Classification Society

— Formerly the Classification Society of North America (CSNA) —

Herbie Lee, President
Paul McNicholas, President-Elect
Hans-Friedrich Köhn, Newsletter Editor

Classification Society Newsletter (87), January 2016

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Editorial

Dear friends, dear members of the Classification Society:

This edition of the newsletter is dedicated to the Classification Society’s 50th anniversary. As a highlight, three veteran members—Jim Rohlf, Stan Sclove, and Willem Heiser—were so kind as to share some of their memories with us, as they had shared them earlier at the Classification Society’s annual meeting in Hamilton, Ontario. Thank you so very much!

The 2016 Distinguished Dissertation Award sponsored by the Classification Society has been announced! Details can be found in this newsletter or online at http://www.classification-society.org/clsoc/dissaward2016.php

The next annual meeting of the Classification Society will be in Columbia, Missouri, from June 13–15, 2016. Our past president, Doug Steinley, will host the meeting. Further details can be found on the Classification Society’s website http://www.classification-society.org/clsoc/clsoc.php

Best wishes for 2016! See you all in Columbia!

Frieder

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Some Notes on the Early Years of the Classification Society

F. James Rohlf
Distinguished Professor, Emeritus, Dept. of Ecology and Evolution
And Research Professor, Dept. of Anthropology
Stony Brook University
Stony Brook, NY 11794-4364

The early years of the society were very exciting and it was fun to be a part of it! I think it is important to understand some of the context in which the society was formed. In biology, the field of numerical taxonomy movement began with the publications of Michener and Sokal, Michener and Sokal (1957), Sokal and Michener (1958), and, Sneath (1957). C. Michener and R. R. Sokal’s work was independent of that of P. H. A. Sneath though published at the same time. In the former study a cluster analysis of 97 species of bees was aided by the use of accounting machines but largely performed by hand. The latter study used a computer to carry out a cluster analysis of the similarities among 45 strains of bacteria. Both used forms of hierarchical cluster analysis because they wish to compare the results with the usual hierarchical classification system used in biology. During this time computers rapidly became more available and Sokal and Michener’s work shifted to use computers in 1958 even though the available memory was quite small. In a sense, boxes of punched cards (or reels of punched paper tape) were used as the “memory” to hold most of the data.

In the late 1950s and early 1960s as faculty had greater access to computers, there were also publications in different fields proposing different types of cluster analyses. I found the series of methods published in the journal Educational and Psychological Measurement to be quite influential at that time (though usually described to be done by hand on small data sets). These applications were very controversial in biology. Some taxonomists argued that classifications could only be performed by experts on the particular group of organisms and not delegated to some machine. This controversy helped make this field very visible and may have even helped to create interest in other fields. Sneath (1995) presents a summary of the development of numerical taxonomy. It does not, however, describe the several years of debate about whether statistical methods and computers should be used in taxonomy and whether computers would have any role in taxonomic work. At conferences the discussions of these topics were often were remarkably heated.

There were parallel developments in other fields including methods for multivariate data analysis. Psychometrics, for example, has a long history of the use of such methods. There was also early interest by those in library science. The Association for Information Management, ASLIB, had a major role in the formation of the British Classification Society in 1964.

I have stressed the work of R. R. Sokal and P. H. A. Sneath because they were instrumental in the formation of the Classification Society. Their publication, Sneath and Sokal (1962), in Nature and their books, Sokal and Sneath (1963) and Sneath and Sokal (1973), were especially influential in biology but also in many other fields.
A time line:

1964 – The Classification Society was formed in Britain.

1969 – The North American Branch of the Classification Society was formed. At that time the British group became called the European Classification Society. Early Chairs/Presidents of the North American Branch were: R. R. Sokal, J. Kruskal, F. J. Rohlf, J. C. Bezdek, and J. Hartigan. There was also a council that served as the international board for the two societies with the leadership alternated between Britain and the US. Early Chairs/Presidents were: F. R. Leach, R. R. Sokal, J. S. L. Gilmore, P. H. A. Sneath, J. Kruskal, F. J. Rohlf, and J. C. Bezdek.

1977 – Gesellschaft für Klassifikation was formed.


1983 – Japanese Classification Society was formed.

1984 – The Classification Society of North America, CSNA, was formed and the British group was renamed the British Classification Society. Day and Sokal (1989) gives a short commentary about the Classification Society.

1985 – The International Federation of Classification Societies was formed.

2008 - The Classification Society of North America was renamed as simply the “Classification Society”.

