

# Clare Lawton Beghtol

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Clare Beghtol, n.d. Credit University of Toronto.

b. Feb. 15, 1942, Lincoln, Nebraska; d. Mar. 3, 2018, Toronto ON

## Education:

1963 BA (English Language and Literature, University of Chicago)

Graduate Studies in American Civilization (Brown University)

1981 MLS (University of Toronto)

1991 PhD (University of Toronto)

## Positions:

1967- Teacher, Sir George Williams University (now Concordia University)

1969- Editor, Copp Clark, Toronto

1971-1978 Freelance editor and writer

1981- Chief Cataloguer/Indexer, Research Unit, CBC-TV Current Affairs

1987-1992 Director of Research, Ketchum Canada Inc.

1993-1998 Tenure-track position, Faculty of Information Studies, University of Toronto

1998- 2002 Associate Professor, Faculty of Information Studies, University of Toronto

2002-2004 Associate Dean, Faculty of Information Studies, University of Toronto

2007-2009 Professor, Faculty of Information, University of Toronto

2009-2018 Professor Emeritus

## Publications (selected):

### Books:

Beghtol, Clare (1994). *The classification of fiction: the development of a system based on theoretical principles*. Metuchen, N.J.: Scarecrow Press, 1994.

Beghtol, Clare, Lynne C. Howarth, and Nancy J. Williamson, eds. (2000). *Dynamism and stability in knowledge organization: proceedings of the sixth International ISKO Conference, 10-13 July 2000, Toronto, Canada*. Würzburg, Germany: Ergon Verlag.

Williamson, Nancy J., and Clare Beghtol, eds. (2003). *Knowledge organization and classification in international information retrieval*. Binghamton, N.Y.: Haworth Information Press. Also published as *Cataloging & Classification Quarterly* 37, no.1/2.

### Book Chapters:

Beghtol, Clare (2001). "Relationships in classificatory structure and meaning." In *Relationships in the*

organization of knowledge, edited by Carol A. Bean and Rebecca Green, 99-111. Dordrecht, Netherlands: Kluwer.

Beghtol, Clare (2002). "Cataloging and knowledge organization." In *Encyclopedia of communication and information*, v. 1, 117-122. Woodbridge, Conn.: Macmillan Reference USA.

Beghtol, Clare (2006). "The facet concept as a universal principle of subdivision." In *Knowledge organization, information systems and other essays: Professor A Neelameghan Festschrift*, edited by K.S. Raghavan and K.N. Prasad, 41-52. New Delhi: Ess Ess Publications.

### **Journal Articles:**

Beghtol, Clare (1986). "Bibliographic classification theory and text linguistics: aboutness analysis, intertextuality and the cognitive act of classifying documents." *Journal of Documentation* 42, no. 2 (June): 84-113.

Beghtol, Clare (1986). "Semantic validity: concepts of warrant in bibliographic classification systems." *Library Resources and Technical Services* 30: 109-125.

Beghtol, Clare (1986). "The gender gap in library education and publication." *Journal of Education for Library and Information Science* 27, no. 1 (July): 12-30.

Beghtol, Clare (1989). "Retrieval effectiveness: theory for an experimental methodology measuring user-perceived value of search outcome." *Libri* 39, no. 1: 18-35.

Beghtol, Clare (1990-1991). "Access to fiction: a problem in classification theory and practice. Parts I and II." *International classification* 16: 123-140 and 17: 21- 27.

Beghtol, Clare (1995). "Domain analysis, literary warrant, and consensus: the case of fiction studies." *Journal of the American Society for Information Science* 46, no. 1 (January): 30-44.

Beghtol, Clare (1995). "Within, among, between: three faces of interdisciplinarity." *Canadian Journal of Information and Library Science* 20, no. 2 (July): 30-41.

Beghtol, Clare (1995). "'Facets' as interdisciplinary undiscovered public knowledge: S. R. Ranganathan in India and L. Guttman in Israel." *Journal of Documentation* 51, no. 3 (September): 194-224.

Beghtol, Clare (1997). "'Itself an education': classification systems, theory, and research in the information studies curriculum." *Technical Services Quarterly* 15, no. 1-2 (September): 89-107.

Beghtol, Clare (1997). "Stories: applications of narrative discourse analysis to information storage and retrieval problems for works in the Arts, Humanities, and other disciplines." *Knowledge Organization* 24: 64-71.

