Chapter III. "What Kind of Social Science Shall We Now Build?"

The third chapter discusses four major issues: 1. Humans and Nature; 2. The State as an Analytic Building Block; 3. The Universal and the Particular; and 4. Objectivity. Because of space limitations, these issues cannot be presented or discussed in this review. It can only be said that any universalism must reflect historical circumstances and power relations, but that some kind of objective ideals should guide social scientists.

Chapter IV. "Restructuring the Social Sciences."

The authors admit that there is no simple, clear cut formula for reorganizing the social sciences, and their proposals are in my view unsatisfactory for those who work in the field of classification research and knowledge organization. Although the idea of an internal division of labour in the social sciences remains, the recommendations go more in the direction of strengthening the interdisciplinary work than in discussing the principles on which the disciplines can be identified and separated.

My own view is that classificatory principles always reflect (consciously or unconsciously) the theoretical and philosophical approach of the field being classified. A positivist view of the social sciences thus tends to favour a nomothetical approach which again – as Wallerstein has so brilliantly demonstrated – has a strong impact on which these sciences structure themselves. A given structure is thus a reflection of the relative influence of different philosophies. To the degree that my view is correct, the first job for us in KO is to identify the most important underlying theoretical influences, for example: Empiricism/Positivism; Rationalism; Historicism/Hermeneutics/Phenomenology; Pragmaticism/Functionalism/Marxism/Feminism**;** Eklecticism, Postmodernism, Poststructuralism. Each of these approaches implies its own consequences and principles for the classification of the social sciences. If we want to contribute to the classification of the social sciences, we must engage in these questions (see also Hjørland, 1998). This may not be an easy job. But what are the alternatives? Are there any other proposals?

Reference

Hjørland, B. (1998). The Classification of Psychology: A Case Study in the Classification of a Knowledge Field. *Knowledge Organization*, 24(4), 162-201.

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Sears List of Subject Headings. 17th ed. Edited by Joseph Miller. New York : H.W. Wilson, 2000. xlvi, 770 p. ISBN 0-8242-0989-3.

The *Sears List of Subject Headings,* with close to eight decades of progressive history behind it, is by now a very familiar tool in the small libraries where it is used for subject cataloguing. Its regular editions and its will to keep itself up to date, supported by a well-oiled revision machinery, have kept the *Sears List* efficient and popular.

This is the third consecutive edition under the editorship of Dr. Joseph Miller who succeeded Martha Mooney in 1992. Under Dr. Miller's stewardship, the *Sears List* has gone through spectacular changes. These are namely the reformulation of headings in direct rather than inverted order, the introduction of a thesaurus format, and now the merger of the lists of commonly used subdivisions. In the current edition, the policy changes and technical improvements initiated in the previous two editions have come full circle.

The new edition brings in additions, deletions, modifications and replacements on account of: a) Advances in information science; b) Change in library users' behaviour; c) Emergence of new subjects; d) Linguistic and terminological changes in names of subjects as reflected in current literature. The revision of this list, as usual, was based on users' suggestions from libraries, commercial/cooperative bibliographic services, and from staff indexers at the H.W. Wilson Company. In accordance with an age old policy, the *Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH)* were also consulted.

In the 17th edition, some basic changes have been introduced. The Editor's Introduction, in reality a concise users' manual, has been recast. For the first time, the Introduction is divided into numbered sections, and illustrated with examples; it is clear and simple to read, and easy to refer to. We feel, however, that a brief index to the preface and to the Editor's Introduction would have been useful.

As a major and striking change in structure, the mixed list of commonly used subdivisions appended in the front matter of *Sears 16* (published in 1997) has been dropped and integrated to the main list. Historically speaking, this list was first made available in the 3rd edition (1933). The separate list had already been made redundant in the 16th edition, when each of the "commonly used" subdivisions was shown as an access point in the alphabetical list of headings. The main list provided ample room for copious scope notes and instructions on the application of each of such subdivisions. Every subdivision now has a general reference with

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specific instructions on its mode and areas of application. For the 17th edition it was boldly decided to abrogate the entire separate list of 1 200 subdivisions in favour of a much more extensive treatment in the main body of the list. The editors now perceive, and rightly so, that it is arbitrary to designate some divisions as commonly used. Except for a few form subdivisions, they are not free-floating either. In fact, over the years the commonly used subdivisions have steadily grown into a mixed mass of topical, aspect and bibliographic form subdivisions; out of these, only bibliographical forms could be really called commonly used subdivisions *per se*.

The merger of subdivisions with main headings has no consequence for the public catalogue nor for the subject authority file. But when teaching the theory and application of the *Sears List,* a new look at them will be required. Students of the *Sears List* are always taught subject analysis in terms of broad categories of concept/topic – Topical subdivision – Form subdivision.

For the first time, the *Sears List* prescribes a citation order when two or more subdivisions are used simultaneously. This order is: Main heading – Topical subdivision – Geographical subdivision – Chronological subdivision – Form subdivision. This is in accordance with S. R. Ranganathan's famous PMEST formula.

