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Amman, Jordan

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International Institute of Andragogy
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Edificio Capaya P H7, Las Mercedes
Caracas 1060, Venezuela

International Rescue Committee
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New York NY 10016, USA

Eco Theo Group
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Asian Highway Co-ordinating Committee
c/o Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Sala Santitham
Bangkok 2, Thailand

World Assembly of First Nations
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Ottawa ON, Canada

Planetary Citizens
Donald F Keys, President
PO Box 426
Menlo Park CA 94026, USA
B2261/9 23 APRIL 1986

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INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT CONGRESS<

24

Founded 30 Apr 1963, San Francisco CA, as International
Micrographic Congress (IMC) -- Congrès international de
Micrographie -- Congresso Internacional de Micrografía --
Internationaler Kongress für Mikrografie. Present name adopted
1983. Incorporated in the State of Michigan (USA) as a
non-profit, tax-exempt educational corporation.<

25

Aims Promote understanding and cooperation among the
societies of the world which are engaged in furthering the
progress and applications of information systems and products;
stimulate development of new methods and devices, provide an
international clearing house for information of advancements
and facilities for exchange of publications and papers among
member societies; promote and encourage the establishment and use
of international standards; promote international exhibits and
conventions.<

26

Structure Board of Directors of 15 (3-year term); President
(usually from nation hosting annual congress) and Board of
Presidents (Presidents of all member associations); Executive
Committee; General Manager; Executive Secretary. Committees (7):
Awards and Nominations; Convention; education; Finance;
Membership; Public Relations; Publications. languages
English.

28

Staff 3 paid.<

33

Activities Organizes: educational programmes; annual
congresses; regional congresses. Annual Congress with
Exhibition Tokyo 1965, Miami FL (USA) 1967, Frankfurt-Main
Paris 1979, Hong Kong 1980, Mexico City 1981, Copenhagen 1982,
San Francisco CA 1983, Singapore 1984, Amsterdam 1985, Toronto

35

Publications IMC Newsletter (monthly); IMC Journal (6
times a year): Multilingual bibliography; proceedings;
glossaries; books.<

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Members Associate; Sustaining; Affiliate, in 32 countries:<
2Af Morocco, South Africa. Am Argentina, Brazil,
Canada, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, USA, Venezuela. As India,
Israel, Japan, Korea Rep, Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan. Au
Australia, New Zealand. Eu Austria, Denmark, Finland, France,
Germany FR, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Spain, Sweden,
Switzerland, UK.<

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>1985.11.04<
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- Scope and method, Biases
- Background, Intended use
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- Warning
- Errata

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  - PX: World problems: Index (classified)

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- Section H: Human Development
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sections</th>
<th>Section code</th>
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General index 247

Total "problems + potential" 8797 24409 49018 1199 100.0

N.B. In addition to the entries indicated, the 1976 edition contained the following separate sections which have not been included in the current edition: International organizations (3300), Traded products and commodities (241), Intellectual disciplines and sciences (1845), Economic and industrial sectors (132), Occupations and jobs (759), Multinational corporations (406), Human diseases (775), International periodicals (1197), Multilateral treaties (931). International organizations (24, 180) are described in the current Yearbook of International Organizations with multilateral treaties (see Table 3). Volume 3 of that series classifies organizations, treaties and world problems by subject (3000 categories).
CONTENT OF SECTIONS

As noted above (in “Notes to the user”) the sections in this volume are positioned in an alphabetic order determined by a mnemonic letter code. This enables the significance of cross-reference and index entries to be more easily remembered and understood during use. The Strategies Section (S) therefore appears before the Values Section (V). In the following discussion of the contents, however, it is appropriate to review these sections in a particular logical sequence different from the mnemonic order. Other such sequences could also be usefully envisaged.

1. World problems (Section P)

The purpose of this section, the largest in the volume, is to identify the complete range of world problems perceived by international constituencies, whether as a focus for their programme activities, their research, their protest, their recommendations, or as part of their belief system. An entry has been established on each. This provides a context within which the network of specific relationships perceived between these problems may also be identified.

Information on problems transcending national frontiers tends to be: (a) widely available in excessive amounts in the case of macro-problems for which comprehensive strategies cannot be implemented effectively, or (b) highly dispersed in modest amounts in the case of politically acceptable problems for which satisfactory programmes promising tangible results can be designed, or (c) in the case of problems only recognized by experts, disguised or concealed within documents analyzing more acceptable problems or describing the range of detailed programmes in response to the latter, or (d) reported infrequently in an unsystematic manner in the media and specialized press in the case of problems for which no organized response has yet emerged. The majority of conventional responses to problems take the form of short-term budgetary commitments to politically acceptable short-term programmes, irrespective of the long-term nature of the problems which they are supposedly designed to contain. There is a need to group information on the network of perceived world problems to facilitate comprehension of their pattern as a whole, in all its variety and detail, and of ways in which the constituent problems are interrelated, as a means of encouraging the emergence of more appropriate conceptual, strategic and organizational networks to contain them.

