

Revision of the National Classification System through Cooperative Efforts: A Case of *Korean Decimal Classification* 6th Edition (KDC 6)[†]

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Abstract: The general characteristics of the sixth edition of *Korean Decimal Classification (KDC 6)*, maintained and published by the Korean Library Association (KLA), are described in detail. The processes and procedures of the revision are analyzed with special regard to various cooperative efforts of the editorial committee with the National Library of Korea, with various groups of classification researchers, library practitioners, and specialists from subject areas, and with the headquarters of the KLA and editorial publishing team. Some ideas and recommendations for future research and development for national classification systems are suggested.

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1.0 Introduction

Library classification systems have long been in the position of a basic traditional tool to organize library materials and knowledge. Most libraries have classified their collections using some kind of classification system for them to be systematically arranged by subject or by discipline. These kinds of library classification systems not only help the library to manage the collections efficiently but also support their users to find out or retrieve any documents or materials they want. For these reasons and scholarly purposes, many various bibliographic classification systems have been continuously developed in many countries. But some of them such as *Devey Decimal Classification (DDC)* have been successfully used by so many libraries at home and abroad, whereas others such as *Korean Decimal Classification by Park* (KDCP) have

been obsolete without maintenance (Oh 2012b). Some systems, even though widely accepted and used by the library community for a long time, have gradually decreased in their influence and use or at worst declined from history for various reasons.

In this regard, developing a good classification system both in theory and practice is essential, but for the system to be managed and maintained by reliable controlling organizations or institutions is also equally important in order to survive as a good system. We have well witnessed the good and bad examples in the cases of the *Devey Decimal Classification (DDC)* and the *Universal Decimal Classification (UDC)*. Namely, *DDC* has been successfully maintained after OCLC took it over from Lake Placid Educational Foundation; *UDC* once experienced difficulty being maintained during the time of closing of the Federation for Information and Documentation (FID), but, fortunately, now the

UDC Consortium (UDCC) successfully maintains the system (Satija 2008). As Satija and Martínez-Ávila (2015, 73) say with regard to regular revision and assured backing of big institutions, “psychologically, it is also taken by the users as an assurance for the lifelong sustainability of the system.”

The main objective of this article is to suggest some ideas to maintain a good national classification system through cooperative efforts, because they are very difficult to develop and maintain. In this aspect, I will analyze and introduce the general process of revising the *Korean Decimal Classification (KDC)* as an example, with a special regard for various cooperative activities during the revision process for its sixth edition. This article, then, is essentially based on the unique experiences of author participation and leadership throughout the *KDC* revision process as a chair of the Classification Committee of the Korean Library Association (KLA). After reviewing related research, I will introduce the general history and background information about the *KDC*, followed by the general characteristics of the latest sixth edition. Various cooperative efforts of the Classification Committee of KLA with different organizations and groups will be analyzed in detail, and then, in conclusion, some suggestions and recommendations for future research and practices will be given, focusing on the special issues to be considered in the future.

2.0 Literature review

Research on the general classification systems has been focused mainly on the internationally-used major systems, such as *DDC*, Library of Congress *Classification (LCC)*, and *UDC*. But other systems, including even some national classification systems, have seldom been paid attention to, with only the exceptions of *Colon Classification (CC)*, Bliss' *Bibliographic Classification (BC)*, etc. This also is true with regard to the revision and maintenance of the systems. We can find research criticizing those major classification systems, which aim to be “the one best classification system that will serve all purposes” (Miksa 1998, 81), or suggesting devising a new scheme or expanding or adapting the systems. For example, Zins and Santos (2011, 897) conclude, after mapping the knowledge covered by the classification systems, that “three great classification systems—*LCC*, *DDC*, and *UDC*— fail to adequately and systematically present contemporary human knowledge. They are unsystematic and biased.” After discussing the cultural foundation of classification based on the sameness and differences, Olson (2001, 121) concludes that “if we fail to take on the task of making materials accessible to different groups and cultures and well-represented to users outside of those cultures, then we are complicitous in the failures of our classifications.” Hajibayova and Buente (2017, 1146) have suggested that “it is time to offer fair and equal

time and space to what strengthens and develops the language, family, culture, community orientation” in the representation of indigenous cultures, after considering the Hawaiian hula. After surveying the Islamic literature (Idrees and Mahmood 2010), Idrees (2012) suggests that major systems are not adequate for organizing Islamic knowledge and collections and tries to suggest optimal solutions, including a new system. Kublik et al. (2003, 14) have suggested a model adapting dominant classifications to particular contexts that can be “potentially transferable to other cultural contexts marginalized in mainstream classifications.” Oh and Yeo (2001) focus on situations where religious diversity predominates and suggest an option for *DDC*. In an article on the modernity of classification, Mai (2011, 727) investigates the “focus on globalization and standardization” as one of three strong themes, with a focus on technicalities and on objectivity, and suggests “to move beyond modernity and found classification on a contemporary late-modern understanding of meaning, objects, and interpretation.” Comaromi and Satija (1985) investigated the adaptation of *DDC* for Indian libraries. These studies can be a sort of ground of rationale for developing and managing a national classification system to respond to the national and local collections.

