

ABSTRACT

This thesis is an experimental research in the area of cataloguing published conference proceedings. It begins by identifying the nine types of published conference proceedings found in University of Malaya Library's Catalogue based on the published knowledge as found in the cataloguing manual Anglo American Cataloguing Rules Revised 2nd ed. (AACR2R). This is followed by a questionnaire and semi-structured interviews with expert cataloguers in conference proceedings to verify the existence of these nine types of conference proceedings. Based on the interviews, a mental map of their thought processes is structured providing heuristic knowledge. CoPAS, an expert adviser system, is then developed using Asymetrix Multimedia's ToolBook II. CoPAS uses both the published knowledge and private (heuristic) knowledge as its knowledge base. CoPAS' three modules – Adviser, Examples, and AACR2R Rules – aims to give advise to novice cataloguers. When tested with undergraduate library science students, CoPAS was found to produce significantly better results in seven out of nine types of conference proceedings as compared with using the AACR2R manual. All 15 students did not reveal negative comments about CoPAS.