The section contains entries on 10,233 world problems. It is divided into two parts: Section PP and Section PQ. The first, Section PP, contains 7,000 entries with descriptions. Within each entry may be associated a set of up to 7 different types of cross-reference to other problems: more general, more specific, related, overlapping, substituting, derived from others already described, or which, as sub-problems, fall below a cut-off level of specificity presently documented in some hierarchy of problems appearing in Section PP.

As a whole this section endeavours to present all the phenomena in society that are perceived negatively by groups transcending national frontiers. These are the phenomena which engender fear and threaten national survival, as well as those concerning a change in creative remedial action. Groups are very strongly motivated by the problems which infringe their values and arouse their indignation.

As such they are a major stimulus driving the development of society. The perceptions documented raise useful questions concerning the nature of problems and what is meant by the “existence” of a problem, especially when other groups consider that particular problems are irrelevant or misleading. This section provides a difficulty in obtaining and editing material on problems, rather than on incidents, remedial programme action, theories, or other frameworks through which perception of problems is filtered. So to that extent, it could be argued that this section assembles information on which people collectively have great difficulty in focusing, namely information whose significance, whether deliberately repressed, displaced onto some less threatening problems, or projected in the form of blame onto some other social group.

2. Human values (Section V)

The importance of values is frequently cited in relation to the global problematic, whether it be in debates in international assemblies, in studies criticizing “value-free” approaches to research, or in discussion of quality of life and individual fulfillment. Values are deemed especially important in questions of cultural development and are central to concern for the preservation of cultural heritage. The purpose of this section is to register the complete range of values with which people identify, to which they are attracted or which they reject as abhorrent. Whilst it had been hoped to develop such lists from documents of international bodies, no adequate lists of values were located, even within the intergovernmental agencies (such as UNESCO) specifically concerned with human values, and despite numerous reports and meetings on “values” in recent years. The values referred to are very seldom named, although the commonest may be cited as examples. The list presented here has therefore been elaborated by the editors as an experiment based on the selection and interrelationship of constructive and destructive value words.

The section contains 2,270 entries. It is divided into four parts: Section VC, Section VD, Section VP, Section VT. Section VC contains 950 constructive value words (e.g. peace, harmony, beauty), Section VD contains 1,040 destructive value words (e.g. conflict, depravity, ugliness). The entries in these two sections are linked by 7,008 cross-references to 225 entries in Section VP. These entries are value-polarities (e.g. agreement-disagreement, freedom-restraint, pleasure-displeasure) derived from the organization of Roget’s Thesaurus. These in turn cross-reference 45 entries in Section VT in an attempt to identify major value categories. The section as a whole contains 14,463 cross-references.

None of the entries contain “descriptions” of the value(s) implied. In most cases this would be superfluous. The words in Section VC reflect values which tend to be accepted without questioning. Those in Section VD reflect values which tend to be rejected without questioning. The emphasis is placed on using the cross-references to indicate the range of connotations of particular value words. The entries on value polarities, Section VP, do however list proverbs, aphorisms or quotations selected to illustrate the dynamic counter-intuitive relationship between constructive and destructive values. They endeavour to draw on popular wisdom or insight to demonstrate the negative consequences and limitations of blind adherence to constructive values or to demonstrate the positive consequences and creative opportunity of judicious action in the light of destructive values. They point to the existence of a more fundamental and challenging dynamic than that implied, for example, by peace-at-all-costs and total rejection of conflict.

This exploration of values is of special interest in relation to the world problems in Section P. Many problems are named in international debate using a destructive value word (e.g. insufficient, unrealistic, unjust, inappropriate). Problems defined in this way imply the existence of some corresponding value whose expression is infringed by the problem. Such values may or may not be noted in defining the purposes underlying remedial action in response to the problem, although often they form part of the wording of any rallying slogan in support of some international strategy in Section S. But the set of constructive and destructive value words does indicate a way of coming to grips with the range of problems which the existing language renders perceivable and nameable. They also indicate possible dimensions of human development. This section is of course limited at this stage by the biases inherent in Roget’s Thesaurus and the English language. It does however create a framework which could enable these limitations to be transcended.

3. Human development (Section H)

The purpose of this section is to describe briefly the complete range of concepts of human development with which people identify, consider meaningful or reject in their search for growth and fulfillment in life. The scope of this section has been deliberately
extended beyond the unrelated concepts accepted with great
cautions by intergovernmental agencies: the job-fulfilment orienta-
tion of ILO, the health-oriented concepts of WHO and the educa-
tion-oriented concepts of UNESCO. It includes concepts legitimate-
t by the psychological and psychoanalytical establishments as
well as those promoted by the various contemporary growth
movements. It also includes concepts from religions and from belief
systems of different cultures. Entries are included on explicit
concepts of human development and on therapies, activities,

experiences in which a particular understanding of human develop-
ment is implicit.

The section contains 1,598 entries. It is divided into two parts:
Section HM and Section HM. Section HM describes 628 concepts
of human development and updates a section in the previous
edition, as a result of the participation of the editors in the Goals,
Processes and Indicators of Development project of the United
Nations University’s Human and Social Development Programme.
Section HM endeavours to describe 988 modes of awareness,
namely the experiential states associated with different stages in
the process of human development as perceived by different
groups (and preferably using wording with which such groups
would identify).