Publications

Informal newsletters were important in the early years. These were needed because the applications were in a wide variety of areas and it was difficult to quickly discover papers in other fields.

1962 – The first issue of *Taxonometrics* was produced by L. R. Hill. It included mailing lists, lists of computer software, notices of meetings, and a bibliography. The last issue I have been able to locate was No. 12 and published in April 1969. It contained a proposal to include a Keyword in Context (KWIC) bibliographic index. I am not sure whether it was later distributed with this newsletter – but a KWIC index did become part of CLASS (see below).

1965 the first issue of the *Classification Society Bulletin* was published with P. H. A. Sneath as the editor. The last issue seems to be Volume 5, number 2 which was published in 1982.

1984 I believe the *Classification Society Newsletter* was first issued in 1984. I am not sure of the exact year because sometimes there were more than one issue per year and sometimes none so one cannot just count backwards from recent issue numbers.

1984 Volume 1, issue 1 of the *Journal of Classification* was published in December 1984 with P. Arabie as its editor.

1971 CLSS (Classification Literature Search Service) (later “CLASS” then “Service”) is a bibliography of papers found by the Science Citation Index (SCI that later became the Web of Science) that cite one or more papers in a 50 reference profile. The first profile was submitted on July 27, 1971 by the bibliographic committee chaired by W. Moss. The first issue was published on February 29, 1972. Initially in print (as listings produced from sorted punched cards) then on CD. An online version (an “experimental pre-alpha” version): https://www.cfa.harvard.edu/~kurtz/CSNA/
The field has evolved considerably since those early years. The founders of the field would now have difficulty fully understanding some of the research that is currently published in the *Journal of Classification*. I hope readers find these remarks interesting. It is a challenge to keep an organization going for over 50 years. It takes continued leadership. I am very grateful to those who have helped lead the society over the years.

References cited


The Classification Society: 
The First Fifty Years

Stanley L. Sclove
F. James Rohlf

Exhortation

It is hoped that this review of the history of the Classification Society will be helpful

to new members to become acquainted with the Society,
and
to old members (members of long standing?) to recall and reminisce.
Introduction

- Aspects of the history of the Classification Society
- Some impressions of the organization, its meetings and people

First, before those impressions (and quotes): What, Why, Who, When, Where?

Key Words (1)

What? A professional society fostering research and education in classification and clustering
Why? Classification is basic and essential in the sciences and social sciences
Who? Fields and people
When? Annual meetings
Where? Meeting sites
What? (1)

An interdisciplinary society dedicated to research and education in Classification and Clustering.

Incorporated as a professional association in the District of Columbia.

What? (2)

In a bit more detail:

The Classification Society is a nonprofit interdisciplinary and international organization whose purposes are

... to promote the scientific study of classification and clustering (including systematic methods of creating classifications from data),

... and to disseminate scientific and educational information related to its fields of interest(s).
Looking Back: The First 20 Years (1)

The Classification Society was formed on April 17, 1964 at the offices of ASLIB.

(ALSIB, the Association for Information Management is a British association of special libraries and information centers founded in England in 1924 as Association of Special Libraries and Information Bureaux.)

The British group was called the European Branch of the Classification Society at that time and renamed the British Classification Society on June 1, 1984.

North American members founded the American Branch of the Classification Society (later to be renamed the Classification Society of North America).

Looking Back: The First 20 Years (2)


“The decade of the sixties looms in our memory as a creative period in the development of quantitative methods for classification and clustering. The methodological contributions of that era, in biological sciences (e.g., Sokal and Sneath 1963, Gower 1966, Fitch 1967) and social sciences (e.g., Ward 1963, Kruskal 1964, Hartigan 1967, Johnson 1967), had profound influences on the subsequent course of research in classification and clustering. As well, that decade witnessed the formation of professional societies which promulgated quantitative methodologies for data analysis. In Great Britain the Classification Society, which had been constituted in 1964, soon established branches in North America and Europe. The North American Branch was active from 1969 until 1984, when it was incorporated as the Classification Society of North America.”
What? (3)

Legal names:
- Classification Society, North American Branch, from 1964
- Classification Society of North America, from 1969
- Classification Society, from 2007

By-Laws: Amended ca. 1996 to allow official business to be conducted by e-mail and election balloting to be done on the internet.

Key Words (2)

Who? Fields
How Many?
Editors of the Journal of Classification
Presidents of the Classification Society

Where? Most frequent locations of annual meetings
IFCS meetings in North America
Annual meetings and organizers
Who? Fields

People interested in classification and clustering including: Everybody from A to Z like from Anthropologists to Zoologists.

