PRECIS, but the new "Rules for the Subject Catalogue" (RSWK), a decision which for someone who is not conversant with German library relations is probably difficult to understand.

The book reviewed here contains some information against the background of which this decision may become more comprehensible.

This book is the outcome of a conference held in July, 1984, i.e. a f t e r the decision on the future of German subject analysis had been made. This conference gave a wider public the opportunity to become more familiar with both sets of rules.

It contains seven articles: four on RSWK, two on PRECIS, and one on the subject analysis of the Deutsche Bibliothek.

In an introductory article, "The Development of Standardized 'Rules for the Subject Catalogue' (RSWK) and their Status in Verbal and Classificatory Subject Analysis", G.HEINRICH (Cologne) traces the genesis of RSWK and outlines the discussions on the use of either RSWK or PRECIS by the Deutsche Bibliothek. In my opinion, the great shortcomings of this article lie in the fact, that Heinrich does not give an objective account either of the genesis or, above all, of the discusssions, but develops this theme from the point of view of an advocate of RSWK. I shall not go into detail here, as this has been done elsewhere (4).

The following articles by F.JUNGINGER (Munich) and R.POLL (Erlangen) on the subjects of "Rules of Application of RSWK" and "Chain Indexing According to RSWK" describe the central problems of subject cataloguing using RSWK; explain the most important characteristics, and give an introduction to the philosophy behind this set of rules. I should like to recommend both articles to those who want to become familiar with the most important rules of RSWK in outline.

A standard subject heading list (based on the Library of Congress Subject Headings) is given with the rules. R.FRANKENBERGER (Augsburg) reports on the work done on the standard subject heading list.

The two articles devoted to PRECIS are an "Introduction to the Indexing Procedure PRECIS" by R.SUPPER (Berlin), and a report on "The PRECIS Project of the Deutsche Bibliothek" by B.MAASSEN (Frankfurt). In Maaßen's article, it becomes clear that those people in the Deutsche Bibliothek dealing with subject analysis would have given preference to PRECIS if they had been free to decide.

B.KELM (Frankfurt) writes in her article on the previous activities of the Deutsche Bibliothek in the field of subject analysis and outlines perspectives in the future use of RSWK.

Together with the conference report, there is a document in which it is clearly stated that the disassociation of German subject analysis from such an internationally respected and important methodology as PRECIS (including the consequences with regard to international data exchange) was carried out knowingly and deliberately, an action which one day may be deplored by future librarian generations.   Winfried Gödert

References

(1) Regeln für den Schlagwortkatalog (RSWK). 3rd Draft. Berlin 1983.

(2) PRECIS: Für die Anwendung in deutschen Bibliotheken überarbeitete und vereinfachte Form des syntaktischen Indexierungsverfahrens der British Library. Berlin 1984.

(3) Austin, J.: Book Review of (2) in Int.Classif.12(1985)No.1, p.41-43

(4) Extensive book review to appear in: Bibliothek. Forschung und Praxis.

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WEISHAUPT, Karin: **Sacherschließung in Bibliotheken und Bibliographien. 1. Klassifikatorische Sacherschließung.** (Subject Analysis in Libraries and Bibliographies. Vol.1: Classificatory Subject Analysis.) Frankfurt: Klostermann 1985. 175p., DM 26.-, ISBN 3-465-01672-6

At the moment, there is in specialized literature in the German language no book which is primarily devoted to aspects of library subject analysis and which, at the same time, takes more recent developments into account. There is, for example, in the German language no equivalent counterpart to books such as B.Buchanan's "Theory of Library Classification" or A.C.Foskett's "The Subject Approach to Information". The only one you can fall back upon - if you wish to name a textbook-styled presentation of the whole field of library subject analysis - is Heinrich Roloff's "Manual of Subject Cataloguing", a book which, in the meanwhile, in no longer up-to-date.

It is for this reason that any book that promises a presentation of subject analysis, not to mention a "survey suitable for the beginner" (p.1), as this one does, is greeted with open arms. Unfortunately, it must be said that one's anticipatory pleasure quickly fades and that the book does not in the least keep what it promises.

"The most important aim of this presentation is to give those tools necessary for the description of classifications and for the daily work with them and to show the consequences of decisions for certain structural principles" (p.2). The following arrangement of the material should serve this aim: after a first chapter on "General characteristics of classificatory subject analysis", there then follow three large sections on the subjects "Monohierarchic classifications", "Classifications with enumerative notation structures", and "Polyhierarchically oriented classifications", in which, all told, 18 different classification systems are mentioned; in particular, a mixture of older systems (Ersch/Schütz/Hufeland; Hartwig), more recent German shelving systems of public and scientific libraries, specialized classifications (International Patent Classification), and internationally known universal classification systems (Dewey Decimal Classification; Universal Decimal Classification; Bliss Bibliographic Classification 2). A summarizing comparison of the systems presented rounds off the whole.

The very first chapter leads to observations which, unfortunately, turn out to be characteristic throughout the book: there is a haphazard use of terminology, technical terms are used without any clarification, only to be explained elsewhere in the book more or less 'en passant', and without reliable reference from the index. Important terms of classification such as generic relationship, partition relationship, or complementary relationship are not

explained at all. In a section on "Elements of Classification Systems", we learn, on three pages, a little bit about classes, class designations, class explanations, class descriptions, references, cross-references, notations, signatures, individual signatures for records of loan, classification schemes, and indexes. My personal impression of all this is one of complete confusion, for anyone without any background knowledge, it must be totally incomprehensible.