The entries have been linked by 4,461 cross-references.
These either indicate relationships between more general or more
specific concepts, or especially in Section HM, the relationship
between succeeding modes of awareness in some process of
human development (whether linear or cyclical).

This section indicates ways in which people struggle within
themselves for fulfillment and the experiences associated with that
struggle which they find meaningful (whether or not such experi-
ences are considered totally deluded or inappropriate by different
scientific or religious establishments). That many of these exper-
ences cannot be effectively “put into words” is indicated by the
use of metaphors or symbols in naming them. These appear as
strange to Western eyes as do others to Eastern cultures.

4. Strategies (Section S)

As with the world problems section, the purpose of this section is
to explore ways of identifying a complete range of strategies
conceived by different international constituencies as appropriate
responses to world problems, whether at the global or at the local
level. An entry is provided on each as appropriate, enabling them to
be cross-referenced to the relevant international bodies advocat-
ing them, to the world problems against which they are directed (or
which they may aggravate) or to the values in the light of which
they have been formulated. Where possible the descriptions indic-
athe special strengths or inherent weaknesses (or blindspots)
of each strategy.

The section contains entries on 8,335 strategies. It is divided into
two parts: Section SS, Section SQ, Section SR, Section SS,
and Section ST. The entries with the main purpose is to group cross-references to the 7,148 strategies in Section SQ into strategic categories. The definition of each category is sharpened by presenting it as a polarity (e.g. Protecting-Endangering) indicating both a strategy and the counterstrategy
to which it must respond. The second, Section SQ, contains
7,148 strategies, which are not printed in this volume. The names of
these strategies are however indexed as well as being cross-
referred from Section SP. Section SQ is used to register strate-
gies that have been defined at a local level, or on which information
is being sought, or which are inadequately distinguished from
those already described, or which, as sub-strategies, fall below a
cut-off level of detail presently documented in some hierarchy of
strategies appearing in Section SS. The third, Section SR, covers
personal strategies. It contains 224 entries with brief descriptions.
Section SS contains 679 collective strategies with more extensive
descriptions. Section ST groups together the 239 strategic polar-
ties of Section SP into 45 types. In this way the information in
Sections SP and ST is presented using categories equivalent to the
value categories of Sections VP and VT. There are 7,959 cross-references interrelating the entries in this Section, mainly
from Section SP to Section SQ.

In the absence of any conscious need for strategies, there is little effort to juxtapose the different concepts of viable strategies.
As a result strategies of a type favoured by one set of
constituencies are rarely to be found together with those favoured
by others, as these are perceived as “irresignissible” or “irrele-
vant”, however large the constituencies to which the latter appeal.
As a consequence, the variety of ways in which people are acting,
or are prepared to act collectively, is obscured or devalued. As a
whole this section therefore attempts to portray the kinds of
response being envisaged in response to the global problematique,
but more comprehensively than is implied by the existence of a
few widely publicized strategies such as the International Develop-
ment Strategy or the World Conservation Strategy. The value of un-
dertaking sections SR, SQ, and SS is clarified by the projects within
the framework of the Goals, Processes and Indicators of Develop-
ment project of the United Nations University (on alternative ways
of life, strategies and dialogues respectively).

5. Integrative knowledge (Section K)

A principal characteristic of the global problematique is its inhe-
rent complexity. This calls for a complex response interrelating
many different intellectual resources and insights and involving
sensitivity to very different kinds of constraint. Integrative ap-
proaches of this kind have proved inadequate or exceedingly diffi-
cult to implement in a society characterized by specialization and
fragmentation. Following token interest in interdisciplinarity in its
own right, recent years have seen an emphasis on a project-by-
project pragmatic approach, which avoids the need for any form of
conceptual framework transcending individual disciplines, but begs
the question as to the relationship between such projects.

The purpose of this section is to assemble descriptions of the
range of concepts or conceptual approaches which are, in some
ways, rendered integrational and which are considered by inter-
national constituencies to provide the key to the organization of
any effective strategic response to to the global problematique.
Many of the words used to label these concepts are those which are
considered indicators of the power of an advocated approach.
They frequently appear in project proposals to trigger favourable
response, whether or not any content can be given to them in
practice. Words like “global”, “integrative”, “networking” and
“systematic” are the magical “words-of-power” in the modern
organizational world.

The section contains 702 entries on integrative concepts. It is
divided into two parts: Section KC and Section KD. Section KC
describes 632 integrative, interdisciplinary or unitary concepts in
the broadest sense, namely it includes advocated methods of
integrating awareness favoured by those who reject a purely con-
ceptual approach. It is one of the few sections carried over and
updated from the previous edition (when it was prepared with the
support of the Society for General Systems Research). The 70
entries in Section KD comment on recent efforts to interrelate
incompatible conceptual approaches and the nature of the challen-
ge that this implies. This material is derived from papers prepared
by the editors during their participation in the Goals, Processes
and Indicators of Development project of the United Nations
University, especially on problems of methodology.