But especially:

Biologists
Computer Scientists
Library Scientists
Mathematicians
Psychometricians
Quantitative Psychologists
Statisticians

Who? How Many?

Membership database contains 635 names.

All the names of people who have ever been members sometime between 1997 and now.

Current membership about 60 (not atypical). Additionally, some people (usually about 20) join or update membership right at the meeting.
Who? Editors of the *Journal of Classification*

2015–present       Doug Steinley  
2003–2015       Willem Heiser  
1983–2002       Phipps Arabie  

Technical Editor    Eva Whitmore

Who? Presidents of the Classification Society (1)

2018–2019 Paul McNicholas (President-Elect)  
2016–2017 Herbie Lee

There have been 20 presidents; there were eight three-year terms, followed by 12 two-year terms: $10 \times 3 + 10 \times 2 = 30 + 20 = 50$ years

2014–2015 Doug Steinley  
2012–2013 Rebecca Nugent  
2010–2011 Bill Shannon  
2008–2009 Fionn Murtagh  
2006–2007 Melvin Janowitz  
2004–2005 Phipps Arabie  
2002–2003 Stanley Wasserman  
2000–2001 David Banks
Who? Presidents of the Classification Society (2)

1998–1999 Stephen Hirtle
1996–1997 Peter Bryant
1994–1995 Mike Windham
1992–1993 Herman Friedman
1990–1991 Richard Dubes

Some terms were three-year:

1987–1989 Bill Day
1984–1986 Larry Hubert
1981–1983 Doug Carroll
1979–1980 John Hartigan
1975–1978 Jim Rohlf
1972–1974 Joe Kruskal
1969–1971 Bob Sokal

Where? Most Frequent Locations of Annual Meetings

5 Meetings in St. Louis, MO (Washington University)
4 Meetings in Pittsburgh, PA (2 at University of Pittsburgh, 2 at Carnegie Mellon University)
3 Meetings in Chicago, IL (3 different locations)
3 Meetings in Montréal, QC, Canada (3 different locations)
2 Meetings in Champaign, IL (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)
2 Meetings in Columbus, OH (Ohio State University)
Where? IFCS Meetings in North America

IFCS: International Federation of Classification Societies

- IFCS 1989, University of Virginia, Charlottesville—Thanks, Bob Ling and Hampar Bozdogan!
- IFCS 2004, Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT), Chicago—Thanks, Buck McMorris!

Who? With Whom?

Joint meetings with the:

- Psychometric Society
- Numerical Taxonomy Group
- Interface Foundation (Interface between Statistics and Computer Science)
- Digital Humanities Group
Where and Who? Annual Meetings and Organizers (1)

2015 Hamilton, ON, Canada; McMaster University; Brian Franczak, Paul McNicholas, and Doug Steinley
2013 Milwaukee, WI; University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; Stephen France
2012 Pittsburgh, PA; Carnegie-Mellon University; Rebecca Nugent
2011 Pittsburgh, PA; Carnegie-Mellon University; Rebecca Nugent
2010 St. Louis, MO; Washington University; Bill Shannon
2009 St. Louis, MO; Washington University; Bill Shannon
2008 St. Louis, MO; Washington University; Doug Steinley and Bill Shannon
2007 Champaign, IL; University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign; David Dubin (joint with the Digital Humanities Group)
2006 Piscataway, NJ; DIMACS, the Center for Discrete Mathematics and Computer Science; Mel Janowitz
2005 St. Louis, MO; Washington University; Bill Shannon (joint with the Interface Foundation)
2004 Chicago, IL; Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT); Buck McMorris (joint with the IFCS Conference)

Where and Who? Annual Meetings and Organizers (2)