Related to the revision of the major systems, we can very easily find reports on their processes and results through various channels including the homepages of the systems as well as books and articles about them. Curwen (1978) briefly surveys the policies and practices to revise *LCC*, *DDC* and *UDC*, and suggests some ideas to revise the Bliss *Bibliographic Classification*. McIlwaine (2000) thoroughly describes the revision of the classification in chapter twelve. Slavic, Cordeiro and Riesthuis (2008) also thoroughly summarize major changes and policies from the recent history of the *UDC* revision. Regarding other systems, Anyanwu (1994, 129) examines the classification scheme of the National Library of Nigeria for Nigerian official publications “for the production of a national scheme consolidating available schemes.” Zhang (2003) examines *Classification for Chinese Libraries (CCL)* in various aspects including history, development, and revision. Sukiasyan (2008) introduces general characteristics of *Library-Bibliographical Classification (LBC)*, the national classification system of Russia, including prospects for development. Elazar (2008) describes the general picture of *A Classification System for Libraries of Judaica* including its history, development, revision, and uses. Another interesting report suggesting “working together” is about the *Expansive Classification* by Winke (2013), regarding the libraries still using it. Yuko et al. (2015) introduce the general aspects of *Nippon Decimal Classification (NDC)*, tenth edition in their domestic journal. Satija (1997) suggests some ideas on the revision and future of *Colon Classification*, and again

(2016), almost twenty years later, re-suggests the measures for the revival of the *Colon Classification* including revision.

Related to the practical collaborative work of classification, Santini (2011, 210) reports that the “classification process might influence the behavior of the users of music information retrieval systems and vice versa,” based on the experiences of popular music on the Internet. Satija and Martínez-Ávila (2015, 73-74) clearly summarize revision machinery, in describing various qualities of the general library classification systems, including their features, functions and components.

Focusing on the *KDC*, Oh (2012a) internationally introduces its general characteristics as an example of national classification systems along with its history. There have been many studies in Korea to suggest ideas for the revision or improvement of some specific subjects of *KDC* schedule, including those on *KDC 5* and *KDC 6* by the Classification Committee members. For example, regarding *KDC 5*, such subjects as computer science (Yeo, Park, Hwang and Oh 2008), chemical engineering (Yeo, Lee and Oh 2008), language and literature (Oh et al. 2008), Korean fiction (S. Kim 2012); and by others such subjects as general areas (Jung 2007; J. Kim 2009), philosophy (Kang and Kim 2009), Christianity (Jeong and Chung 2013), jurisprudence (J. Kim 2012), education (Y. Kim 2010), clothing and textiles (J. Kim 2012), food and culture (Lee and Chung 2010), architecture engineering (Y. Kim 2009), arts (Chung 2010), Korean music (Hahn 2012), Korean and orient traditional music (Kang 2011), motion pictures (Lee and Lee 2010), history (Kwak 2009), and so on (see Table 1).

Regarding *KDC 6*, there have also been many studies by the Classification Committee members, concerning such subjects as statistics (Park and Kim 2013), architecture en-

gineering (Yeo et al. 2013), design (Kim 2013); and by others, such subjects as digital trends (Chung 2014), archives and records management studies (Park and Lee 2016), military science (Hahn 2014), tourism (J. Kim 2014), physical education (Lee and Kim 2013), pharmacy (Chung et al. 2013), construction and architecture (Kim and Chung 2014), auxiliary sciences of history (Lee 2013), and so on (see Table 2).

Analyses of the aforementioned studies show the lack of international research and detailed analytical suggestions for typical national classification systems to be continuously developed, revised, and maintained. This article is intended to bridge the gap and suggest some ideas to be discussed together.

3.0 General history and background of *Korean Decimal Classification*

Korean Decimal Classification (KDC) has been, from the start, developed and maintained by the Classification Committee of the Korean Library Association (KLA) as a standard national classification system of the Korean library community. Even though *DDC* and *KDCP (Korean Decimal Classification by Park)* were widely used at that time in Korean libraries, there had been requests to meet the need from them to develop a new classification reflecting their local national requirements and bibliographic characteristics (for more information on the history of Korean classification, see also Oh 2012a).

