practice-oriented remarks on work with library networks, especially for the possibilities of the common maintenance of classification systems, are much more informative, while it is obvious that the author has deliberately ignored the problems connected with the intake of data from other systems in cooperative classification.

As the comparisons in the first part are laid out selectively, general conclusions on the specific methodology of shelf classification are avoided. This is, e.g., true of the "sensible maximum number" - often mentioned later on - of title frequencies per class; the controversial question of adequate rough and fine classification, and the effective value of coding, the assessment of which as a poly-hierarchic approach in the special codes of the Regensburg system (c.f.p.40) is surely dubious. Leaving out of consideration the fact that the terminology is, in parts, not particularly precise (c.f. notation types) and that some details are out-dated (e.g. spread of the Bremen system; hospitality of the GHBS), the inclusion of empiric analyses[1] would have contributed to a critical investigation of the systems presented.

The main part of the investigation, which is much more successful, takes a critical look at the demands made on shelf-oriented classifications and at the status of subject catalogues, including subject catalogues in open-access shelving. The theses propounded here contain pragmatic guides, e.g. for the justification of double placings, refer, however, more to single contributions than to previously described systems. As a way out of the diversity of the monohierarchic classification systems in use, the author recommends - without further comment - the drawing-up of concordance indexes (p.86-87), the effectivity of which, considering the subject and structural discrepancies in conventional systems, appears doubtful.

The consideration of classificatory subject analysis in Germany is enclosed by an introductory chapter on the LCC and a concluding digression on the Library Bibliographical Classification (BBK). Although the model function of the LCC for some systems at new German university libraries is stressed, the - from a historic point of view - reciprocal influences and the use of the LCC at the university library at Ulm are not expressed in concrete terms, nor are individual studies[2] in connection with this taken into account. Considering the planned adaptation of the LCC by the Göttingen State and University Library, it could also be a moot point whether the methodological shortcomings of this classification - from the German point of view - could not be elaborated on here more clearly. The final plea - an unrelated appendage - for a greater consideration of the Soviet BBK - not least because of the importance of the classification system for libraries in the GDR - should certainly be emphasized. To be included in the long list of references given is the paper published recently by Ludwig[3].

In many respects, this outline has its uses for orientation in the field of German shelf classification systems, information which is otherwise hard to come by. Furthermore, this first "stock-taking" may serve as an impetus for further, more intensive research.   Gisela Heinrich

Notes:

1 E.g. the examination theses HB from the FHBD in Cologne: Voigt, R.. The subject catalogue systems of the university libraries in Bremen and Regensburg. 1976. - Leisering, W.-J.: Systems for libraries (SfB) and GHBS. 1985.

2 Stevenson, G.: Andreas Schleiermacher's bibliographical classification and its relationship to the DDC and LCC. Champaign, Illinois 1978. - Engbarth, M.: Die LCC. Geschichte, Struktur, Verbreitung und Auswirkungen auf deutsche Bibliotheksklassifikationen. Köln: FHBD 1980. (Examensarbeit ÖB).

3 Ludwig, D.: Die Diskussion um die BBK in der sowjetischen Fachliteratur seit 1965. Mit einem Exkurs über die Anwendung der BBK in Bibliotheken der DDR. Köln: FHBD 1984. (Examensarbeit HB).

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Neue Regelwerke zum Schlagwortkatalog: eine Einführung in RSWK und PRECIS. (New Rules for the Subject Catalog: An Introduction to RSWK and PRECIS). Lectures from a further training course at the College for Librarianship and Documentation, Cologne, July 9-10, 1984. Köln: Greven 1985. 175p., ISBN 3-7743-0559-5. = Kölner Arb.z.Bibl.- u.Dok.wesen, H.6.

In the Federal Republic of Germany, the year 1977 brought with it the collapse of a project whose aim it had been to develop a uniform system of classification (Einheitsklassifikation) suitable for the shelving of books and the keeping of systematic catalogues in both public and university libraries.

Parallel to the tradition of systematic catalogues, since the beginning of the 19th century - initiated by Martin Schrettinger in Munich - there had also been subject catalogues in the libraries of the German-speaking countries. Varying local practices led, in the course of time, to the drawing up of various sets of rules. Using data processing, newly founded libraries also began to compile subject catalogues in the 70's. At the same time, the development of thesaurus concepts and the use of verbal index and retrieval processes in literature data banks ran parallel to this.

The expected use of data processing gave rise to the hope in many German libraries that in the field of subject analysis the intake of outside data or a cooperative form of subject cataloguing would also be possible. Under the impact of the collapse of the classification project mentioned above, efforts were directed to common rules, yet to be drawn up, for the subject catalogue which, in the future, should be the basis for a cooperative subject analysis at German universities. A commission appointed to draw up such rules submitted the first draft of them in 1981, the third in 1983 (1), which could then be discussed by those interested groups connected with library work. This discussion was partly carried out under the positive impression the theoretic elegance and the practical applicability of PRECIS had made on German librarians.

Great importance was laid by all concerned on the reaction of the Deutsche Bibliothek (German Library) as the leading light in German bibliography: would the Deutsche Bibliothek offer a central service in the field of verbal subject analysis, and, if it did, which process would it choose. A project was set up in which the Deutsche Bibliothek investigated the applicability of PRECIS to the German language, the results of this being summarized in a report (2, 3). The final decision fell in February, 1984: the Deutsche Bibliothek would not, in future, use

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