Knowledge Organization, Information Processing and Retrieval Theory by P.S.G. Kumar, New Delhi, B.R. Publishing, 2003, ix+412p, Price Rs. 1000/- ISBN.81-7646-361-2

In the growing global competition in every human activity, the competitive advantage originates more from 'knowledge' rather than capital, land or labour. Several studies corroborate the fact that knowledge management enhances innovation, responsiveness, productivity and ensure better action in every sphere of human activity. As the demand for knowledge and ideas is constantly increasing in the new knowledge driven economics, increasing attention in being paid to creation, organization, and communication of new knowledge. In the whole knowledge cycle, knowledge organization and information processing is crucial for the creation of new knowledge and proper utilization of existing knowledge.

The book under review deals with the knowledge organization aspect of the knowledge management. It has been planned and written by the author keeping in view the literature requirements of the paper-II of the UGC model curriculum for two years integrated M.Lib. I.Sc. programme. All the topics and sub-topics included in this paper have been adequately covered by the author. The information pertaining to each topic is comprehensive, presented in the logical order, lucid style and simple language, which is helpful to students in self-learning. The author has a vast teaching experience and has prepared this book keeping in view the psychology of learning, cognitive needs and convenience of learners. For instance, at the beginning of every chapter of the book a synopsis has been provided which not only provides a topical outline but also help the students to refresh their knowledge.

In all there are nineteen chapters, which have been organized into three different units. The unit-I pertains to Universe of Knowledge and includes five chapters on areas such as structure and attributes of universe of knowledge, modes of formation and types of subjects and universe of subjects as mapped in different schemes of classification. The unit-II which is titled as Methods of Knowledge Organization includes six chapters which cover areas such as need and purpose of library classification, species of library classification, normative principles of library classification, trends in classification, design of depth classification schedules and description and features of standard classification schemes namely DDC, UDC and CC. The unit-III has been captioned as Bibliographic Description which includes eight chapters covering topics such as need and purpose of catalogue, forms of catalogue, document description, standard codes of cataloguing, normative principles, trends in standardization and description, subject heading lists and subject indexing. The chapters have been presented more or less according the topics included in the M.Lib.I.Sc's integrated course for paper-II. Whatever minor changes the author has made here and there are in the interest of most convenient presentation of information. At the end of each chapter assignment for students and sources used for compilation of the chapter are given. An index is given at the end of the book, which helps to promptly locate information on various topics. This book adequately serves the purpose for which it is published. This document, which has been brought out as Kumar's curriculum series in Library and Information Science, 2, will be very useful for both faculty and students of M.Lib. I. Sc. integrated course. However, the book has been exorbitantly priced and several students may not be able to afford to buy it.

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