The first four committee members started their work to formulate the draft of the first edition in February 1963 and published it in May 1964. In developing the first edition, they benchmarked and consulted other major former

Researchers	For <i>KDC 5</i>
Committee Members	computer science (Yeo, Park, Hwang, and Oh 2008) chemical engineering (Yeo, Lee, and Oh 2008) language and literature (Oh et al. 2008) Korean fiction (S. Kim 2012)
Others	general areas (Jung 2007; J. Kim 2009) philosophy (Kang and Kim 2009) Christianity (Jeong and Chung 2013) jurisprudence (J. Kim 2012) education (Y. Kim 2010) clothing and textiles (J. Kim 2012) food and culture (Lee and Chung 2010) architecture engineering (Y. Kim 2009) arts (Chung 2010) Korean music (Hahn 2012) Korean and oriental traditional music (Kang 2011) motion pictures (Lee and Lee 2010) history (Kwak 2009)

Table 1. Research articles on *KDC 5*.

classification systems, such as *DDC*, *LCC*, *UDC*, *NDC* (*Nippon Decimal Classification*), *KDCP*, etc., as Oh (2012a, 80) characterized it, as “Jjigae classification system.” Namely, it widely adapted the general structure and characteristics of *DDC*, including the order of main classes (except the move of Language from 400 in *DDC* to 700 in *KDC* and the re-arrangement of 400, 500, 600 accordingly), the notational system, hierarchical structures, mnemonics using tables, relative index, and others (see Table 3). But in the details and subdivisions, it consulted various systems in the expansion of classes, such as *LCC* (in 300 Social Sciences), *UDC* (in 510 Medical Sciences), *KDCP* and *NDC* (in CJK-related subjects), and so on. These kinds of general characteristics have still been maintained in the latest edition.

Since the successful publication of the first edition, *KDC* has continuously been revised at various intervals. Its sixth edition was published in 2013 in three volumes. The author participated in the revision of the sixth edition as a chairperson of the Classification Committee of KLA. Table 4 shows the brief history of *KDC* revisions.

Table 5 shows the general status of the usage of *KDC* in Korea. As it suggests, most Korean public libraries use

KDC both for CJK and for western and other collections, whereas more than half of Korean university and college libraries use *DDC* for western and other collections and more than half of them use *KDC* for CJK collections—especially when we count only the four-year universities and colleges, *DDC* is more influential in the libraries than *KDC*, because almost 70% of them use it for western and other collections and more than half of them (52.3%) use it for CJK collections (Oh 2015, 203-4). Even though not listed in Table 5, almost all Korean school libraries also use *KDC* for their collections.

In addition, *KDC* numbers can be found in the online general catalog of the National Library of Korea, because KORMARC, the national standard MARC format, has established a field for *KDC* in the field 056 as well as for *DDC* in the field 082. In the example of Figure 1, subfield ▼a in the field 056 means classification number, and ▼2 means edition of the classification system, as in the field 082.

In short, *KDC* is the most influential classification system in Korea, maintained by KLA, used by most public and school libraries, and supported by the National Library of Korea.

Researchers	For <i>KDC 6</i>
Committee Members	statistics (Park and Kim 2013) architecture engineering (Yeo et al. 2013) design (Kim 2013)
Others	digital trends (Chung 2014) archives and records management studies (Park and Lee 2016) military science (Hahn 2014) tourism (J. Kim 2014) physical education (Lee and Kim 2013) pharmacy (Chung et al. 2013) construction and architecture (Kim and Chung 2014) auxiliary sciences of History (Lee 2013)

Table 2. Research articles on *KDC 6*.

<i>KDC 6</i>	Number	<i>DDC 23</i>
Generalities	000	Computer science, information, & general works
Philosophy	100	Philosophy and psychology
Religion	200	Religion
Social sciences	300	Social sciences
Natural sciences	400	Languages
Technology	500	Sciences
Arts	600	Technology
Language	700	Arts & recreation
Literature	800	Literature
History	900	History & geography

Table 3. Comparative table of main classes in *KDC 6* and *DDC 23* (Oh, D. G. 2012, 76).

Edition	Publication Year	Volume(s)	Total Pages	Chief Editor	Number of Committee Members
1	1964	1	642	Dr. Hye-Bong Chun	4
2	1966	1	686	Dr. Hye-Bong Chun	6
3	1980	2	1,027	Mr. Byung-Su Lee	6
4	1996	2	1,516	Dr. Ki-Won Kwon	15
5	2009	2	1,540	Dr. Tae-Woo Nam	10
6	2013	3	1,719	Dr. Dong-Geun Oh	10

Table 4. Brief History of KDC.

Type of Libraries		KDC	DDC	Others	Total
Public Library*	CJK Collection	99.0% (924)	0.2% (2)	0.8% (7)	100% (933)
	Western Collection	98.6% (920)	0.5% (5)	0.9% (8)	
Academic Library**	CJK Collection	55.8% (258)	35.3% (163)	8.9% (41)	100%(462)
	Western Collection	38.7% (179)	51.3% (237)	10.0% (46)	

Table 5. Usage of KDC by Korean libraries in 2016 (Korea. Ministry of Culture, Sports & Tourism. 2017; Korea. Ministry of Education. 2017).