The section as a whole attempts to respond to the dramatic
problem of how to interrelate vital conceptual insights which are
essentially incommensurable and in practice often mutually anta-
agonistic. A plurality of responses in not in itself an adequate
response, especially since each fails to internalize the discontinui-
ty, incompatibility and disagreement which its existence as an
alternative engenders. It is for this reason that the second part
explores the possibility, implicit or explicit in recent studies, that
a more appropriate answer might emerge from a patterned alterna-
tion between alternatives. This calls for a focus on the models of
alternation by which the pattern and timing of cyclic transforma-
tions can be ordered between mutually opposed alternatives.
It highlights the possibility that the kind of integrative approach
required may not be found in any tabulation of the language of any
single conceptual framework, however sophisticated.

6. Communication (Section C)

Any form of international “mobilization of public opinion” to
gender the much sought “political will to change” is dependent
upon communication, especially when the insights required to
guide that change are complex, counter-intuitive or simply not
clearly communicable within any one context. The purpose of
this section is therefore to review the complete range of
communication possibilities and constraints. This is partly in
response to the narrow focus of recent major intergovernmental
initiatives under the extremely misleading titles of “International
Commission for the Study of Communication Problems" (limited to the mass media) and the "International Communications Year" (telecommunications hardware) by UNESCO and ITU respectively. It is however a direct consequence of participation by the editors in the Formations of Preambles sub-programs of the Goals, Processes and Indicators of Development project of the United Nations University.

The section consists of 1,055 entries. It is divided into four parts: Section CF, Section CM, Section CP and Section CS. The first, Section CF, contains 528 entries describing different forms of presentation or methods of communication, indicating wherever possible the special strengths and limitations of that mode. As an editorial experiment the remaining three sections, each take one of these forms and elaborate entries relevant to the concerns of this project. Section CM explores through 88 entries the possibility of designing metaphors that are appropriate to engendering a creative response to the global problematic. Section CP explores in 337 entries three different approaches to interrelating mutually incompatible concepts in a pattern. Section CS reviews in 102 entries the range of symbols used in modern and traditional cultures as a way of communicating multiple levels of significance in a compact and reproducible form.

As a whole the section provides a framework within which to review alternative ways of interrelating items of information to facilitate comprehension and communication. The first part, Section CF, highlights the complementarity of very different modes of communication, each with its strengths and limitations. It is therefore a response to the increasing tendency to believe it is possible to depend only upon one mode, whether it is books, video, equations or slogans and to condemn others as being without serious value.

The second part, Section CM, recognizes the unique importance of metaphor in politics, education, religion and scientific creativity as a means of communicating complex notions, especially in transdisciplinary contexts. The entries have been elaborated as an experiment to stimulate interest in this mode as one of the few means of rapidly stimulating innovative breakthroughs in development problems, since it is not dependent on lengthy, specialized education and can, for example, be intimately interwoven into pre-existing rural community experience.

The third part, Section CP, is partly based on a comparative review of a very wide range of different concept schemes as patterns. One group of 253 entries has been developed from a "pattern language" elaborated by a team led by the environmental designer Christopher Alexander as an aid to designing physical contexts in which quality of life is enhanced. Selected patterns have been used, according to the methods of the previous section, as substrates for metaphors such as to suggest ways in which social, conceptual and intra-personal contexts may also be "designed": its special merit is the integration between the component patterns provided by relationships reflecting an understanding of the socio-physiological environment. Each entry is particularly meaningful and exceptionally harmonious. Another group of 64 entries is based on the pattern of concepts implicit in the much-publicized Chinese classic, the Book of Changes. These are transposed into a language which highlights the significance of such a complex pattern of transformations in any organizational or meeting environment. Its special merit is the explicit recognition of the need to shift from condition to condition in order to ensure both healthy development and the ability to respond to a turbulent environment. The final group of 20 entries is an exercise in designing a pattern of relationships between incompatible concepts in the light of insights in a wide range of different concept schemes that use sets of concepts of different sizes to contain qualitative complexity. Its merit lies in its deliberate attempt to internalize discontinuity and disagreement within the pattern. In total, there are 3,863 cross-references interlinking entries in this sub-section.

The fourth part, Section CS, emerges from the recognition of the special importance of symbols in embodying significance and giving focus to any campaign or program and asks what the common identity in relation to other initiatives. As a focus for public attention, their choice is far from being an arbitrary matter. It is a response to constraints which need to be better understood if human resources are to be more effectively mobilized. They give visual form to abstract concepts by which development processes are organized especially in traditional cultures which do not respond to conventional forms of presentation. The relationship between the symbols by which people are motivated (or alienated) is also of vital importance. There are 636 cross-references between entries in this sub-section.

7. Innovative Techniques (Section T)

The purpose of this section is to provide a context for the presentation of accessible techniques, which offer possibilities of making an immediate difference to the manner in which resources are mobilized in response to the global problematic. It contains 218 entries. It is divided into two parts: Section TC and Section TM. The first contains 207 entries with descriptions on new ways of conceiving meetings and meeting processes. The second contains 11 entries suggesting ways of re-ordering a conceptual arena presently frozen into an unfruitful pattern of polarisation.

