
FID/CR News 51

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Derek Langridge

The international classification community is saddened by the sudden death of Derek **Langridge** on June 13, 2000. Derek was a long time member of the Classification Research Group. In *The Bliss Classification Bulletin* for 2000, his colleague Douglas **Foskett** wrote that he was “a traditionalist, by inclination, but took a keen interest in modern theories of philosophy, especially of education”. He was a strong supporter of the work of S.R. **Ranganathan** and participated actively in the CRG’s work on the second edition of the *Bliss Bibliographic Classification*. He wrote numerous articles and several books. Particularly notable additions to the literature of classification theory and practice are his *Classification and indexing in the humanities* (1976) and *Subject analysis: principles and procedures* (1989). Derek Langridge will be greatly missed.

Universal Decimal Classification

With the exception of the Tables themselves, one of the most important publications for UDC users is the *Extensions and Corrections to the UDC (E&C)* published by the UDC Consortium. It is an annual publication, published in November each year, covering the changes in the UDC that have taken place over the past year and is an essential tool for UDC revisers and practitioners. Two of the most recent volumes – Nos. 21 (1999) and 22 (2000) – are analyzed here.

As is the custom with *E&C*, issue number 21 contains a number of brief articles that present the points of view of UDC users. A new feature in the section on “Comments & Communications” is “Notes and Queries”, which appears for the first time. In its initial appearance, members of the UDC Editorial Board have made the comments. However, the Editor, Professor Ia **McIlwaine**, encourages the active participation of all readers and UDC users in general and invites them to send their comments and suggestions as

potential contributions to future “Notes and Queries”. Users also contribute articles as exemplified here by “La Classification Décimale Universelle (C.D.U) et le monde francophone”, prepared by Jacques **Burlet**, a francophone member of the UDC Consortium and “Romanian Thesaurus”, by Yvonne **Dumitrescu** and Constanta **Dumitrasconiu**. The latter describes the development of a thesaurus based on UDC and states the reasons for this approach and the methodology used in its development. It is a work in progress and is being created discipline by discipline. At the time of writing, individual thesauri had been created covering the areas of Librarianship, Philosophy, Religion and Theology, Biology, Botany and Zoology, and Linguistics and Literature. In another article on “Searching with words: Re-use of subject indexing” Gerhard **Riesthuis** examines the possibility of converting pre-coordinated UDC notations into post-coordinated notations for purposes of searching individual components and the addition of text words to the components for use in searching. An article by Stephen **Parker**, former Executive Director of FID, on “FID, UDC and the Future” explains the history and development of the relationship between FID and UDC.

Proposals for revised UDC tables are a regular feature of *E&C*. This makes it possible for UDC users to comment and suggest additions and changes prior to the final publication of revised authorized schedules. In this issue, proposals for new schedules include Class 2 Religion and Theology (superceded by authorized schedules in *E&C* 22) and parts of Class 61 from the ongoing project to revise the Medicine class. Revised UDC tables (i.e. authorized changes) include tables and parts of tables from various parts of the classification. In volume 21, the most significant changes are those to the geographical Table 1e including a complete revision and expansion of (71) Canada. Also found here is the new table of “Common auxiliaries of properties”, which replaces the previous “Common auxiliaries of point-of-view”. This important and extremely useful revision affects the entire UDC system.

Other important and substantial changes include 338.48 Tourism and 502/504 Environmental Sciences and Conservation of Natural Resources.

In *E&C* 22, appropriately, the lead article in the November 2000 issue is a brief paper by Alan **Stevens**, Chairman of the UDC consortium entitled "UDC in the New Millennium" In it, he forecasts two important upcoming events early in the millennium – the MIRACLE project to create a world wide virtual library of music in Braille and the forthcoming publication of a new edition of the *Guide to the use of the UDC* prepared by Professor Ia McIlwaine. As is customary, the first major contribution to the volume is The "Report of the Editor in Chief" of the UDC, Professor McIlwaine. In her report she refers to the strong staff support she has had over the past year and its importance to the continuing work on UDC. In the ongoing revision of UDC, her report highlights a new schedule for Class 2 (Religion) that for the first time is free of Christian bias and cites the importance of facet analysis as a major principle in this edition. The report further describes the involvement of the Editor and her assistants in the many UDC related international activities including a Seminar in Borås, Sweden, the ISKO conference in Toronto, Canada, and IFLA in Jerusalem where a forum was held for UDC users. As the Editor herself points out "classification is thriving"

As is customary, this edition of *E&C* contains a number of articles on various aspects of UDC and its application in various parts of the world. "VINITI – the All Russian Institute for Scientific and Technical Information", by Yu. A. **Arsky** and Oleg P. **Nesterov** briefly describes the history and background of that organization, which is the largest information centre in the Russian federation. Its mandate is to provide information support for scientists and specialists in the natural and technical sciences. VINITI is a user of UDC and the history of that relationship is outlined and its plans for the future noted. Among VINITI's plans are the continued publication of the fourth Russian full edition of UDC, the preparation of Russian electronic publications including a full electronic version of UDC in Russian for inclusion in a multilingual UDC CD-ROM, as well as the availability of the Russian UDC via the Internet. An article by F. **Wimmer** entitled "Der apostroph in der Dezimalklassifikation" ("The Apostrophe in UDC"), translated by Geoffrey **Robinson**, endeavours to show "how the introduction of an originally ingenious simplification into the UDC ... became in course of time divorced

from its original purpose through misinterpretation by inexperienced revisers" resulting in unnecessary weakness in the system. A very detailed article, it traces the evolution of this phenomenon. Ultimately the author concludes that in future the apostrophe should be limited in use to its original meaning to avoid further inconsistencies. In his article "Time out of Mind", Geoffrey Robinson of the British Standards Institution (BSI) provides a critical analysis of UDC Table 1g 'common auxiliaries of time'. Discussion focuses on three particular problems – the auxiliaries of the past "311", present "312" and future "313" that have been deleted in favour of more precise designations using actual dates; the use of the four digit base (e.g. "3442" daybreak) which is inconsistent with the rest of UDC; conceptual problems in terminology; and problems in filing order. His ultimate conclusion is that "with its terminological oddities, frequent duplications, muddled conceptual analysis, insoluble filing problems and gimmicky notation, this table is a bit of a mess". To remedy some of the problems would require ruthless cutting – but it would be useful to know how many users use this table. Following Robinson's paper there is a series of 4 articles on the use of UDC in various countries – in Lithuania, "Martynas Mazvdas: National Library of Lithuania" by Marija **Gobyte**, in Slovakia "Bilingual Slovak/English UDC Master Reference File on CD-ROM" by Anna **Kucianova** and Stanislav **Psohlavec** "Classification and Subject Indexing in Estonia: New Developments in 1999-2000", by Marje **Aasmets** and "Developments in Portugal Regarding Classification and Indexing (1999-2000) by Julio **Vaz**". The final two articles are "The MIRACLE and the Blind Musician" by Vera **Wessels** describes a project designed to create a tool that will enable libraries and information centres to pool resources in Braille format. A familiar concern with UDC has always been its notation – David **Strachan** suggests that there is "A Chance to make UDC notation more computer friendly". In doing so he focuses on the double role of the point (.). As previously noted a large portion of each edition of *E&C* is devoted to proposals for new tables and authorized revised tables. In this volume one proposal is included – the proposal for 615 (Diseases and Pathology) to be included in the revision for Class 61 (Medical Sciences). This is last of the general classes for the new 61. Future work will focus on the classes that deal with the systems of the body which will build on the more general classes (611/615) and draw from them. The "Revised tables" include minor revi-