001		KMO198400389
005		19941011114655
008		840208s1983 ulkag 000 d eng
040		▼a011001▼c011001
049	0	▼IWM95968▼IWM95969▼c2
052	02	▼a822.33▼bS8l
056		▼a842▼23
082	0	▼a822.33▼219
245	00	▼aHamlet/▼ded.by Lee Dae Suk
260		▼aSeoul:▼bHanshin Pub.,▼c1983
300		▼axi,480p.:▼bill.,scores:▼c21cm
500		▼aBased on originally John Dover Wilson's the new Shakespeare
653		▼aHAMLET
700	1	▼aLee, Dae Suk

Figure 1. KORMARC data in the Online Catalog of the National Library of Korea containing KDC and DDC numbers.

4.0 Characteristics of the sixth edition of *KDC*

The *KDC* sixth edition was published in three volumes of the main schedule (volume one), relative index (volume two), and manual (volume three). Volume one also includes a preface and report from the Classification Committee, a preface and report from the Classification Committee of the former editions, introductory notes, auxiliary tables, and a summary, in addition to the main schedule. Basically, *KDC* 6 has maintained the general characteristics of the former editions (for more information about *KDC* in general, see Oh 2012a), but it has some characteristics somewhat different from the former editions and other classification systems.

Before starting the revision for *KDC* 6, the committee members discussed and set forth the general principles, policies, and guidelines for revision in detail, because so many members must collaborate. The general policy was discussed before work on the revision was started, which was specified in the report from the Classification Committee in detail as follows (*KDC* 6. vol. 1, x):

- Main classes and divisions of *KDC* 5 should be maintained, except only those needing urgent revisions.
- Revision of auxiliary tables and mnemonics of the schedule should be consistently maintained.
- Descriptions throughout schedule should be made consistently, and the terminology should be up-to-dated.
- Classes related to North Korea should be properly reflected and added in the schedule.
- Errors and mistakes in transcriptions of the fifth edition should be corrected and complemented.
- Number-building techniques should be introduced where applicable, and various appropriate notes should be added.
- Corresponding Chinese characters to the Korean Hangeul of the headings should be given in pa-

rentheses together where they are needed to clarify the meaning.

- Both the Korean geographic area table and Korean historical period table of *KDC* 5, incorporated in another table and schedule, should not be maintained as separate tables in *KDC* 6 anymore.
- Options should be explicitly started with the word “Option:” in the notes.
- If possible, the sixth edition should be published with an abridged edition and manual and be prepared for the development of a thesaurus.

Based on this outline, more detailed guidelines were prepared for work on the schedule, tables, and relative index, respectively. In particular, the guidelines were discussed throughout the work of revision by the committee members and during the public hearings during the General Conference 2012 of the Korean Library Association.

In the revision process, standard subdivisions and geographic area tables were prepared first, because they should be applicable to all subject areas of the schedule. In the tables, two tables of the fifth edition, namely Table 3, Korean geographic areas (divide like -111-1199 from geographic areas), and Table 4, Korean historical period (divide like 911.01-.082 from the schedule), were removed in *KDC* 6, because they have already been incorporated in Table 2, geographic areas. So, six tables are maintained in *KDC* 6 as shown in Table 6.

In the schedule, some classes were expanded reflecting the latest trends in the development of each subject area and the library collection development. Especially, some divisions including those related to building and architecture and some more sections were incorporated—Building (540) and Architecture (610) separated in the fifth edition were now incorporated in one division of the class 610 in *KDC* 6. According to the guidelines, more analytic-synthetic number-building techniques were introduced, and more notes were added in detail, all through the schedule. Descriptions were maintained more consistently, and the terminology was up-dated and modernized. The layout of

<i>KDC</i> 6	<i>DDC</i> 23
T.1 Standard subdivisions	T.1 Standard subdivisions
T.2 Geographic areas	T.2 Areas, periods, biography
T.3 Languages	T.6 Languages
T.4 Subdivisions of individual languages	T.4 Subdivisions of individual languages and language families
T.5 Subdivisions of individual literatures	T.3 Subdivisions for the arts, for individual literatures, for specific literary forms
T.6 Subdivisions of individual religions	
	T.5 Ethnic and national groups

Table 6. Tables of *KDC* 6.

the pages was also upgraded for the readers including running numbers, typography, and so on, as seen in Figure 2.

A general entry has a number, heading, and note(s). Even though *KDC* is basically written in Korean Hangeul, some of the major headings are given with English together, and in Chinese characters in parentheses if appropriate. Notes are added only if necessary.

Just after completing the table and schedule, the committee members started to prepare guidelines for the relative index. Based on it, each member selected and prepared the draft index entries from his/her own classes allocated. Then the integrated version was examined by all members for the final check.