2003 Tallahassee, FL; Florida State University; Michael Brusco
2002 Madison, WI; University of Wisconsin-Madison, Bernie Harris
2001 St. Louis, MO; Washington University; Bill Shannon
2000 Montréal, QC, Canada; École des Hautes Études Commerciales; Pierre Hansen
1999 Pittsburgh, PA; University of Pittsburgh; Stephen Hirtle
1998 Champaign, IL; University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; Stanley Wasserman (joint with the Psychometric Society)
1997 Washington, DC; American University; David Banks and Olga Cordero-Braña
1996 Amherst, MA; University of Massachusetts-Amherst; Mel Janowitz (joint with the Numerical Taxonomy Group)
1995 Denver, CO; University of Colorado-Denver; Peter Bryant
1994 Houston, TX; M.D. Anderson Cancer Center; Dennis Johnston
1993 Pittsburgh, PA; University of Pittsburgh; Herman Friedman (joint with the Numerical Taxonomy Group)
Where and Who? Annual Meetings and Organizers (3)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Organizer(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>East Lansing, MI</td>
<td>Michigan State University</td>
<td>Wayne DeSarbo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>New Brunswick, NJ</td>
<td>Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey</td>
<td>Phipps Arabie (joint with the Psychometric Society)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>Logan, UT</td>
<td>Utah State University</td>
<td>Mike Windham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1989</td>
<td>Charlottesville, VA</td>
<td>University of Virginia</td>
<td>Robert F. Ling (joint with the IFCS Conference)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1988</td>
<td>New York</td>
<td>NYU</td>
<td>Stephen Hirtle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1987</td>
<td>Montréal, QC, Canada</td>
<td>McGill University</td>
<td>Yoshio Takane and Pierre Legendre (joint with the Psychometric Society)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1986</td>
<td>Columbus, OH</td>
<td>Ohio State University</td>
<td>Glenn Milligan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1985</td>
<td>St. John’s, NL, Canada</td>
<td>Memorial University of Newfoundland</td>
<td>Bill Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1984</td>
<td>Santa Barbara, CA</td>
<td>University of California-Santa Barbara</td>
<td>Lawrence Hubert (joint with the Psychometric Society)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1983</td>
<td>Philadelphia, PA</td>
<td>Pennsylvania State University</td>
<td>Frank Carmone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1982</td>
<td>Montréal, QC, Canada</td>
<td>Université du Québec à Montréal</td>
<td>Pascale Rousseau (joint with the Psychometric Society)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Where and Who? Annual Meetings and Organizers (4)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Organizer(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>Toronto, ON, Canada</td>
<td>OISE: Ontario Institute for Studies in Education</td>
<td>Harvey Skinner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>Boulder, CO</td>
<td>University of Colorado-Boulder</td>
<td>Tim Brennan</td>
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<tr>
<td>1979</td>
<td>Gainesville, FL</td>
<td>University of Florida</td>
<td>Roger Blashfield</td>
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<tr>
<td>1978</td>
<td>Clemson, SC</td>
<td>Clemson University</td>
<td>Robert F. Ling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1977</td>
<td>Hanover, NH</td>
<td>Dartmouth College</td>
<td>Victor McGee</td>
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<tr>
<td>1976</td>
<td>Rochester, NY</td>
<td>University of Rochester</td>
<td>Victor McGee</td>
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<tr>
<td>1975</td>
<td>Iowa City, IA</td>
<td>University of Iowa</td>
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<tr>
<td>1974</td>
<td>Ann Arbor, MI</td>
<td>University of Michigan</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1973</td>
<td>Chicago, IL</td>
<td>University of Chicago</td>
<td>Jim Rohlf</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(Sokal's files mention another meeting in Atlanta, 1973)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1972</td>
<td>Chicago, IL</td>
<td>NORC, University of Chicago</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td>Columbus, OH</td>
<td>Ohio State University</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
ca. 1996, Jim Rohlf:

“What we have in common is that we all have an excuse to play with the computer.”

Bernie Harris and I had been friends for a number of years, due to both attending meetings related to having contracts at the same time with the same government agency, and also due to common connections at Stanford. When Bernie was researching something that I saw could be related to Cluster Analysis, I told him so and got him to attend the 1995 meeting in Denver. He was an active member from that time forward and he was the CSNA meeting organizer at Madison ca. 1999.

When I would see Bernie, I would say, “What’s new?” and he would always reply, “A letter of the Greek alphabet.”

At memorial sessions for him (David Banks organized them at both CSNA and JSM), I told that story, and several people told me that I wasn’t the only one: Bernie always said that to them, too, in response to that question.
Quotable Quotes, Impressions, and Personalities (3)

At the 1992 or 1993 General Meeting under **Herman Friedman**, he said “Raise your hand if CSNA is the society of your primary affiliation.” I was the only one to do so.

**Lou McQuitty** gave a talk at at least one CS meeting. (Louis L. McQuitty was a prolific developer of methods for clustering data.)

1994 annual meeting in Houston, TX at the Houston Plaza Hilton
Joint meeting with the Numerical Taxonomy Group, Buck McMorris (then of the University of Louisville) being on the Program Committee with Co-Chairs Mike Windham (then of Utah State University, later of University of South Alabama) and Dennis Johnston of the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center (at UT).
1994 Holiday Inn next to the Center. Had the TV on. There was a car chase in LA. Guess what that was . . .