Meetings, and especially international meetings, are a vital feature of social processes and the initiation of change. They are principal means whereby different perspectives are "assembled". Through such occasional resources are brought to bear upon questions of common concern. They may also provide the environment in which supposedly unrelated topics can emerge and be juxtaposed. But despite the assistance of professionals and the increasing number of such events, there is rising concern that many do not fulfi the expectations of participants, nor of those whose future may depend upon the outcome. This is particularly true of events most concerned with social transformation. Current meeting procedures, despite efforts at innovation, on such questions tend to give rise to little more than short-term public relations impact and in this form can themselves constitute an important obstacle to social change. In a very real sense meetings model collective (in)ability to act and the ineffectiveness of collective action. The challenge is therefore to provoke reflection on a new metatheoretical or conceptual framework through which meeting dynamics may be perceived and organized in order that they may fulfill their potential role in response to the global problematic.

STRUCTURE

The previous edition was composed of 13 sections, interlinked by cross-references between items, both within a section and between sections. There was also a variety of introductory texts. Although this reflected the complexity of the material it made access to it more than necessarily difficult. In this edition the number of pages prior to the first section has been reduced. The introduction to each section has been considerably simplified and all amplifying comments, acknowledgements and other notes have been transferred to the end of the volume. Although this section extensively contains 21 sections, these have been grouped into 7 major groups for each of which there is a brief introduction and a mini-index. The general index is located at the end of the volume. Items anywhere in the book are identified by a six-digit code (e.g. VP1234) in which the first letter indicates the major section and the second letter the subsection in which it is located.

Sections within any subsection are in most cases not grouped according to any classification scheme. This continues the policy adopted for the 1976 edition and is in accordance with that adopted for the Yearbook of International Organizations. Despite the strong arguments for classifying items, the fundamental reason for not doing so is that it avoids reinforcing the impression that such classification can be readily done and satisfactorily done. One of the challenges however is that there is no generally agreed classification scheme for the many topical topics. What is called for at this time is a series of ongoing experiments with different classification schemes, some of which may eventually prove to be of value. The data needs to be held in an arbitrary permanent order which facilitates such experiments without hindering the editorial tasks of maintaining the data on computer. This question is discussed in more detail in Appendix YB. On such items can be classified the items in the world problems section by subject is published in Global Action Networks (vol 3 of Yearbook of International Organizations).

There are cross-references between entries in some sections. These are listed at the end of each entry, if present. In some cases there are also cross-references between entries in different sections. Because of the scope of the cross-referencing system, it has been necessary to use a 2-letter coding system to indicate the type of cross-reference. For ease of use, the relationship codes
used in any section are explained at the head of each page of the
section. There are three groups of cross-references:
- Cross-references within a section indicating some form of
logical relationship: (a) which other entries the entry may be con­
sidered a part of (analogous to Broader Term in a thesaurus); (b)
which other entries may be considered a part of that entry (analo­
gous to Narrower Term in a thesaurus); and (c) which other entries
may be considered related (analogous to Related Term in a
thesaurus).
- Cross-references within a section indicating some form of
functional relationship: (a) which other entries may be con­
sidered to precede this entry in any causal chain or process; (b) which
other entries may be considered to follow from this entry in any
causal chain. A distinction may be made in each case be­
tween a constructive and a destructive causal chain.
- Cross-references between sections indicating some form of
relationship: (a) which other entries may be considered part of
analogous to Broader Term in a thesaurus); (b) which other entries
may be considered part of that entry (analogous to Narrower Term in a
thesaurus); and (c) which other entries may be considered related (analogous to Related Term in a
thesaurus).

7. The editorial process is assisted by working indexes which are
periodically updated or sorted by subcategory.

9. For some sections of this volume very extensive use of
computers has been made to explore various ways of reordering
and regrouping the items.

The task of preparing the final text is therefore an editorial
process of making the best use of any number of items touching on
the nature of the organization, the world problem, or the strategy
as the case may be. It should be stressed, particularly in the case of
the world problems section in this volume, that the task is con­
ceived as being editorial and not research in which the editors
might be required to analyze material in order to formulate hypothe­
ses concerning the problems in any particular domain. This said,
the task of determining from a mass of documents in a file what
problems or sub-problems are being identified there, explicitly or
implicitly, is necessarily largely an empirical rather than a logical
sense of the term. It is the role of the editors to clarify any present­
ation and to use supporting texts to reinforce any relevant opinion
expressed, rather than in the formulation of a legal brief. It is not
the role of the editors to impose their own opinion on the material.
One clear exception to this, in the case of world problems, was to clarify
the names used to denote world problems when these are conven­
tionally confused in international jargon with names of associated
values or remedial strategies. “Peace”, “disarmament” and
“youth” are not considered adequate names for world problems.
An adequate problem name was required to have one or more
words, indicating its problematic nature (e.g. “proliferation of
arms”, “disaffected youth”).