5.0 Cooperative efforts to publish edition six of *KDC*

During the revision of *KDC*, the Classification Committee of KLA cooperated with various organizations, scholars from the library community and other subject-related areas, library practitioners, and others.

5.1 Cooperation between the National Library of Korea and the Korean Library Association

The first cooperative efforts were those with the National Library of Korea (NLK). The NLK has continuously led the Korean library community since its establishment in 1945, especially in relation to national library policy making, support for the public library, and related areas in various aspects. In the area of bibliographic control, the NLK has been a center for the national bibliographic control of Korea. For example, it has published the *Korean National Bibliography* using bibliographic information from the collections of both those purchased and those deposited legally; promoted the uses of bibliographic information through such venues as the Korean Bibliographic Standard Center (as the national agency of ISBN, ISSN and ISNI), CIP (cataloging in publication), legal deposit, and so on; led the Korea Library Information System-Network (KOLIS-NET) project as the center; done as the Public Library Technical Information Center developing and distributing of standard sys-

자연과학		491
490	<p>동물학(動物學) Zoological science 고통동물학 → 457.2; 동물심리학 → 182.9; 진화 → 476; 가축 → 527.4</p> <p>.69 동물박물관 동물원, 동물전시 등을 포함한다.</p> <p>491 일반 동물학 Zoology</p> <p>.0733 실험동물학 Experimental zoology</p> <p>.1 동물생리학 Animal physiology 491.11-.19는 472.11-.19와 같이 세분한다. 예: 동물의 생식 491.16</p> <p>[.15] 동물유전학 Animal genetics 491.38에 분류한다.</p> <p>.2 동물병리학 Animal pathology 492.21-.29는 472.21-.29와 같이 세분한다. 예: 동물면역 491.29 수의학 → 528</p> <p>.3 동물의 발생 및 성숙</p> <p>.32 배우자형성 Animal gametogenesis</p> <p>.33 발생학 Animal embryology</p>	

400

Figure 2. Sample page of a schedule of *KDC* 6 (a part of 490).

tems for information service for public libraries such as KOLAS III (a free library automation system using more than 1,000 Korean public libraries); and developed and maintained national bibliographic tools, such as KORMARC (Korean Machine-readable Cataloging), National Library Subject Headings, etc. (NLK 2017).

The NLK is also an authorized national training organization for practitioners in the library community in Korea. It has provided so many various regular training programs for librarians from all types of libraries in general and for those from public libraries in particular. Among them, there is a one-week off-line program and an online cyber lecture program for *KDC*. Another two-week training program for new librarians includes also three-hour lecture on *KDC*. Many members of the Classification Committee have taken part in the programs as lecturers. For them, it can be an opportunity both to describe the general characteristics of *KDC* in general and of the classes they prepared the drafts for, and to gain some kinds of feedback information from the library community. Table 7 summarizes the programs and numbers of attendants of the training programs prepared by the NLK in the years 2014-2016.

During the revision leading to edition six, the head of the Division of National Bibliography participated in the Classification Committee of KLA as a regular member of it. She supported and helped with various general aspects in the revision process based on the feedback information to NLK from the library community in relation to bibliographic control and other issues. Moreover, the NLK also established an informal Task Force Team to support the revision of *KDC*, most of whom were members of the Division of National Bibliography. The eleven team members formally and informally rendered various suggestions and ideas both from the library community and practitioners and from their own ranks, all through the revision process. At the final stage, they checked all of the draft of the revision in detail.

This kind of cooperation between the national library and national library association can be benchmarked as a best practice by other nations that want to develop and/or revise a national or nation-wide classification system. In addition, the NLK and KLA have experience cooperating

with each other in developing and publishing KORMARC formats; namely the NLK developed the formats and the KLA published and distributed them.

5.2 Cooperation of various groups of classification researchers, library practitioners, and specialists from the subject areas

KDC 6 is also an output produced by various kinds of cooperative and collaborative efforts from different areas, those between researcher group and practitioner group, and those between classification specialist group and subject specialist group.

5.2.1 Cooperation between classification researchers and library practitioners

All through the period of the revision leading to *KDC 6*, Classification Committee member continuously cooperated among themselves as well as with other library practitioners in the Korean library community. The Classification Committee itself consists of members both from the academic community and from library fields. As Table 8 shows, among nine members, four of them are faculty members of departments of library and information science, three of them are lecturers in those departments (two of them are also former librarians), and two of them are experienced librarians. So, we can say that the committee members are proportionate to various areas in order to reflect the theory and practice of the library classification. They not only revised their own subjects as allocated, but also continuously discussed and cooperated with other members through more than seventeen official meetings of the committee.