Quotable Quotes, Impressions, and Personalities (4)

2001: St. Louis, MO: Meeting accomodations were at the famous, lovely old Chase Park Plaza Hotel

**Phipps:**
(looking very happy indeed and emerging from the restaurant at the Chase Park Plaza hotel):
“I just had **two** helpings of Eggs Benedict!”

References (1)

Classification Society Website.

www.classification-society.org

References (2)


Psychometric Society. www.psychometricsociety.org/content/all-past-meetings


Stony Brook University. Special Collections and University Archives. Robert R. Sokal Collection. Files, including files from the Classification Society and the Numerical Taxonomy Group meetings are listed at www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/libspecial/collections/archives/rg64/sokal.html


Wolfe, J. H. (ca. 1972) *On Gaussian mixtures*. Annual Meeting (CSNA and/or JSM?).
The Journal of Classification: The First Thirty Years

Willem Heiser
Institute of Psychology & Mathematical Institute
Leiden University

• Origin & Aims of the Journal
• Contents of JoC Throughout the Years
• JoC & ADAC: Impact and Relatedness

Origins of the Journal

The roots of JoC stem from the North American Branch of the Classification Society founded in the UK in 1964, and incorporated as the CSNA in 1984.

“As noted by Phipps on multiple occasions, JoC was a brainchild of J. Douglas Carroll, who persisted in advocating that CSNA have its own journal. Although Doug may have been the father, Phipps was surely the delivering doctor putting forth enormous effort in seeing JoC successfully launched.” (Hubert, 2012)
Bidding for the Journal

The Classification Society decided in 1981 to found its own journal, and during the 1982 Annual Meeting in Montreal, Phipps Arabie was designated as the first Editor. Prospective publishers were Chapman and Hall, Erlbaum and Springer-Verlag. The last had suggested the attractive possibility of producing the journal at Champaign-Urbana, IL, on a UNIX-driven phototypesetting arrangement. The projected costs indicated that this option was the best one.

The first issue finally appeared in December 1984 and the second one in December 1985.

First Springer Contract Signed Two Years Later

[Image of a Springer contract]

Journal Publishing Agreement

The following agreement has been approved, executed and delivered by and between:

1. The Classification Society of North America (hereinafter called the SOCIETY) represented by Dr. Lawrence Hubert (University of California at Santa Barbara, CA) and Dr. F. Arabie (University of Illinois at Champaign)

and

2. Springer-Verlag New York, Inc. in cooperation with Springer-Verlag GmbH & Co. KG Berlin Heidelberg Tokyo (hereinafter called SPRINGER) represented by

Jolanda L. von Hagen, President,
Chief Executive Officer
Aiming for a Truly Inter-Disciplinary Journal

The main ideas were (and still are) to **fight fragmentation**:
- in **different disciplines** where classification was booming;
- in **different countries** and research traditions;
- as **part of the mathematical sciences** (including statistics).

To **avoid communication problems** leading to
- reinvention of techniques already known elsewhere;
- chaos and confusion in terminology;
- lack of familiarity with published results elsewhere.

Classification is to be understood in its broadest possible sense

**Phipps style: Both Sophisticated & Opinionated**
**Did everything without Editorial Assist.**

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**JoC also Published CSNA Announcements**

`Journal of Classification 2:301-306 (1985)`

**CLASSIFICATION SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA**
**ANNUAL MEETING, 11 - 13 JULY 1985**
**MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY OF NEWFOUNDLAND**

**ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE**

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William H.E. Day
Richard L. Haedrich
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**INVITED SPEAKERS**

Joseph Felsenstein
Genetics, University of Washington

Peter H.A. Sneath
Microbiology, University of Leicester

John W. Tukey
Statistics, Princeton University (retired)

**SPECIAL SYMPOSIA**
2002: Change of Editorship

New Editor. Phipps had indicated in 2000 that he was ready to step down. A search committee directed by Larry Hubert proposed Willem Heiser as the new editor. Board approved. Negotiations with publishers were also re-opened in 2002. At the time, the Society had to pay US $ 35 for each member subscription. To “ease the transition” Springer came up with a one-time payment for the new editor:

Dear Professor Heiser,

Enclosed is Springer’s check for $5,000, payable to Leiden University, for Journal of Classification editorial expenses. As indicated in previous correspondence, this is a one-time payment.