Beghtol, Clare (1998). "Knowledge domains: multidisciplinary and bibliographic classification systems." *Knowledge Organization* 25:1-12.

Beghtol, Clare (2001). "In interesting times: from the twentieth century to the twenty-first." *American Archivist* 64: 143-158.

Beghtol, Clare (2001). "Knowledge representation and organization in the Iter bibliography: a web-based digital library for scholars of the Middle Ages and Renaissance." *Knowledge Organization* 28,

no.4: 170-179.

Beghtol, Clare (2002). "A proposed ethical warrant for global knowledge representation and organization systems." *Journal of Documentation* 58, no. 5 (October): 507-532.

Beghtol, Clare (2003). "Classification for information retrieval and classification for knowledge discovery: relationships between "professional" and "naïve" classifications." *Knowledge Organization* 30: 64-73.

Morris, Jane, Clare Beghtol, and Graeme Hirst (2003). "Term relationships and their contribution to text semantics and information literacy through lexical cohesion." *Canadian Journal of Information and Library Science* 27, no. 3 (September): 140-141.

Beghtol, Clare (2004). "Exploring new approaches to the organization of knowledge: the subject classification of James Duff Brown. Special Issue. Pioneers in Library and Information Science." *Library Trends* 52, no. 4: 702-718.

Beghtol, Clare (2004). "The Iter Gateway to the Middle Ages and Renaissance: collaboration between information specialists and subject specialists in the Arts and Humanities." *Journal of Digital Information Management* 2, no. 1 (March): 4-9.

Zins, Chaim, Anthony Debons, Clare Beghtol, et al. (2007). "Knowledge map of information science: implications for the future of the field." *Brazilian Journal of Information Science* 1, no.1: 3-29.

Beghtol, Clare (2008). "From the universe of knowledge to the universe of concepts: the structural revolution in classification for information retrieval." *Axiomathes* 18: 131-144.

Beghtol, Clare (2008). "Professional values and ethics in knowledge organization and cataloging." *Journal of Information Ethics* 17, no. 1: 12-19.

Beghtol, Clare (2010). "Nancy J. Williamson and the International Society for Knowledge Organization (ISKO)." *Cataloging & Classification Quarterly* 48, no. 1:26-35.

## **Associations/Committees:**

Acting Editor-in-Chief, Knowledge Organization, 1999-2000

Chair, American Society for Information Science and Technology (ASIS&T) Special Interest Group/Classification Research (SIG/CR), 1993-1994

President, International Society for Knowledge Organization (ISKO), 1998-2002

Member, Universal Decimal Classification Advisory Board

Member, American Library Association

Member, Canadian Library Association

## **Comments:**

"Beghtol was a scholar of classification theory and one of the top theorists world wide."

"It can be said that she is the leading classification theorist in North America" wrote her colleague, Nancy Williamson.

"Her areas of research and publication include[d] classification theory, the relationship of conceptual

universals to cultural warrant, subject access systems and the relationship of interdisciplinarity to information systems and services.”

When Beghtol retired from the Faculty of Information, University of Toronto in 2009, academics honoured her in a special issue of “Knowledge Organization” 37 (2) 2010. Lynne C. Howarth, a colleague, who authored this festschrift, wrote “Beghtol’s research and theoretical writings have been important in and to the development of the field of knowledge organization, and have exerted a palpable influence, such that Beghtol would appear to align with the definition of “pioneer”.

“Dean Wendy Duff [Faculty of Information, University of Toronto] remembered co-teaching one of her very first classes with Beghtol, who, she said, “discussed the theories of classification with brilliance and clarity. She was the most amazing scholar and a deeply caring human being. One could not have had a better role model.”

In her spare time, Beghtol also wrote poetry. The journal *Atlantis* published two of her poems in 1980: “On the significance of cats”, and “Ice wind”.

## Sources:

Williamson, Nancy J. (2010). “Clare Beghtol: teacher, researcher and theoretician.” *Knowledge Organization* 37, no 2: 101-105.

Haworth, Lynne C. (2010). “Clare Beghtol: exploring new approaches to the organization of knowledge.” *Knowledge Organization* 37, no. 2: 95-100.

[Obituary: Clare Beghtol \(1942-2018\)](#). University of Toronto, Faculty of Information. Accessed June 29, 2020.

Beghtol, Clare (2001). “Knowledge representation and organization in the Iter bibliography: a web-based digital library for scholars of the Middle Ages and Renaissance.” *Knowledge Organization* 28, no.4: 170.

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