

how to get to the room; 2) by subject with a subject tree display, and 3) by carat leading to an area in a room.

The DDC system will in future also be used for materials received on legal deposit and there is a project for the construction of a DDC number authority file which will be closely linked to the subject authority file. The system and its development and management will be monitored and evaluated. The DDC 21 French edition will be introduced upon its expected completion in 1998. It is hoped that with this translation "certain adaptations ... may be proposed for France in specific fields such as administration, law and history."

In a third paper Steven Pollitt (United Kingdom) discussed "The Key Role of Classification and Indexing in View-Based Searching". In his presentation, Pollitt addressed "the potential for using knowledge structures in user interface" in online retrieval. "View-based searching seeks to exploit the classified arrangements in thesauri and existing classification schemes to improve performance." Pollitt described a system called HIBROWSE, an interface developed for EMBASE, a database published by Elsevier Science that contains 7 million records which reference biomedical literature. HIBROWSE demonstrates the power of its approach to retrieval and is strongly related to faceted classification. The relevance of this approach is discussed in the context of OPACS and the author concludes that research into classification and indexing is becoming more relevant than ever. In his introduction Pollitt reviewed the contributions of such classification theorists as Pauline Cochrane, Charles Hildreth, Jean Aitchison and Alan Gilchrist, Ranganathan and the Classification Research Group. Briefly he discussed the background to view-based searching with reference to CANSEARCH and its use of MeSH. Following this he described the nature of HIBROWSE. The EMTREE thesaurus concerning diseases was used. This vocabulary is divided into 15 facet hierarchies and the system allows a user to select a topic by displaying various "views" (e.g. by disease site, by therapy and by age group) and records are retrieved using the facets and post co-ordination. This device is seen as an improved means for searching OPACS. In conclusion the author stated that "the role of classification and indexing is crucial to our continuing development and systems which take advantage of the evolving ways to represent knowledge structures at the user interface will ensure a higher quality and more rewarding experience in our lifelong learning."

## Dewey Decimal Classification

OCLC Forest Press has a very active research and development programme. There is much useful information on DDC and related activities at the OCLC website which can be accessed through <http://www.oclc.org/oclc/fp> and which is well worth visiting by researchers, practitioners, educators and students. A brief resume of the highlights is given here.

At the ALA 1998 Mid-Winter Meeting in New Orleans, DDC Editor Joan Mitchell announced that *Dewey for Windows* (Version 1.1) is available from OCLC Forest Press. This version includes database updates and several new features to enhance classifier productivity. It also includes *Decimal Classification Additions, Notes and Decisions (DC&)*, vol. 6, no. 1. A Cutting function has also been added to version 1.1 and there is a project afoot at OCLC to add book numbers to DDC numbers in WorldCat and to Cut new entries automatically. In December 1997, OCLC Forest Press began to offer a new subscription option for CatCD for windows with LC Subject Authorities to be included with *Dewey for Windows* on the same disc.

The Decimal Classification Editorial Policy Committee (EPC) met in Washington in November 1997. At this meeting the EPC was beginning a period of refocusing and strategic planning in preparation for research and development of DDC 22. As a lead-in to discussions Nancy Williamson presented a think piece on "Discipline-based Classification in an Interdisciplinary World" and provided a brief report on the functions and activities of the Universal Decimal Classification. During the working sessions of the meeting the Committee addressed three major concerns - user input, the role and purpose of the EPC in the development of the Classification and potential joint projects with other organizations. In this context discussion of user input centred around a mini-survey conducted by the DDC Committee of the Library Association in the UK. In terms of role and purpose, Susi Woodhouse, EPC representative from the UK, made a presentation suggesting how the "EPC might evolve to respond to the increasingly international nature of Dewey and the critical importance of user input, and to assume an increasingly strategic advisory role". The EPC is also very interested in co-operation and liaison with related organizations. Among other things, the UDC Consortium and OCLC Forest Press are exploring areas for potential cooperation which could benefit both systems. While in its beginnings UDC was derived from DDC and although the two systems have evolved separately, they have much in common.