This volume includes a number of smaller sections of a delibe­
rately experimental nature, such as those on values, communica­
tion, and meetings. As noted above, in each case the method used is
discussed in the section. Wherever possible it is an extension or a
variation on the editorial procedure outlined above.

The design of this volume, namely the sections selected for
inclusion in it, was partly determined by the experience of the
previous edition and the possibility of updating or (temporarily)
excluding certain of its sections. It was also strongly influenced by
material arising from participation of the United Nations
Associations in a five-year research project on Goals, Processes
and Indicators of Development (1979-1982) of the United
Development
Programme of the United Nations University.

The existence

and final form of some sections, especially that on values, was
influenced by the opportunity of experimenting with various possi­
ble techniques in manipulating and presenting information via the computer.

It is appropriate to stress the strong pragmatic influence on
working methods as they affected the design of the volume in its
present form. As in any design problem there were constraints on
resources and in this case, due to the restricted level of editorial
funding, they were very tight for a project of this scope. The detail­
ed procedures were continually reviewed and modified to achieve
a satisfactory final result with the most efficient use of resources.
Since the page space was necessarily also limited, another
constraint was to “pack” information as efficiently as possible.
These factors influenced, and were influenced by, the manner in
which the text database system could be used or modified to facili­
tate the procedures leading to the final product. The difficulties
and opportunities were further complicated by the fact that computer
work was transferred from mainframe batch system to an exper­
imental local area network during the final production phases.

Despite the technical possibility of doing so, a decision was
made not to use resources to submit edited texts in draft form to
competent authorities for comment or improvement prior to publi­
cation. In the case of the world problems section, for example, the
assumption was made that an adequate formulation could be
adapted from the documents originally supplied by international
organizations claiming some competence in the domain of the
section, particularly if they had been sent in response to proof texts
from the previous edition. This procedure proved much more effi­
cient than that of requesting such bodies to elaborate problem
descriptions (as was done for the previous edition). Commission­
ing them to do so was beyond the resources of the project, with the
exception of some work on the human potential sections. As part of
an ongoing project, the existing texts will be submitted as proofs to
concerned bodies to trigger responses for the next edition, as
is done for the *Yearbook of International Organizations.*
BIASES

In the light of the scope and methods noted above, a further influence on the design of the publication was a number of specific biases, some of which strongly influenced the length of any description.

1. As mentioned above, the whole editorial process was biased against any particular set of values, especially any particular concept of truth or falsehood, or of right or wrong, or of good or evil, or of strategic relevance or irrelevance, whether or not this resulted in texts which were acceptable or ridiculous in terms of the scientific, legal, religious, cultural, political or strategic priorities of others.

The task was conceived as one of "telling things as they are" in the eyes of those who identify with a particular perspective, not of highlighting only what is important according to one such perspective.

2. There is a definite bias towards giving more space to less well-publicized perspectives and consequently less space to the standard well-documented perspectives, for example the world problems of war, famine, pollution, etc.

3. The above bias is partly corrected by a bias in favour of presenting any problem complex as an interconnected set of many sub-problems rather than as one long amalgamated description. The sub-problem descriptions may in fact be longer than that of the parent problem.

4. When information was inadequate or too much editorial work was required to process the available material into an appropriate form, there was a bias in favour of including the entry, even without a description, rather than excluding it to ensure an impression of entries of higher quality. There was therefore a bias in favour of opening up categories to which indexes and cross-references could refer in anticipation of work in future editions. This may be viewed as a bias in favour of lists.

5. In contrast to other efforts to document world problems, there was a definite bias against dependence on "high grade" information in which each "fact" has been substantiated by an approved authority. As pointed out earlier, such "facts" are quickly disputed, denied or ignored in counter-reports by those holding alternative views, whether "authoritative" or not. Where high grade information is available from international bodies it has been used. Where the information is too controversial to be approved by an international body or where no concerned body exists, "low grade" information circulating in the media has been used.

6. This publication raises many questions about the use of language by the international community and the media. Whether a world problem denoted by a particular set of words "exists" in a manner distinct from that denoted by a related set of words (which appear to be partly synonymous) is a matter for continuing review. The assumption was made that this was largely correct by the extensive use of materials formulated in the multilingual environments of international organizations. Some exceptions were also made in the case of unique materials obtained in French.

7. A final specific bias, associated with the previous point, is one against premature classification in this volume. The task here is seen to be one of registering, describing and interrelating perspectives (in a non-linear manner, where necessary), not of classifying them in some framework which would eliminate significant inconsistencies. Hence the bias in favour of unstructured lists, cross-referenced by indexing and cross-references. Classification, with all that it implies in terms of imposition of a particular conceptual (and often defensive) framework on data, is a separate matter.

The same approach is adopted with regard to the international organizations and multilateral treaties in the Yearbook of International Organizations (vol 1). These are classified experimentally (in vol 3) in an evolving integrated framework of some 3,000 categories, together with the world problems and strategies from this volumes (see Appendix YB).

