heiser: Nonlinear biplots for nonlinear mappings.

G. de Soete: Hierarchical clustering of function data.

G. de Soete & J. Vermeulen: Interactively displaying ultrametric and additive trees.

B. Zielman: Analyzing three-way skew-symmetric matrices.

For the VOC meeting in Leiden, the following papers were scheduled:

A.F.J. van Raan: Analysis of scientific and technological developments using advanced bibliometric methods.

R.J.W. Tijssen: Bibliometric cartography of science: an overview.

H.F. Moed: Effects of R&D programs on scientific activity in the EEC: a bibliometric study.

L. Egghe: Applications of bibliometics in libraries and documentation centers.

R. Rousseau: Possible explanations in perceived differences between supply & actual use: bibliometric applications.

W.J. Heiser: Information retrieval by searching in a joint space of documents and attributes.

Unfortunately, while the VOC participated in the meeting in Germany, a total strike for the Dutch railway system was announced for April 6, effectively making all traffic in the Netherlands impossible. The two Belgian speakers were unable to reach Leiden, as was the majority of the VOC members who had been planning to attend. Therefore the scientific part of the meeting was cancelled. The next VOC meeting will be held on 27 November 1992, in the Netherlands Institute for Ecologic Research in Nieuwersluis.

News from CSNA -
Classification Society of North America

The Board of Directors of CSNA has voted unanimously to support the IFCS prize for young researchers. In addition CSNA will offer free membership in CSNA to the prize winners.

Membership fees for CSNA can now be paid by Visa card.

The 1993 annual meeting of the CSNA will mark its twenty-fifth anniversary. Professors John Hartigan and Robert Sokal will be giving special invited talks. The meeting will be held at the University of Pittsburgh June 24-26 1993. For information contact Stephen Hirtle, Department of Information Science, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA 15260, USA, e-mail csna@lis.pitt.edu. A call for papers appears below. We look forward to seeing you in 1993 in Piitsburgh as well as in Paris.

Herman P. Friedman, President, CSNA
email herman@fid.morgan.com

Call for Papers
1993 Annual Meeting -
Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the Society, June 24-26, 1993, Pittsburgh

The 1993 annual meeting of the CSNA will be held on the campus of the University of Pittsburgh, starting Thursday evening, June 24 and continuing until Saturday afternoon, June 26. The purpose of the annual meeting is to provide a forum for presentation and cross-disciplinary discussion of data-oriented approaches related to classification and understanding of complex data structures.

This meeting marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the CSNA. Invited sessions will feature the application areas of Numerical Taxonomy, Numerical Ecology, Molecular Biology, and Information Retrieval. This CSNA meeting will directly precede the annual meeting of the ACM Special Interest Group on Information Retrieval (ACM SIGIR) and the Numerical Taxonomy meeting, both being held in Pittsburgh.

The program will include plenary talks by invited speakers and symposia on Neural Networks, Genetic Algorithms, Multivariate Density Estimation and Visual Clustering approaches to classification. As in the past, there will be invited and contributed papers by CSNA members, non-members and students in the areas of cluster analysis, multidimensional scaling and related methods of exploratory data analysis and their use in applications. The programs for previous meetings can be found in the Journal of Classification. Because of the informal nature of the meeting, speakers often present research that is currently in progress.

The meeting will be preceded by optional short courses on Classification and Clustering and on Multivariate Density Estimation and Visual Clustering on Thursday, June 24.

We are interested in soliciting presentations in all areas of the scientific study of classification and clustering. Persons wishing to present a talk, propose a symposium, or request information about local arrangements, should contact

Stephen C. Hirtle, Department of Information Science University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA 15260, U.S.A. tel: (412) 624-9434, fax: (412) 624-5231 email: csna93@lis.pitt.edu

Herman P. Friedman, president of CSNA, will be the co-chair of the program committee along with Stephen C. Hirtle. Local support for the meeting will be provided by the School of Library and Information Science at the University of Pittsburgh.

British Classification Society

The Autumn meeting of the British Classification Society is entitled "Cluster Analysis - is it a waste of time?". It will be held at the Natural History Museum, London, on 30th November 1992 starting at 2 p.m. Four speakers will take as their starting point the following quotation:

"The summarization of large quantities of multivariate data by clusters, undefined a priori, is increasingly being practised, often irrelevantly and unjustifiably. The availability of computer packages of classification techniques has led to the waste of more valuable time than any other statistical innovation".

Cormack, 1971

The speakers taking part will be:

Dr Byron Jones, The University of Kent
Dr David Bawden, The City University
Dr Gavin Ross, Rothamsted
Dr Clive Orton, Institute of Archaeology

The Annual General Meeting of the BCS was held on 16 June 1992 at the Institute of Astronomy, Cambridge. The BCS is planning to increase its meetings from two to four per year. Further details of meetings in January and March 1993 will be announced to members of the BCS and will be available to others on application to the Secretary.