Practitioners from the National Library of Korea (NLK) also supported the committee all through the revision. The head of the Division of National Bibliography was also invited to join in the committee to check the general aspects of *KDC 6*. Because the NLK has maintained the Korean National Bibliography and KOLAS, and led the Korean Public Library Association, she and her division were expected to do some functions as messengers between the committee and library fields. In addition, librarians of the

Program	Hours		Numbers of Attendants		
	Total	For <i>KDC</i>	2014	2015	2016
Cyber program for <i>KDC</i>	6	6	687	323	272
Primary program for new librarians	105	3	29	20	21
Special program for <i>KDC</i>	35	25	66	49	52
Current trends in knowledge organization	14	3	30	51	Not opened

Table 7. Training programs for *KDC*, prepared by NLK (2014-2016).

Name	Affiliation	Subjects
Dr. D.G. Oh	Chairperson, Prof. of LIS Department	700, 800
Dr. B.Y. Kim	Lecturer of LIS Department, Former librarian of university library	300
Dr. S.W. Kim	Associate Prof. of LIS Department	000
Dr. S.J. Kim	Assistant Prof. of LIS Department	600
Dr. J.H. Moon	Lecturer of LIS Department Former librarian of university library	900, 500
Dr. J.H. Park	Prof. of LIS Department	400
Mr. Y.H. Bae	Librarian of university library	100, 200
Dr. J.S. Yeo	Lecturer of LIS Department	500
Ms. H.Y. Oh	Head, National Bibliography Division, National Library of Korea	General

Table 8. List of the Classification Committee members for *KDC 6*.

Task Force Team of NLK, as discussed earlier, also supported the revision of *KDC* through some suggestions and recommendations. This systemized cooperative process has made the committee reflect the voices from the Korean library community in general into the *KDC 6*.

Another strength is that the chief editor of *KDC 6*, Dong-Geun Oh, is one of the leading researchers in the area of library classification in Korea related both to *KDC* and to other classification-related research systems, including *DDC* and others. He is a senior member in academic career as well as in experience as a member of the Classification Committee. These accomplishments might be very helpful for him to lead the committee to coordinate and collaborate all together.

Other members from the academic community have published some research articles or dissertations on *KDC* and other areas of library classification before and after they came to join the Committee. For example, Oh has continuously published co-written books and articles with other members and specialists (Oh et al. 2008, 2009, 2014; Yeo, Lee and Oh 2008; Yeo, Park, Hwang and Oh 2008; Yeo et al. 2013), and other members have also written articles about *KDC* (Kim 2012; Kim 2013; Park and Kim 2013).

The Classification Committee, from the initiation stage of its revision, has tried to gather the opinions of the library community about the revision of *KDC*. In this regard, the committee held public hearings during the general conference of KLA 2012 (10 October). In this meeting, committee members discussed the general policies for revision, current progress of the revision, and outlines of

tables of standard subdivisions and geographic areas and heard opinions and feedback from the library community about the revision. These kinds of publications and public hearings, in addition to the official announcements from KLA, must be very helpful for the Korean library community to understand the general aspects of *KDC* and to plan their future choices about the editions, through the voices from the committee members.

5.2.2 Cooperation of members both from classification specialist group and subject areas

From the time of the revision for edition five, the Classification Committee of KLA has tried to invite specialists from various subject areas to participate in the revision process as consultants. As Table 9 suggests, in *KDC 5*, researchers and librarians from the various areas of engineering, medical science, and the arts participated in the process of consulting for the revision of related subjects. For example, the sub-committee for engineering continuously discussed with researchers and librarians from the areas of technology general, chemistry and chemical engineering, computer science, mechanical engineering, architecture and building construction, home and family management, and medical science; and the sub-committee for the arts with those from arts general, performing arts, and Korean traditional music.

For the sixth edition, members from social sciences and science and technology participated in the consulting for the committee (see Table 10). For example, Classification Committee members continuously discussed with profes-

Divisions/Sections	Specialist Members (<i>KDC 5</i>)
Technology, General	Prof. S.H. Lee (Dept. of Civil Engineering) Dr. Y.W. Chung (Civil Engineering)
Chemistry/Chemical Engineering	Dr. J.M. Lee (Dept. of Chemical Engineering)
Computer Science	Dr. M.S. Park (University Library Computer Center)
Medical Science	Prof. J.G. Park (Dept. of Medical Science) Dr. J.H. Choi (Former Medical Library Librarian) Librarian S.Y. Park (Medical Library, Dept. Head)
Mechanical Engineering	Prof. H.Y. Lee (Dept. of Materials Science & Engineering) Dr. J.Y. Chang (Automotive Technology Center)
Architecture & Building Construction	Prof. S.H. Kong (Dept. of Architectural Engineering) Teacher H.S. Ha (Technical High School)
Home & Family Management	Dr. M.S. Chang (Dept. of Hotel Cuisine)
Arts, General	Librarian M.S. Hwang (Arts University Library) Former Librarian H.S. Lee (University Library)
Korean Traditional Music	Curator H. Myung (Korean traditional music center) Librarian S.J. Kwack (Korean traditional music center) Librarian S.O. Song (Korean Research Center Library)
Performing Arts	Teacher Librarian S.K. Chung (Art High School) Teacher Librarian E.K. Seo (Art High School) Teacher S.H. Ryoo (High School)

Table 9. Specialist members participating in *KDC 5*.