I hope that the editorial transition is going well. Please let me know if I can be of any assistance. Best wishes.

Sincerely,

Herb Niemirow
Managing Editor
Physical Sciences Journals

2005: Springer starts to pay the Society for Editorial Expenses

In 2004 the Psychometric Society had made a deal with Springer-New York to publish Psychometrika, which was more generous in terms of payments to the Society. In the 2005 contract drafted by John Kimmel, the Classification Society was also granted a yearly amount of $12,000.

2006-2007: Going Electronic

In 2006 the Journal was first published on line, via Springer-Link. Soon followed the Editorial Manager system for the submission and review processes.
Analysis of Contents of *JoC*, Period 1990-2013

Groen, van Herk & Tijssen (2014), at the occasion of my retirement last year, used four different visualization methods to show co-occurrences of words in 500 abstracts, providing insight into the focus of the journal over 24 years.

“Abstracts were scanned for frequently occurring words that were not commonly used words such as “the” or “a”. This resulted in 142 JoC-specific words and technical terms. Manually, these words were cleaned from often occurring ones that are not specific, such as “goal”, “magnitude”, “finding”, “fact”, “detail”, *et cetera* yielding 118 words. In total we analyzed 281 abstracts before and 219 during Heiser’s term as JoC editor. Words occurring most often are “sum” (57 times), “test” (46), “time” (36), and “graph” (35); words and phrases referring to techniques occur less frequently: “Mixture model” (16), “MDS” (22), and “Latent class” (13). It is notable that among the words also author names are found such as “Carroll” (8), “Arabie” (7) and “Hubert” (6). Several words occur only twice (e.g., “efficient algorithm” and “vertex”).”

Result of the VOS System for Most Frequent JoC Words
Comments on the VOSviewer Result

The VOSviewer approach was developed by Van Eck, Waltman, Dekker & Van den Berg (2010). It combines MDS with clustering. A main characteristic is that words with a low similarity to other words in the matrix receive little weight and have little effect on the solution (e.g., “Phylogeny”).

The VOSviewer results in four large clusters:

1. **First cluster in blue** is a cluster around the word *Multidimensional Scaling* (“optimization”, “solution”, “configuration” and “local minima” are typical). The author “Carroll” is also mentioned in this cluster.
2. **Second cluster in green** combines abstracts in which “time” is used and abstracts with the word “graph”.

It includes words like “dissimilarity”, “network”, “transformation” and “hierarchical clustering”. Words referring to effects in time such as “evolution” and “phylogeny” are also part of cluster **Biology/Taxonomy**.

3. **Third cluster in red** includes the words “mixture”, “estimation”, and “latent class”, but also “test” and “sample”. Both EM-algorithm and the BIC fit statistic are prevalent in abstracts with emphasis on **Mixture Models**.
4. **Fourth cluster in yellow** includes words “correspondence analysis” “contingency tables”, and “coefficients”. It also includes the words “presence/absence” and “attribute” all relating to **Categorical Data Analysis**.

The four-cluster solution provided by VOSviewer clearly distinguishes four major content areas within JoC
JoC & ADAC: Impact and Relatedness

At the 2000 IFCS meeting in Namur (Belgium), an attempt was made to have *JoC* officially recognized by the IFCS.

In the following years, this was a recurring theme without much progress. Several people, e.g. Hans-Hermann Bock (IFCS President 85-87) and Carlo Lauro (IFCS President 2002-2003), wanted **big changes in JoC or a new journal**.

But also CSNA President **Stanley Wasserman** (2002-2003) and IFCS Newsletter Editor **Paul de Boeck** ultimately were voting against this broader basis for JoC.

As a big surprise (!), **Springer Germany** started in 2007 a new journal *Advances in Data Analysis and Classification, (ADAC)* with Hans-Herman Bock as Editor-in-Chief.