The subdivisions are of four kinds:

a) Topical subdivisions. These represent aspects of a given subject that are somewhat, though not absolutely, specific to a given heading. For example: Blood – Transfusion, Railroads – Signaling, Food – Cholesterol contents.
b) Form subdivisions. These represent the form of presentation of a subject. Form subdivisions are mostly universal, and can still be called commonly used subdivisions. For example: Economics – Encyclopaedia, Sports – Fiction, Ohio – Bibliography. Newly added subdivisions in this category include: Biblical teaching; Memorising; Interactive multimedia; Press coverage; Juvenile drama; Storage; Tournaments.
c) Geographic subdivisions. These are the subdivisions of a (subject) heading by place. Their application is restricted and must be prescribed (may subdiv. geogr). In this edition many such instructions have been added. As was the case before, geographic names may also form headings instead of subdivisions. When a geographical place is a heading it may be divided by topical, form, and chronological subdivisions.
d) Chronological subdivisions are used mostly with history related headings.

Some headings can also be used as subdivisions. In fact, the distinction between permanent/real subdivisions and subject headings proper is not an easy one to make, and it gets increasingly blurred with the growing complexities in information packaging and multidisciplinary growth. Scope notes are given at appropriate places to distinguish between topic and form.

Many of the newly added headings are quite clearly in the realm of IT: Cyberspace; Databases; Electronic discussion groups; Technological literacy. Other significant additions are: Achievement tests; Crisis intervention (Mental health services); Feng-Shui; Grandparents as parents; Land mines; Postcolonialism; Stalking; Violence in mass media.

Numerous headings have been revised, especially in the areas of world history millenium/century change studies. The dawn of a new century and the media hype surrounding it have led to many changes around the concepts of "modern" and "century". The heading Modern history – 1800-1899 (19th century), for example, is now simply Nineteeth century.

Indians of North America is now Native Americans: this is considered a most significant change. The new heading replaces two headings of *Sears 16*, namely, Indians, and Indians of North America. Twenty-seven topical subdivisions are listed under Native Americans, and this reflects a new interest in studies of Aboriginal Americans. Consequently, a hoard of other changes in headings and/or subdivisions had to be effected. For example, Indians of North America – Art became Native Americans – Art, and Indians of North America – Dwellings is now Native Americans – Dwellings. There are at least 40 such alterations. Cultural headings in this category have been changed to phrasal headings; for example, Indians of North America – Names has become Native American Names. The headings representing Aboriginal peoples from other regions have also been changed; for example, Indians of South America – Peru is now Native Americans – Peru. As a corollary, all headings including the adjective American have been changed to geographically subdivided topical headings; for example, American actors is now Actors – United States, and American ethics is Ethics – United States.

Headings representing material stationary objects are not given national adjectives, but rather subdivided geographically; for example, Architecture – France. But when the objects can be transported or replicated, they can be modified by a national adjective; for example,

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German automobiles – India, French architecture – Morocco.

Headings that may be created by the cataloguer have been divided into three explicit categories: a) Subject names; b) Geographical names; c) Personal and corporate names, and uniform titles. This list (found on page xxxix) is less enumerative and more suggestive than the one in *Sears 16*. There are still seven key (model) headings, with Native Americans included under the new key heading Ethnic groups.

There are many other minor changes. Classification – Books has at last been replaced by Library classification. In the all pervasive electronic age, Electronic data processing has become simply Data processing. Singular and plural forms are sometimes used instead of parenthetical qualifiers to distinguish homographs; Lime (fruit) has become Limes, and Lime (mineral) is now Lime. There are about 230 such modified headings.

The number of headings and subdivisions is slightly higher than in the previous edition. The 17th edition contains: 7 360 Subject headings, 320 Reference records, 60 Corporate names, 53 Personal names, 40 Uniform titles. The 320 reference records provide instructions for the application of subdivisions that are not themselves subject headings, for example, History and criticism and Environmental aspects. When a subdivision is the same as a heading, as is the case with Management or History, a general reference is given under the main heading stating the distinction between its dual applications.

On every page, space has been saved by eliminating those references which were no longer useful. Space was also saved by deleting the redundant footnotes spelling out the full form of thesaurus symbols such as BT, RT, SA etc. These are now given once and for all on page xlxi. Unfortunately, there is not enough room in the margins to record local decisions and locally created headings.

The 17th edition is based on the three primary principles of specific and direct entry, uniformity, and consistency. But in this edition, more emphasis has been placed on specific and direct entry, a sacred principle of subject cataloguing which has no alternative.

There are some minor errors of omission and commission in an otherwise thoughtfully edited and professionally prepared edition. The heading Subject catalogs is there, and so is Subject headings, but Subject cataloguing is not represented. Under the heading Tropics, a reference is made to the corresponding subdivision Tropical conditions; Tropical conditions itself, however, is nowhere to be seen in the main list. An associative relationship could have been created between Alphabets and Calligraphy, as both refer to the same class number 745.6. On page x (Preface), Environmental policy appears as Environ-mental policy. On page xl, under Facsimiles, a SEE reference remains (it should be a USE reference of course).

The terminology in the Preface and in the Editor's Introduction may appear vague not only among its users but also among the experts. A glossary of standardized terms would clarify and standardize, and would be a welcome addition to the next edition.

Overall, this is a progressive edition reflecting current thoughts in information science and subject cataloguing. Though out and out American in terminology and subjects represented, it can still be useful outside of the United States. The popularity of the *Sears List of Subject Headings* will continue to lie in its responsiveness to user needs and to technical advances in information science.

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