Divisions/Sections	Specialist Members (<i>KDC 6</i>)
Education	Prof. J.H. Park (Dept. of Education)
Military Science	Librarians (Korea National Defense University Library)
Sciences General	Teacher Librarian B.M. Soh & Sciences Subjects Teachers (High School)
Mathematics/Statistics	Prof. C.G. Park (Dept. of Mathematics)
Architecture & Building Construction	Prof. S.H. Kong (Dept. of Architectural Engineering)
Oriental Medicine	Prof. J.H. Park (Dept. of Korean Traditional Medicine) Librarian H.M. Shin (University Library Specialized in the Area)
Telecommunication	GD of Technology T.Y. Kim (Telecommunication Research Institute)

Table 10. Specialist members participated in *KDC 6*.

sors, librarians, and teachers from areas such as education, military science, sciences, mathematics, architecture and building construction, Oriental medicine, and telecommunications.

The invited specialist members from the subject areas participated in the work and consulted as a kind of voluntary labor without being paid anything, even though they were officially appointed later under the name of the president of the Korean Library Association. That is the reason why the committee members contacted them personally based on personal relationships, instead of inviting

candidate members from the related areas systematically and widely. Some of them are colleagues or friends of committee members, some are their former students, and so on. But this does not mean that the invited specialists are less qualified or they are not sufficient to help the committee members. In fact, some of them have acquired the certificates of librarians even though they do not work in the libraries as librarians. Because most of them have close personal relationships with the committee members, it can make the discussions easier and deeper, and allow all to feel free about any request advising committee members

about suggestions for revisions. Their names are listed and acknowledged in the report from the Classification Committee included in *KDC 6*.

Some members have published articles with committee members on the revision of *KDC* based on the experiences of these consulting efforts. For example Oh and Yeo have published research articles with consulting members about such subjects as computer science (Yeo, Park, Hwang and Oh 2008) and chemical engineering (Yeo, Lee and Oh 2008) of *KDC 5*, and Architecture Engineering (Yeo et al. 2013) of *KDC 6*.

This kind of support and help from specialists in major subject areas can supplement the shortcomings of the committee members about subject knowledge to some degree. It will be “important to establish collaborative relationships with researchers and subject specialists interested in vocabulary development and who would like to volunteer,” as Slavic, Cordeiro and Riesthuis (2008, 26) well suggested. But it would also be desirable to invite subject specialists openly and with some financial support for them, rather than requesting voluntary participation based on personal relationships.

5.3 Cooperation among classification committee, headquarters of KLA, and editorial/publishing team

In order for a classification system to be completed as a publication successfully and in good physical shape, it is important to cooperate with other related personnel, both from the administrative sector and from the editorial and publishing team.

5.3.1 Cooperation between classification committee and headquarters of KLA

All through the revision process, the Classification Committee has been supported by the top management of the KLA. As soon as former chief editor Nam became president of the KLA, he planned to revise the *KDC 5* and spoke of the expectation to make the sixth edition the standard edition of it. That means the revision of *KDC* and its publication were one of the important projects of KLA, and that all the KLA members and administrative staff of headquarters had an interest in its progress. Most of the committee meetings were at the meeting room of the KLA with direct or indirect support from it. One of staff member (Seo) from the KLA always participated in the meetings and kept the records continuously. He checked all of the processes to help the committee members to proceed with revision work without any problem.

Another not to be neglected factor is that the KLA has supported the committee financially for regular committee

meetings as well as for other conferences. In addition, the KLA paid the committee members a kind of honorarium in lieu of payment for manuscripts, after the publication of *KDC 6*. Because the sales of *KDC 6* can make no small amount of money and contribute financially to the KLA also, it seems reasonable for the members to be paid accordingly. It must be one of the ways to motivate present and promising candidate committee members to participate in the committee as members. This kind of attention and support from the top management and staff of headquarters can make the process proceed efficiently, and also gave some kind of motivation to the committee members to do their work.

5.3.2 Cooperation between classification committee and editorial/publishing team

Even though the committee finalized the revision process completely, we need one more step for it to be successful in hardware. As Satija and Martínez-Ávila (2015, 73) suggested, classification systems can be “born already out of date,” because of the time lag between final editing and publication. That is the reason why we should cooperate with the editorial and publishing team from the start of editing the schedule and index.