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JoC & ADAC: Impact Factor Trends

![Impact Factor Trends](chart.png)

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### JoC & ADAC: Number of Cites Received

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Cited Years</th>
<th>Number of Cites</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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### JoC & ADAC: Journal Relatedness

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Breakdown of *JoC* Authors by Country  
(source: Springer Report 2014)

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| Poland                         | 1    | 3    | 2    | 1    |
| SOUTH AFRICA                   | 1    | 1    | 1    |      |
| SPAIN                          | 2    | 1    | 1    | 3    | 3    |
| SWITZERLAND                    |      | 1    | 1    |      |
| ALGERIA                        | 1    | 1    | 1    |      |
| BANGLADESH                     | 1    | 1    |      |      |
| BELARUS                        |      |      | 1    |      |
| CHINA                          | 3    | 3    | 8    |      |
| CROATIA                        |      | 1    |      |      |
| EGYPT                          | 3    | 5    | 5    |      |
| FINLAND                        |      |      |      | 1    |
| HONG KONG                      |      |      |      | 1    |
| INDIA                          | 8    | 23   | 17   |      |
| IRAN, ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF      | 17   | 14   | 8    |      |
| IRAQ                           |      | 1    |      |      |
| KUWAIT                         |      | 1    |      |      |
| LEBANON                        |      | 1    |      |      |

Breakdown by Country, Continued

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<th>Number of Manuscripts Accepted</th>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<td><strong>114</strong></td>
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CONCLUSIONS

1) **Bridging countries**: successful, but contribution of USA, Germany and Japan is disappointing.

2) **Bridging disciplines**: psychometrics, mathematics and statistics OK, but where are the bio- and life sciences? And other disciplines?

3) **Being part of the mathematical sciences**: it appears to be happening, but slowly.

4) Many aspects of the review & production process can still be improved:

   Great chances for New Editor Doug Steinley!

FINALLY

I am indebted and grateful to the following people for their wonderful dedication to me and to the journal:

**Eva Whitmore**,
Technical Editor
2000-

**Ellen Imthorn**,  
Editorial assistant  
2002-2006

**Sascha Hesse**,  
Editorial assistant  
2007-2010

**Martine Goderie**,  
Editorial assistant  
2011-2015
2. Looking Back: The Classification Society’s Annual Conference 2015

The 2015 meeting of the Classification Society took place from June 3–6, 2015 at McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. This was the 44th meeting of the Classification Society, and just the 6th time the meeting was held in Canada. Around 50 delegates attended the meeting, coming from eight countries: The Netherlands, Italy, France, UK, Belgium, Germany, US (six states), and Canada (three provinces). In all, there were five keynote lectures:

1. Presidents Invited Address: Jeroen Vermunt, Tilburg University, The Netherlands;
2. Presidents Address: Douglas Steinley, University of Missouri;
3. Invited Lecture on Big Data: Fionn Murtagh, University of Derby and Goldsmiths, University of London, UK;
4. Invited Lecture on Classification Methodology: Vincent Vandewalle, University Lille 2, France;
5. Invited Lecture on Psychometrics Katie Gates, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

There were also three invited sessions, three contributed sessions, and a poster session. One of the invited sessions was on 50 Years of the Classification Society, and it sparked some very interesting historical discussion! The Classification Society Distinguished Dissertation Awards for 2013 and 2014 were presented at the banquet, which was held at the Royal Botanical Gardens. The winners are:

- Distinguished Dissertation Award 2014: Irene Vrbik;
- Distinguished Dissertation Award 2013: Kim De Roover.

Paul McNicholas

3. Call for Nominations: The 2016 Classification Society Distinguished Dissertation Award

Each year, the Classification Society offers a Distinguished Dissertation Award (the Award, hereafter) for an outstanding Ph.D. dissertation on the theme of clustering, classification, or related areas of data analysis, encompassing associated theory and/or applications. The 2016 Award totals US $500 in book vouchers from Chapman and Hall/CRC. The winner will be invited to make a presentation in a special session at the 2016 Classification Society Annual Meeting, which will be held at the University of Missouri from June 1–4. The Classification Society will cover travel expenses to the 2016 Annual Meeting of at most US $1,000 for a North American-based Award winner or at most US $1,500 for an Award winner based elsewhere. Criteria for nomination for the Award include: (i) the dissertation contains innovative or impressive work in theory/methodology, or innovative or well-developed application(s); and (ii) the literature review is thorough. To be eligible for nomination, a Ph.D. dissertation must have been successfully completed—including successful defense—within the calendar year 2015.

Nominations may be made by the dissertation author, advisor-supervisor, or a related
person. A nomination must include contact information for the nominator and nominee (if different), a URL where an online copy of the dissertation can be accessed by the members of the Award Committee, and an electronic (e.g., scanned) cover letter, written and signed by the nominator, stating the date of completion of the Ph.D. dissertation and outlining why the dissertation merits the award. The nominator must also arrange for two external referee reports to be sent directly to the chair of the Award committee. If possible, the referees should be arms length from the dissertation author and their supervisor.

