

LOCUS SECTION
(TECHNICAL NOTE 45)

1 Definition

Consider the following definitions given in the *Classified catalogue code*, Ed 5, 1964=(CCC) :

1 "Sec FE6, Locus.—The Host Document in which a Micro Document occurs and its exact position within it."

For example, the Locus of the Micro Document *Indian national bibliography* by S R Ranganathan is the *Annals of library science*. 4; 1957; 65-72—that is, pages 65-72 of volume 4 of the said periodical, which was published in 1957.

2 "Sec FQ32, Locus Section.—

1 Section in the Main Entry giving the Locus of a Micro Document in its Host Document." (The other two definitions given in this section are not necessary for our purpose).

2 Homonym

In the second definition, the term 'Locus' occurs. On substituting in its place the definition of Locus given in Sec FE6 of CCC, the definition of the Locus Section will read as follows :—

Section in the Main Entry giving the Host Document in which a Micro Document occurs and its exact position within it of a Micro Document in its Host Document.

This definition of the Locus Section not only does not read well, but it is also confusing. The reason for this confusion is that in the definition of the Locus given in Sec FQ32 of CCC, the term 'Locus' means the place of occurrence of the Micro Document in the Host Document. On the other hand, in the definition of 'Locus' in Sec FE6 of CCC, the term 'Locus' covers both the Host Document as well as the place of occurrence of the Micro Document in it. In other words, the same term is apparently used in two different senses. This gives rise to a homonym.

3 Resolution of Homonym

The homonym may be resolved as follows :—

The term 'Locus' may be restricted to refer to the place of occurrence of the Micro Document in the Host Document. Then, we need a term to indicate the Host Document plus the Locus in the Main Entry. The term 'Host Section' has been recommended by the Indian Standards Institution. The definitions recommended by the Indian Standards Institution are as follows :—

- 1 Locus.—Specific place in the Host Document where the Micro Document occurs.
- 2 Host Section.—Section in the Main Entry giving the name of the Host Document and the Locus of the Micro Document in it.
- 3 Locus Section.—(1) Section in a Cross Reference Entry of a classified catalogue giving the locus ; and

(2) The section in a Subject Analytical in a Dictionary Catalogue giving Locus.

A NEELAMEGHAN