When the committee had almost completed the final version of the manuscript for *KDC 6*, the editorial team joined in the work for editing the tables and schedule. In the first meeting of the team, with headquarters, and committee members, they first discussed together the general outlines of the tables, schedule, and index, including the formats, layout, scripts, and all other related things. Then the editorial team prepared some draft pages, and the committee members checked them in various aspects. Through these feedback processes, the final draft version of tables and schedule was completed.

Based on the proofs of this version, the committee members and editorial team checked each page one by one. All through the process, a copy editor checked and corrected the errors in sentences, terminology, word spacing, etc. In the page layout, because some headings need to be written in Korean Hangeul, Chinese characters, and English letters, the spaces between letters for so many of them needed to be decreased one by one, in order to make many long two-line headings into one-line headings. In some cases, we left less space between lines to accommodate more lines on a page, based on the classes of the subjects. After the final version of the tables and schedule was complete, committee members made their own indices for their subjects. Then based on the integrated index, similar work was done for it. All of these processes cannot be left to the editorial team, because the task needs an understanding of the classification system. Overtime and week-

end labors were also needed to reduce the term of publication. This kind of teamwork between the editorial team and committee members can enhance the hardware quality and provide the final version of *KDC* 6 within the earliest timespan.

6.0 Conclusions and suggestions for future research and practice

As the ancient Greek philosopher Heraclitus says, “the only thing that is constant is change.” Today’s world of subject areas is no exception. Any library classification system should catch up to these continuously changing subject areas and society, based on the literary warrant, in order for it to be up to date. That is the reason why *KDC* has also tried to revise the system, as any other major library classification system.

This article reports and analyzes the general progress and characteristics of the process of revision of *KDC*, especially focusing on the cooperative efforts with other related organizations and persons. One thing which should be added is that the revisions of *KDC* have always proceeded with public attention from the library community as well as the library and information science schools and departments because most of the public librarians in Korea must take civil service examinations to be full time workers, and these examinations include the subject of cataloging and classification. It must be one of the reasons why most Korean library schools and departments include more than one subject of cataloging and classification in their regular curricula. Naturally, *KDC* is one of the major sections in the text books on cataloging along with other systems, including *DDC*. It can be part of a favorable atmosphere for the committee to proceed with related efforts with a kind of pride and motivation in doing them.

It seems to be a fact that the work to revise *KDC* for the sixth edition proceeded successfully even though the final product *KDC* 6 could not satisfy all of the related librarians and other related scholars and students, both in practical and theoretical aspects. But there remain many other things to be resolved and upgraded for future development.

There have been no regular update reports from the Classification Committee during the revision process and afterwards. Nowadays regular communication with library communities and users, especially through new technology including websites and social networks “is easy and a must for its popularity” (Satija and Martínez-Ávila 2015, 74). Extensions and Corrections to *UDC* and bi-weekly updates of *DDC* to its current edition put out online are typical examples of these activities. So, it can be recommended for *KDC* to introduce a channel both for regular update reports and for communication with users, prefer-

ably using the *KLA* website. It can also be helpful “to gather various opinions and suggestions about the system” (Oh 2012a, 79).

The revisions for new editions would be better if undertaken and published at regular intervals, as Oh has indicated previously (2012a). The sixth edition of *KDC* has been published within a very short period of four years, compared with the more than ten years for the third, fourth, and fifth editions. So, when starting revision work for the sixth edition, the Classification Committee recommended that libraries that had not adopted the fifth edition should jump to the sixth edition directly. But many libraries continuously complained to the *KLA* that the interval between the fifth and sixth editions was too short, even though they acknowledged that so many upgrades had been accomplished.

KDC has not been published as an abridged or online edition. Because so many libraries using it are small ones including public and school libraries, an abridged edition would be very helpful for them both in convenience of use and for economy (Oh 2012a). Considering the Korean library situation of automation and the abilities of library personnel, a web-version might be recommendable for them, even though it can be disputable from financial aspect for the *KLA*.

From a research aspect, it would be interesting to do a comparative study on the revision process with other national classification systems such as *NDC*, *CCL*, etc., as well as other more international ones, such as *DDC*, *LCC*, or *UDC*. From another practical aspect, cooperative efforts with specialists from various subjects can be expanded to develop the list of subject headings or a thesaurus in the related areas, because “library classification systems both represent and reflect the culture from which they came” (Mages 2011, 40).

KDC is a unique example having a long history and popularity as a national library classification system maintained by a national library association of Korea, namely Korean Library Association. So, these kinds of experiences based on cooperative efforts can provide a hint and suggestion both for those nations in a similar situation maintaining a national classification system, or those considering the development of a new national system, and for international library communities trying to expand their knowledge on library classification systems. It can also be a good practice for maintaining and revising a national classification system, even though it may not be a best practice, in order to respond to the users in this rapidly changing post-modern society.

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