C.B. Moncrieff, Secretary, BCS
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Email: c.moncrieff@nhm.ic.ac.uk
Fax: +44 71 938 8754

Gesellschaft für Klassifikation

Call for Papers
**17th Annual Conference of the
Gesellschaft für Klassifikation e.V.
March 3-5, 1993, University of Kaiserslautern, FRG**

Theme: Information Systems and Data Analysis: Propects - Foundations - Applications.

The scientific program provides for the following tentative topics. They will be included in plenary sessions, special sessions, and workshops.

Knowledge-based methods for classification;
Knowledge organization for information systems;
Theory and analysis of concepts;
Software for classification and data analysis;
Mathematical and statistical methods for classification;
Analysis and representation of data;
Neural networks and pattern recognition;
Classification in biology;
Classification and information in medicine;
Data analysis and classification in economics and marketing;
Typology, classification and data analysis in psychology and empirical social sciences;
Structuring of scientific subject domains;
Indexing, classification and information processing in libraries and archives;
Data analysis in linguistics, computer linguistics;
Data analysis in archeology and art sciences.

Information from the local organizers:
Prof. Dr. Michael M. Richter, Dr. Wolfgang Lenski
Forschungsstelle Mathamatische Logik
University of Kaiserslautern, P.O. Box 30 49
DW-6750 Kaiserslautern, FRG
Phone (0631) 205-3355, -2805, Fax -3357
Email: gfkl93@informatik.uni-kl.de

Board elections in the GfKl (period 1992-1995)

The Board of the GfKl was reelected on 2 April 1992. The new Board consists of the following persons:

President:	Prof. Dr. H.H. Bock
1st Vice-President:	Prof. Dr. W. Gaul
2nd Vice-President:	Dr. P.O. Degens
Treasurer:	Dr. H.-J. Hermes
Further members:	Prof. Dr. P. Ihm
	Dipl.-Soz. M. Herfurth
	Prof. Dr. R. Wille

IFCS Council members of the GfKl:
Dr. P.O. Degens (1990 - 31 December 1993),
Lewittstr. 22, D-4000 Düsseldorf 11, Germany
Tel. (0211) 571 405 (home), (0234) 316-320,
Fax: (0234) 308-601

Prof. Dr. M. Schader (2 April 1992 - 31 December 1995),
Wirtschaftinformatik III, Universität Mannheim, Schloß,
D-6800 Mannheim, Germany
Tel. (0621) 292-5700, -5075, Fax -2586, Email
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Dr. Degens will be the new Editor of the GfKl Newsletter ''Briefe zur Klassifikation''.

Report on the 16th Annual Conference of the GfKl

This conference was held at the University of Dortmund (Germany) from 31 March to 3 April 1992 and organized by Prof. F. Eicker and Dr. B. Lausen from the Department of Statistics. Its main theme "Classification and information - perspectives, methods and applications" found a broad echo since about 350 scientists and practitioners attended this meeting which provided about 150 lectures (about 50% in English), several workshops and tutorials, as well as many software demonstrations. About 50 participants from abraod (Austria, Switzerland, France, United Kingdom, USA, Canada, Russia, Poland, Japan, South Africa, etc.) created the level and atmosphere of an international conference.

The scientific sessions concentrated, e.g., on topics like classification and discrimination, cluster analysis algorithms, spatial clustering, correspondence and canonical analysis, multidimensional and discrete scaling methods, concept analysis and algebraic data analysis methods, exploratory data analysis, fuzzy data and fuzzy clustering, knowledge representation and acquistion, information systems, models and methods in information retrieval, library classification, classification in medicine, economics, linguistics (e.g., medical linguistics), environmental sciences, psychology, biological taxonomy and DNA analysis, and data analysis in archeology.

A Proceedings volume will be published in the near future collecting a refereed selection of invited and contributed papers (editors: B. Lausen, O. Opitz, R. Klar; Springer-Verlag).

H.H. Bock

Fall Meeting 1992 of the Working Group AG DA-NK (Data Analysis and Numerical Classification) of the GfKl

This Fall Meeting will be held at the University of Freiburg (Germany) on 20 and 21 November 1992. Main topics will be: spatial clustering, fuzzy data, scaling methods and qualitative data analysis.