BACKGROUND

The previous edition of this publication was published in 1976 under the title Yearbook of World Problems and Human Potential. It was produced as an experiment arising from a joint project started in 1972 between the Union of International Associations and Mankind 2000. For the UIA it was a logical extension of its function as a clearinghouse for information on the networks of international agencies and associations, as documented in its 3-volume Yearbook of International Organizations. For Mankind 2000, as catalyst of the international futures research movement, it was a means of bringing into focus its prime concern with the place and development of the human being in the emerging world society. The project was jointly funded by the two transnational non-profit bodies, with Mankind 2000 supporting the editorial costs and the UIA the publishing and administrative costs.

In its present form, under the new title, the publication is jointly funded by the UIA and K G Saur Verlag, current publisher of the UIA's 3-volume Yearbook. Agreement to produce this edition was reached in 1983, when work commenced. It was originally conceived as constituting a fourth volume within the Yearbook series because of the degree of cross-referencing between the four volumes. But because its periodicity will depend on how it is received, it was subsequently decided to treat it as a separate publication under the current title rather than tie it to the established annual Yearbook. The present content of the book has also been strongly influenced by the participation of the UIA in the United Nations University project on Goals, Processes and Indicators of Development during the period 1978-82.

Originally founded in Brussels in 1907, partly on the initiative of two Nobel Peace Laureates (Henri La Fontaine, 1913; Auguste Beernaert, 1909), the UIA as an international nongovernmental organization had activities prior to 1939 which illustrate its long-term interest in relation to the current project. These include publication of the Annuaire de la Vie Internationale, Vol I (1908-1909, 1370 pages), Vol II (1910-1911, 2852 pages) which included information on problems with which international organizations were concerned at that time. Also published was a Code des forces internationales (International Classification of the forces internationales) (1932, 340 pages, under the auspices of the League of Nations), which listed those portions of the texts of international organization resolutions which covered substantive matters, including what are now regarded as world problems. It covered 1216 resolutions adopted at 151 international meetings. The subject index lists some 1200 items. Paul Otlet, co-founder of the UIA and co-editor of the above publication, described it as a synthetic description of the world, "me Internationaux et la Guerre" which identified many problems giving rise to and caused by war, and proposing the creation of a League of Nations. In 1935 he attempted a synthesis, Monde, which touched upon many problems and their solution within a society in transformation. The preface bore the title "The Problem of Problems", a topic he had first explored in 1918.

INTENDED USE

A project of this kind evokes amongst some the response "Why bother, when we already know what ought to be done?" Who, after all, needs another book on the increase in global problems? How can the global community be confronted? Key people no longer have time to read more than one page summaries and each international body is acting as best it can to contain the problems to which it is sensitive.

In 1984 the Director of Political Affairs of one major intergovernmental body considered this project both presumptuous and ridiculous. He then went on to argue that problems did not "exist" in a way which allowed them to be identified and described in a book. For his institution they were agenda items which came and went according to the political currents of the moment, ceasing to "exist" once his organization was no longer obliged by political pressures to deal with them.

Others would argue that it is a grave mistake to focus on problems in any way because this "gives them energy", hindering the necessary "positive thinking" from which appropriate social transformation can emerge. There is widespread belief that the
action required can be simply defined. Food aid is a topical example, although even major intergovernmental bodies are now acknowledging the counter-productive aspects of such generosity. A modicum of humility would require the recognition that most seemingly positive initiatives have at least minor counter-productive effects - omelettes cannot be made without breaking eggs.

There are however many who point out that international institutions are not containing the problems faced by the global community; rather they are being overwhelmed by them. To function at all, such bodies have to concentrate on very small portions of the pattern of problems, denying the relevance of other portions or even their very existence. This is especially the case when they are constrained to prove the value of their own initiatives even though they may aggravate such other problems. Many claim to know what needs to be focussed on, or done, or avoided to resolve the crisis - if only everybody else would subscribe to their particular set of priorities. In such a context it is appropriate to present these many "action vectors" within a single framework, in effect bringing them collectively to consciousness rather than denying or repressing those which do not fall neatly within some favourite paradigm.

This volume is therefore intended for those who question whether they are receiving information from a sufficiently broad range of perspectives. It is for those who believe that much might be learnt from the variety of perspectives on what constitute significant problems and significant responses to them. In particular it is for those who recognize the possible dangers and limitations of attempting to filter this variety down to a handful of "essential" problems which can be appropriately contained by a single policy, strategy or blueprint based on a single conceptual framework guided by a single set of values.

The users of this volume will therefore include:
- International relations institutes;
- Policy research institutes and "think-tanks";
- International organizations (governmental and nongovernmental) concerned with the potential range of problems and programmes and with the design of new programmes;
- University departments (international relations, environment, law, social science) concerned with interdisciplinary issues and ways of presenting to students the variety of the global problématique and potential responses to it;
- National government departments designing programmes which need to be sensitive to problems and possibilities in other sectors;
- Futures research institutes;
- Universities responsible for designing general studies programmes for students;
- Ministries of foreign affairs concerned with training or briefing diplomats and members of delegations;
- Students in many fields needing an overview of the range of global issues, how they may relate and the difficulties of ordering such information within one conceptual framework;
- Change agents promoting the creation of new organizations or programmes, whether at the international or the local level;
- People concerned with paradigm change and conceptual breakthroughs in responding to the global problématique;
- Foundations requiring a sense of context within which they can assess new proposals;
- Corporations concerned with navigating in a complex and turbulent social environment;
- Researchers grappling with the ill-defined fields of values, human development and states of consciousness and their relationship to global problem-solving.