As might be expected the November meeting also addressed areas to be targeted in the development of DDC 22. It has been announced by the Editor that a draft revision of the area table for South Africa will be published in the Fall of 1998. Another change will be a revision of the United Kingdom area tables to reflect recent changes in administrative units. Main classes under consideration are updates of Computer Science and Medicine and the reduction of Christian bias in Religion. With respect to translations of DDC, the Russian translation of DDC 21 is expected to be completed in the Spring of 1998. A workshop on the Russian DDC will be held at Crimea '98. The French translation of DDC 21 being prepared by ASTED in Canada is also expected in the Spring of 1998 and a workshop on the French edition will be held at the 1998 IFLA Conference in Amsterdam. Work is also in progress on Greek and Icelandic translations of Abridged Edition 13 and Chinese and Italian translations of DDC 21.

As of March 1998, the DDC research agenda targets 4 areas of research with some projects already in place or under way. The first area of research focuses on the improvement of the DDC index to enhance its use in classificatory and subject retrieval. Among the projects are the updating of *Dewey for Windows*, the mapping of LC subject headings to DDC class numbers for inclusion in the *Dewey for Windows* database, with announcements on the Dewey website on a bi-weekly basis, and the integration of terminology from other thesauri and classificatory schemes. The second focus for the research agenda is the improvement of catalogue productivity in the electronic environment by adding decision support features to *Dewey for Windows*. Included here are the use of extended concept trees and the Dewey Cuttering Project. The third objective is to explore the use of DDC in order to enhance subject retrieval in online catalogues and databases. In this category are the development of an end user Dewey, a NetFirst browser, the use of DDC as a switching language and changes in the MARC format to accommodate multilingual classifications systems. The final research objective is to explore the use of DDC as a general organizing device in the electronic environment. This research will concentrate on the Internet, DDC as a basis for expert systems, and DDC in automatic indexing.

A visit to the OCLC website also leads to a number of interesting papers on classification (<http://www.oclc.org/oclc/research/publications/review96.html>) Current papers by Diane **Vizine-Goetz** include the following. "Classification Research at OCLC" provides a brief summary introduction to a number of projects presently in progress in three areas of research - developing customizable views of the DDC, enhancing links to other thesauri, and a project on

"ExTended Concept Trees" is introduced. A position paper prepared for the OCLC Cataloging Project Colloquium examines "Using Library Classification Schemes for Internet Resources" (<http://www.oclc.org/oclc/man/colloq/v-g.html>). This article looks at the characteristics and structure of both DDC and LCC. In a paper on a related topic Vizine-Goetz describes research in which "OCLC Investigates Using Classification Tools to Organize Internet Data".

(<http://www.oclc.org/oclc/new/n226/research.html#investigates>). To illustrate her discussion the author uses examples from the NetFirst database.

### Recent Publications

*Exensions and Corrections to the UDC*. The Hague: UDC Consortium, 1997. v. 19. ISSN 0014-5424

*E&C*, as it is popularly known, covers recent development in UDC tables and includes articles concerning the ongoing revision work of UDC and the use of UDC in practice. It is an essential tool for UDC users. In addition to the Report of the UDC Editor in Chief summarized above, *E&C* 1997 contains 9 articles on topics related to UDC. Two of the articles, "UDC as a Tool for Information Retrieval (general considerations)" by E. Scibor and "Decomposition of Complex UDC Notations" by Gerhard **Riesthuis** focus on the manipulation of UDC notations in computerized retrieval. Three of the presentations, "Developments in Classification and Indexing in Estonia" by Marje **Aasmets**, "The UDC Master Reference File in Martynas Mazvydas National Library of Lithuania" by Nijole **Kolesinskiené** and Marijona **Gobyté**, and "Traditional Chinese Medicine Classification System: an Extension to the UDC" by **Quian Zhang** et. al. describe UDC practices in various countries. One paper, "Language Barriers and Bridges" by Victoria **Fráncu** is a comparative study of three UDC editions. Finally, the four remaining papers - "Report on Revision of UDC 52", "An Odd Point of View: Some Reflections on Table 1i in the UDC Common Auxiliaries", by Geoffrey **Robinson**, "Proposed Revision of UDC 517 'Analysis'", and "Class 61 - Medicine: Restructuring Continued" by I.C. McIlwaine and N.J. Williamson - deal with proposed revisions and projects relating to specific UDC tables. As a regular feature, a section of revised UDC tables which have been completed during the year is included. Major revisions included in the 1997 volume are Classes (1) and (2) - Physiographic regions, and Classes (430) - Germany, 561 Systematic Palaeobotany and 582 Systematic Botany. "Amendments to extended editions" (previously known as the 'Full Edition' but now regarded as a series of 'extended editions' still in use and/or expected to con-