Further information can be obtained from the organizer: Dipl.-Stat. W. Vach, Institute of Medical Biometry, Klinikum der Universität, Stefan-Meier-Str. 26, D-7800 Freiburg, Germany, phone: (0761) 203-3872, Fax (+761) 203-4348, e-mail wv@imbi.uni-freiburg.de

The Situation in Former-Yugoslavia

With a cover letter of 19 April 1992, I recieved a copy of the Proceedings of the May Meeting '91 (Zbornik Radova 5) of the Classification Section of the Association of Yugoslav Statistical Societies, from Mrs. Nada Sinadinovic, Institute of Statistics, Belgrade. The letter referred to a meeting planned for May 22, 1992, tentatively for Belgrade. It ended as follows: "Allow us to thank you for your cooperation so far, and repeat, as many times before, that any kind of cooperation with you will only be welcomed on our part".

I asked Anuska Ferligoj (University of Ljubljana; anuska.ferligoj@uni-lj.ac.mail.yu), if the meeting had been held. Nusa's emailed reply, I thought, would be of wide interest. With Nusa's permission, this is reproduced, with minimal change, below.

Fionn Murtagh

Dear Fionn,

Thank you for your message. I was planning to write you one of these days. We are OK here in Slovenia, but very sad about the situation in Bosnia and afraid that the same things can happen also in some other parts of ex-Yugoslavia.

Yugoslav Classification Section worked very nicely. Members of it became friends. And now they are in all kind of armies, groups, ... But they are still the same people -just simply very nice people. Our section worked without any financial support. It worked because each of us made something for it without too much speaking and discussing. Srdjan Bogosavljevic was in the Federal Statistical Office of Yugoslavia and he was able to find ways to print our procceedings (the last one was the 5th of which you speak in your message). Emir Veledar was organizing all our meetings in Mostar. We spent five times - wonderful times - there. Can you imagine how I or we feel looking on this destroyed town now? Emir is still in the town, his family is in Croatia as refugees. I am trying to get Emir at least for some weeks to Ljubljana, to find some way what to do for him and his family. He has two small daughters and probably he has to find a place outside of ex-Yugoslavia. I also do not know what is happening with Srdjan. Some months ago we were able to communicate through e-mail. But now also this is cut off. In his last message he is speaking about the terrible situation also in Belgrade. He was mentioning that he with his family will probably move to Israel. And so on, and so on.

During our last meeting in Mostar in May 1991 (the 5th proceedings is from that time) we all somehow felt that was probably the last time we will meet in Mostar. Probably because of this we had a wonderful time together. And we were from all parts of ex-Yugoslavia! Srdjan hoped in the winter before May 1992 that we would be able to meet also in May 1992 in Mostar. But it was pretty clear that this would not be possible. Only a month before the planned

meeting we decided to meet in another town. Serbs had not attacked Mostar yet at that time. We decided to meet in Belgrade. But a week or two before the meeting there was a horrible attack on Mostar. This was the main reason why all non-Serbs decided not to come to the Belgrade meeting on May 22, 1992. Only Serb members came there and the meeting was defined as the meeting of the Serb branch of the Section. They also decided that we should not change the Section till the war calms down. When we will be able to meet again we will decide what will happen with our Section in the future. With all the hate which is between people now it will be probably difficult to work together again. But life goes on and we will have to find in spite of all the horrible things which have happened a way to live at least as kind of neighbors.

I really do hope that at least members of our Section have not changed as people during this difficult time. There are some indications that they have not. We try to communicate, we try to help each other somehow.

Dear Fionn, I have tried to present you with the situation in our Section. If you think that you can put out some facts from it which could make sense for the IFCS audience you can do it. If you wish you can write me back whatwould be sensible to publish in the Newsletter. Maybe it would help if you could write a draft from this message and I can read it through if you wish. But I am afraid that these things are difficult to write and to be understood by the people in 'normal' societies.

Thank you again for your concern and willingness to write something about us.

With best wishes,   Nusa

People and Places - II

Pierre Legendre elected to Royal Society of Canada

Dear Colleagues,

It is my great pleasure to inform you that Pierre Legendre has been elected to the Royal Society of Canada. The induction ceremony was held during the Royal Society's annual meeting on Parliament Hill in Ottawa, 21 May 1992.

Pierre received an M. Sc. (zoology) at McGill University in 1969, and a Ph.D. (biology) at the University of Colorado (Boulder) in1971. He was an NSERC postdoctoral fellow at the Genetiska Institutionen, Lunds Universitet, Sweden in 1971-1972, and more recently a Killam Research Fellow in 1989-91. Since 1984 Pierre has been a Professor in the Département de sciences biologiques, Université de Montréal. Pierre has been a member of the CSNA Board of Directors and is now the Chair of the Board's Nominating Committee. He served as Chairman of Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada Grant Selection Committee for Population Biology in 1989-90; presently he is the Secretary-Treasurer of the International Federation of Classification Societies. Pierre has authored seven textbooks or chapters, and 78 refereed papers; but more to the point, Pierre is a fine chef and an enthusiastic connoisseur of wine...