Cover letters should include full bibliographic details for any published papers, proceedings, book chapters, or similar scholarly material that has arisen from the dissertation. For non-English language dissertations, nominators are requested to provide an extended abstract in English and, where relevant, to highlight any papers, proceedings, book chapters, or similar scholarly material associated with the thesis that has been published in English.

The 2016 Award Committee comprises:
– Kathleen Gates (The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, United States);
– Herbie Lee (University of California, Santa Cruz, United States);
– Paul McNicholas (McMaster University, Canada).

Nominations and external referee reports must be submitted to the chair of the Award Committee, Paul McNicholas, at paulmc@mcmaster.ca, on or before February 5, 2016. Results will be announced approximately two months after this submission deadline.

4. Important Conference Dates


(DAGStat 2016 consists of three annual meetings, the 62nd “Biometrisches Kolloquium” (German Region of the International Biometric Society), the 40th “Jahrestagung der Gesellschaft für Klassifikation” (German Classification Society), and the “Pfingsttagung der Deutschen Statistischen Gesellschaft” (German Statistical Society).)

(Paper submission deadline January 22, 2016, proceedings for publication in LNAI (Lecture Notes in Artificial Intelligence), Springer.)

(4) IC-SMHD-2016: International Conference on Information Complexity and Statisti-
(5) Symmetry, Proportion and Seriality: The Semantics of Mirroring and Repetition in Science and the Arts, Academia Europaea Conference; **May 26-28, 2016**; Freiburg, Germany, Institute for Advanced Studies (FRIAS); [www.ae-info.org/ae/Acad_Main/Events/Symmetry](http://www.ae-info.org/ae/Acad_Main/Events/Symmetry) (Plenary address by Fionn Murtagh and Rosapia Lauro-Grotto.)

(6) Statistical Challenges in Modern Astronomy VI, **June 6–10, 2016**; Carnegie Mellon University; [www.scma6.org](http://www.scma6.org) (The program is under development but tentatively includes keynote talks by Zeljko Ivezic (University of Washington) and Robert Tibshirani (Stanford); invited talks by astronomers/cosmologists Coryn Bailer-Jones (Max Planck Institute for Astronomy), Rebekah Dawson (UC Berkeley), Laurent Eyer (Geneva), Daniel Foreman-Mackey (Univ. of Washington), Ashish Mahabal (Caltech), Rachel Mandelbaum (CMU), Phil Marshall (SLAC), Brice Menard (Johns Hopkins), Pavlos Protopapas (Harvard), Jean-Luc Starck (CEA Saclay), Lucianne Walkowicz (Princeton), Risa Wechsler (Stanford); and by experts in statistical and machine learning methods: Ethan Anderes (UC Davis), Jeremy Kubica (Google), Ann Lee (CMU), Thomas Lee (UC Davis), James Long (Texas A&M), Jon McAuliffe (UC Berkeley), Xiao Li Meng (Harvard), Bodhisattva Sen (Columbia), Robert Wolpert (Duke). Abstract submission by February 1, 2016.)

(7) **2016 Classification Society Annual Conference, June 1–4, 2013**; Columbia, MO, USA; [www.classification-society.org](http://www.classification-society.org)

(8) **IMPS 2013: International Meeting of the Psychometric Society, July 12–15, 2016**; Renaissance Hotel in Asheville, NC, USA; [www.psychometricsociety.org/content/imps-2016](http://www.psychometricsociety.org/content/imps-2016)


(10) **22nd International Conference on Computational Statistics, August 23–26, 2016**; Conference Centre of Oviedo, Spain; [www.compstat2016.org](http://www.compstat2016.org)

(12) RSS 2016: Royal Statistical Society—International conference for all statisticians and users of data, September 5–8, 2016; University Place, Manchester; www.rss.org.uk/RSS/Events/RSS_Conference/RSS_2016_International_Conference

(13) IAUS 325: Astroinformatics (AstroInfo16)—International Astronomical Union Symposia 325, September 29–October 4, 2016; Sorrento, Italy; www.iau.org/science/meetings/future/symposia/1158

(14) ICPR 2016: 23rd International Conference on Pattern Recognition, December 4–8, 2016; Cancun International Convention Center, Cancun, Mexico; www.icpr2016.org (Hosted by the Mexican Association for Computer Vision, Neurocomputing and Robotics [MACVNR]; includes pattern recognition, machine learning and computer vision.)

(15) 2017 IFCS Biennial Meeting, August, 8–10, 2017; Tokyo, Japan; www.ifcs.info

Fionn Murtagh