It is expected that the majority of readers will use this book to locate specific items or groups of information. Some users will respond to the challenge of ordering, comprehending and presenting such a range of information in new ways, because of the extent to which it reflects the variety of issues with which people and groups identify and by which they are motivated. It is hoped that some will also be further stimulated to explore the possibility of paradigmatic coexistence between incompatible conceptual languages, encompassing the discontinuity between them in order to develop a dynamic conceptual foundation appropriate to the global order of the future.

ASSESSMENT

The principal strength of this publication lies in the range of information presented, often derived from inaccessible documents, reflecting a broad spectrum of cultures, ideologies, disc plines and belief systems. Many of the topics are little-known, however vitally relevant they may appear to those specially sensitive to them. A significant proportion of the information is of a kind which is normally avoided or ignored by institutions and academic disciplines, because there are no adequate procedures or frameworks for handling it. Many of the topics are therefore of a kind not to be found in available reference books whether because they fall between conventionally recognized categories, or because they threaten them in some way (as with some types of problem).

A second strength lies in the juxtaposition of seemingly unrelatable kinds of information (e.g. problems, values, human development) which emerge as complementary and call for the recognition of a pattern of relationships between them. The organization of the volume is designed to permit very extensive cross-referencing of various types. It allows relationships, whether logical or functional, to be indicated in a much more precise manner than in other contexts.

A third strength is the deliberate presentation of information so as to confront opposing viewpoints, whether through the arguments supporting or denying the existence of a particular problem, by matching constructive and destructive values, or by opposing strategies and counter-strategies. Wherever possible entries indicate the limitations of the perspective presented. The structure of the volume therefore guards against dependence on any one particular perspective. Each may indeed be appropriate in particular circumstances, but it is more probable that it is only on the whole "gene-pool" of perspectives that humanity can safety depend in a turbulent social environment during a period of vulnerability to nuclear, ecological and food crises of an unpredictable nature.

A fourth strength is the exploration, both through the variety of information and through a number of editorial experiments, of the limitations of language in distinguishing both problems and differences to them (values, modes of awareness, strategies). The approach used has made it possible to present sets of fuzzy categories, such as values, in a way which allows them to be usefully related to harder categories of information. Many neglected categories have been "opened up" in a manner which allows the significance of such distinctions to be explored. The approach uses questions assumptions about the adequacy of language in responding to the global problématique and designing integrative strategies.

The principal weakness of the publication lies in the inadequacy of information on particular items. Whilst many of the entries are adequate, or more than adequate, there are exceptions where more appropriate information could usefully have been included. These are direct consequences of the method which was used - culling information from many sources but did not permit (because of limitations on editorial resources) follow-up on particular items. This defect is also partly a consequence of the bias in favour of "opening up" neglected topics as opposed to extending information on well-documented topics.

A second weakness for many is the absence of any scheme through which the large amount of information is ordered. To this extent it may appear as a "grab-bag" collection of disconnected information of varying quality and significance. As is pointed out however, the absence of a classification scheme is deliberate because one of the fundamental challenges is the design of an adequate scheme which would be non-trivial and minimize distortion. The method used minimizes distortion and provides an information structure with which classification experiments can be undertaken, some of which are presented in this volume.

A third weakness is the absence of any adequate bibliography or indication of sources, particularly since in recognizing the existence of a particular in the international community it would be desirable to indicate what group or constituency holds that view. In the 1975 edition considerable effort was in fact expended in preparing extensive bibliographies on human development and on multidisciplinarity. These have not been included here. The diffi-
literally tons of documents were scanned for the rare paragraphs defining a problem. In preparing the final entry, the file used might contain photocopies of many such paragraphs. It was not considered feasible to allocate scarce resources to time-consuming bibliographic work when the objective was to cross-reference the entry to the international body directly concerned with an topic, whether or not that body provided information on it. Indeed one of the basic difficulties in obtaining information on world problems, for example, lay in the fact that the bodies most concerned with an issue were frequently unable to supply a succinct description of it. More useful texts often came from other sources commenting in summary form on the issue.

FUTURE IMPROVEMENTS

In the introduction to each sub-section, indications are given as to possible future improvements for subsequent editions. These mainly focus on refinement of the entries and extending the range of cross-references between them.

Now that all the sub-sections exist in text database files on an in-house local area computer network, many possibilities emerge for enriching the information, its organization and its presentation. Of special concern is the possibility of linking entries to specific international bodies and, in the case of the United Nations, to resolutions of those bodies.

The in-house computer facility should finally enable the networks of cross-references to be presented in map form as was originally envisaged in 1976. Although this step was planned for this edition, priority could not be accorded to it. It is believed however that experimenting with such visual presentation will lead to significant breakthroughs in ordering information on the global problematique and on ways of responding to it (see Appendix YF).