The presentation of the individual classification systems is a mixture of general statements concerning the various systems shown, and of the special characteristics of the systems down to problems in the use of individual systems.

The idea of an exemplary illustration may have been the 'father' of this 'child' but as the book fails to lay any satisfactory theoretical foundation as to what actually constitutes a classification system, the presentation remains unsatisfactory. The following example should make this quite clear: "The monohierarchical superstructure remains, and because of this the UDC remains a monohierarchic classification system, as far as its main tables are concerned. The tendency to polyhierarchy in the superstructure is, however, strongly marked." (p.107).

The last chapter, "Differences and common ground between the types shown", contains, finally, a list of the "results of the structural comparison" (p.156-157), which those readers who are familiar with the subject-matter should look at b e f o r e they read the book. By doing so, they will be able to check more easily whether the statements made in the book are verified.

The book is only of use for those who are conversant with the subject-matter; they will find facts about the more recent German classification systems - though not always free from errors! - which are otherwise spread out over the whole literature. The other classification systems, in particular the international ones, are better presented in other books.

The expectations raised by the title of the book make me ask why subjects such as "classificatory subject analysis in library work", and "classification systems in information retrieval" are not dealt with.

It remains to be said that a second book dealing with verbal subject analysis and ' mixed forms' is to follow.

Concluding remarks: It is incomprehensible how this book could get past the editorial office of a scientific publishing house. I cannot recommend it to anyone - let alone the beginners!　　　　　　　　　　Winfried Gödert

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SHARMA, Pandey S.K.: **Depth schedules: Indian Philosophy and Religions for Dewey Decimal Classification** (19). New Delhi: Ess Ess Publ. 1986. VII, 189p., ISBN 81-7000-012-2

It cannot be gainsaid that at the time of its birth the DDC had no ambition to put the often quoted girdle round the world with its hard to master dots. Non-existence of several systems and existence of congenial circumstances have played a helping role to get it well entrenched in libraries quite before the competitive schemes appeared. Today it is an internationally used classification system. Nevertheless, at heart it is an American system imbued with the influence of the society and time of its origin. Therefore, it inevitably poses problems to the users in non-Western countries, expecially in Asia and Africa. Classification is a political act says A.J.N. Judge (1), meaning that politico-cultural bias is as much calculated as it is natural in designing a classification schedule. To meet local needs, the DDC has therefore been modified, adapted, and expanded quite often. For example, the relevant portions of the DDC have been modified in Japan, India, Pakistan and the Middle East, to name a few. Some of such modifications have met the approval of the Forest Press, the copyright holder of the scheme, while other modifications remain inhouse ones - and private, so to say. The Decimal Classsification Editorial Policy Committee (DCEPC) and the Forest Press are not unaware of such fissiparous tendencies. They have rather fully lent their support to solve such genuine difficulties. This includes inter alia commissioning and publishing with its imprint the adapted translations (e.g. in Hindi (1976) and Arabic (1985)) of the DDC in various languages to suit various cultures.

In addition to various language versions of the DDC, we have at least the following two PhD theses:
(1)　Sharma, P.S.K.: Expansion and modifications of Dewey Decimal Classification for Indological books with special reference to Indian philosophy and Indian religions. Chandigarh, IN: Punjab University 1977 (Supervisor: Sharma, J.S.)
(2)　Momeni, M.K.: Socio-cultural factors affecting the adaption of the Dewey Decimal Classification in the Middle East. University of Maryland 1982 (Supervisor: Wellisch, H.)
Dr.Sharma's above named thesis was later published in 1979 (2). This speaks of the academic as well as pragmatic value of the scheme. Being more or less an academic exercise, his published work was not used practically, though as a scientific work it has already won him acclaim (3), besides a doctoral degree. It means that for a scheme to be used practically it requires more than academic competence: it is not the best always that sells; and not always the useless that is rejected!

The book under review is still based on his PhD work, but here the author has endeavoured to endow it with practical qualities. Ranganathan's methodology for designing classification schedules has been followed. The laudable feature of the work is that expansions have been strictly made in accordance with the official provisions in the DDC. In his Ph.D. work Dr. Sharma minutely worked out the expansions for Indian philosophy (all the schools) and Indian religions (Hinduism, Jainism, Buddhism and Sikhism). This work in the idea and verbal planes has been done on the basis of the classical and authentic works of S.Radhakrishnan, S.N.Dasgupta, K.M.Max-Muller, Christopher Isherwood, T.M.P.Mahadwan, Jadunath Sinha (for Hindu religion and philosophy); M. Monier-Williams, A.K. Walter, P.V. Bapat, K.N.Jaitilleke and Max Weber (Buddhism); Max Arthur Maculiffe and Khushwant Singh (Sikhism); A.C. Sen and Sinclair Stevenson (Jainism) to name a few of the 130 references cited in the source book (4) of the book under review.

In case of the Indian philosophy schedule (de facto constituting Part 1 of the book, p.15-42), the base and the outline subdivision remain that of the original schedule.