Bill Day

New Prize for Young Researchers

The IFCS Council has approved the creation of an Awards Committee and the offering of a Prize for Outstanding Research. Recipients of the prize will be young researchers who have made significant contributions to classification or related areas of data analysis. The prize will include a US $1000 cash award, the presentation of a scientific paper at an IFCS biennial conference, the waiver of conference registration fees, and the reimbursement of reasonable travel expenses to that conference. The Guidelines for awarding the prize are given at the end of this note.

It is intended that the first Prize for Outstanding Research shall be presented at the IFCS-93 Conference, to be held in Paris from 31 August to 4 September 1993. Candidates for this prize should have been born after 1 January 1958. The procedure for nominating candidates is described in Guideline C below; no self-nominated candidates will be considered. The person who nominates a candidate for the prize should assume responsibility for forwarding eight copies of the following material to the *IFCS Awards Committee Secretary, Prof. P. Legendre, Département de sciences biologiques, Université de Montréal, C.P. 6128, Succursale A, Montréal, Québec, Canada H3C 3J7* :

(1) An appraisal of the candidate's research.
(2) The candidate's curriculum vitae, including date of birth and full list of publications.
(3) The names and addresses of three referees who can assess the candidate's research contributions.

For a candidate to be considered, this material must have been received by the Secretary no later than 1 March 1993.

The results of the prize competition will be announced at the beginning of June 1993.

Guidelines for Prize for Outstanding Research

A. This prize shall be awarded to researchers who have made significant contributions to classification or related areas of data analysis in the early stages of their scientific careers, and who normally will be under the age of 35 on the first day of January preceding the biennial conference at which the prize would be awarded. The international impact of the candidates' work will be considered. The Committee's rulings on the eligibility of candidates shall be final and not subject to appeal.

B. The prize consists of a cash award, an opportunity to present a scientific paper at a plenary session of the Federation's biennial conference, and the waiving of registration fees for that conference. The value of the cash award shall be fixed by the Council and normally will be not less than US $1,000. Normally only one prize will be awarded biennially. Although normally a prize will be awarded to one person, the Committee will entertain proposals for awarding a prize jointly to several persons. No person shall be awarded a Prize for Outstanding Research more than once.

C. A candidate's nomination shall be moved by another person and supported by two other persons. The nomination shall be accompanied by supporting documentation which includes an appraisal of the candidate's research, the candidate's curriculum vitae, and the names of three referees who can assess the candidate's research contributions. At least two of the referees contacted by the Committee shall be chosen from this list, and the Committee normally will seek independent advice. Normally the appraisal, the curriculum vitae, and the referees' reports will be written in English.

People and Places - I

Some Address Changes ...

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Unité de Biométrie
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Email: gower@jouy.inra.fr
(Until Christmas.)

ifcs

International Federation of Classification Societies Newsletter

Number 5   October 1992

The International Federation of Classification Societies, founded in 1985, is composed of: British Classification Society, Classification Society of North America, Gesellschaft für Klassifikation, Japanese Classification Society, Société Francophone de Classification, Società Italiana di Statistica, Association des Sociétés Yougoslaves de Statistique, and Vereniging voor Ordinatie en Classificatie.

The IFCS is a non-profit, non-political scientific organization, the aims of which are to further classification research. Among other activities, the IFCS organises a biennial conference, and supports the Journal of Classification.

From The President

New IFCS Prize for Outstanding Research

In the previous Newsletter, I reported that the IFCS Council's ad hoc Honours Committee was developing guidelines for a new prize for outstanding research by young scientists. The Council has approved these guidelines, and so I am delighted to initiate the 1992-1993 competition for the IFCS Prize for Outstanding Research. The prize competition will be administered by a (new) IFCS Awards Committee, the members of which are A.D. Gordon (Chair, St. Andrews, Gt. Britain), H.H. Bock (Aachen, Germany), P. Legendre (Montreal, Canada), J.J. Meulman (Leiden, Netherlands), and Y. Tanaka (Okayama-shi, Japan). The prize is to be awarded at IFCS-93, in Paris, and thereafter at the Federation's biennial conferences.

Elsewhere in this issue, you will find a formal announcement of the Prize for Outstanding Research and details of how to nominate candidates for it. Please support this first offering of the prize by making sure that worthy candidates from your

geographical or research area are nominated. Candidates need not belong to one of the Federation's Member Societies - although often that will be the case.

The ad hoc Honours Committee has completed its task and has been replaced by the new Awards Committee. I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to J.J. Meulman and A.D. Gordon who, with myself, comprised the Honours Committee and who worked so effectively to bring the new prize into existence.

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