defined. For instance "Isolate" is not defined until page 48, yet it is used in explication at least 20 pages earlier in the text.

The most serious defect of the book, however, is not the fault of Mr.Satija, but of his publisher, Ess Ess Publications. It is the publisher who should have seen to the correct numbering of pages. It is the publisher who should have taken responsibility for correct spelling (I can say with confidence that never before have I seen so many words misspelled in a printed volume!). Perhaps even it is the publisher who should have insisted on a better index. It is unfortunate when a book, praiseworthy for its content, is given such egregious presentation.

While this book, as the author hopes does indeed contribute "its modest share to perpetuate India's pride, the Colon Classification" (p.IX), to many it might not appear to do so because of its appearance. This is unfair to Mr.Satija and to his revered and valiant father, Ranganathan!

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During the past few years, M.P.Satija's contributions, in the form of several books and articles dealing with the various facets of classification, have been a force to reckon with. Notable among them are the books pertaining to the DDC written in collaboration with John P.Comaromi, the editor of DDC20 (1, 2, 3) and the Colon Classification 7th ed. (4), a part of which, as indicated by the author himself, was written in consultation with Dr.Ingetraut Dahlberg. Besides many other works on library classification, including his PhD thesis, he has devoted much of his time and efforts to a relatively neglected subject, i.e. the systems of book numbers, which, though indispensable for all classification systems, "are paid but scanty attention, and are even treated stepmotherly" (5). In addition to a book dealing with Ranganathan's system of book numbers (6), Satija's article on the History of Book Numbers (7) is a fairly comprehensive account of a phenomenon not described elsewhere, namely the mushrooming growth of adhoc methods of assigning book numbers. However, renewed interest in the subject of book numbers has, of late, produced quite a few books (5, 8) of immense theoretical and practical value which - for all practical purposes - confine themselves, however, to American and British systems which can hardly be used efficaciously in the context of Indian libraries with their rich collections in Oriental languages besides those in English. Hence, local systems have been devised to serve their needs. For instance, the Bashiruddin system, (forming part of the book under discussion) was designed in 1928 and is still in use in the Central Library of Aligarh Muslim University which, as of now, consists of a collection of 28,468 Arabic; 32,064 Hindi; 15,961 Persian; 6,617 Sanskrit; and 600,000 English books. As pointed out by the authors, and rightly so, some of the indigenous systems are as scientific as any other system but have remained in oblivion. The book, therefore, attempts to bring only some of these Indian systems to light.

Of the four chapters in the book, the first one entitled *'Book number: what and why'* briefly but lucidly describes the importance, nature and use of book numbers with the aid of examples, it traces the early attempts made by Melvil Dewey (1876) and shows the development in author number assignment according to J.Jacob Schwartz (1878), C.A.Cutter (1880, 82, 87), Kate E.Sanborn (1892, 1895), W.S.Biscoe (1885), and S.R.Ranganathan (1933).

The description of the Bashiruddin System starts out with a life sketch of the designer that may interest and inspire those who wish to rise by sheer hard work. In fact, his system is equally good for all Indian languages in Devnagari script, Arabic script, Roman script or, for that matter, any other script. Surprisingly, the assignment of author numbers by this system for books in Devnagari and Arabic scripts has been dealt with in chapter 1 while that for books in Roman script is treated in chapter 3. Nevertheless, as stated in the introductory paragraph to the Bashiruddin System (9, p.27), reproduced in Hindi, "the system is so simple that even an ordinarily educated man can understand and apply it in a library, big or small".

Each letter in the alphabet of a language, whether Roman, Devnagari, or Arabic, is assigned a two-digit number as given below:

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23

N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36

To form the author number for any name, the initial letter of the name/word used as heading is written as such and for the second letter of the word, the author number - as taken from the above table - is suffixed to the initial letter. For example:

Dahlberg	D11
Foskett	F25

After the author number, the initial letter of the first word of the title (ignoring the initial article A, An, The) is added for further individualization to make a complete book number. For example:

Ontical Structures by Dahlberg, I.	D11O
The Subject Approach by Foskett, A.C.	F25S

Though not prescribed in the system, the author suggests to treat the above digits as decimal fractions that may be extended to any feasible limit whenever needed.

Seven rules for the assignment of numbers in addition to Appendix I giving numbers for some Indian authors, have been reproduced from the original in Hindi. One wishes these rules could have been translated into English to make the system more popular. The fact that this system is still being successfully applied for Oriental collections in a big library like that of Aligarh Muslim University speaks volumes for its utility and deserves due attention.

Chapter two deals with '*Dr.S.R.Ranganathan and his system*'. A protagonist of faceted classification, as he was, Ranganathan used a faceted structure for his book numbers also. The facet formula for the book number, along with the indicator digits looks as follows:

[L] [F] [Y] [A]. [V]-[S]:[C]:g[EVN]

While this formula, as emphasized by the authors, looks very lengthy, 90% of the book numbers assigned by this method consist of only two digits for the year number. In fact, of the first three facets, viz. Language [L], Form [F] and year of publication [Y], the last one is the most essential one. The facets [A] Accession as part of the year number, distinguishes books published in the same year in the same class, while the remaining facets, i.e. [V] Volume, [S] Supplements, [C] Copies, :g Commentaries and [EVN] Evaluation Number for sub-commentaries, bring host and associated books together. However, the authors' claim that this method constitutes, "the most complete and sophisticated system of book numbers yet devised (p.35) is debatable.

The third system, the Dickenson book number, forming part of chapter three starts out with a short profile of Asa Don Dickenson, an American librarian who served at Punjab University Library, Lahore, in non-divided British India during 1915-16. Designed scientifically for Indian libraries, the system consists of an author table (given as Appendix II) for some specific Indian and Western names. For example:

Akbar	A28
Galvin	G14
Gannon	G15
Shakespeare	S32

Every number in the table consists of the initial letter of the author's surname followed by two-digit Indo-Arabic numerals, except in the case of I, U, X, Y, and Z which are followed by only one digit. For the names not enumerated in the table, the prescription is to pick up the lower of the two numbers between which a name exactly falls. For instance, the name Gandhi falls in between G14 and G15 in the author table. According to the rule, the number for Gandhi will be G14. To make it more specific, the first letter of the title (ignoring the initial articles) is to be added, as in the Bashiruddin system. Once again, the authors suggest to treat these figures as decimal fractions to enable further extension, if necessary. However, the classifiers in Aligarh Muslim University Library, while using the Dickinson table for the assignment of numbers to books in English, now over 600,000, face certain problems, some of which are discussed here. In a particular class, for example, the books on and by Gandhi, as given below, will have the same author number, i.e. G14:

Gandhi, Indira
Gandhi, M.K.
Gandhi, Rajeev
Gandhi, Sanjay.

When initial letters of the title, as prescribed, are used for individualization, works by a particular author will get scattered. In such cases, the classifiers add the first letter of the forename of the author before suffixing the initial letter of the title. Thus the author numbers for the above names will be G14I, G14M, G14R, G14S respectively, to be further individualized by the titles' first letters. This helps in the collocation of different titles authored by a particular person. Another nagging problem occurs in Literature where book numbers generally get longer than the class numbers. For example, works by Shakespeare, works on Shakespeare, criticism of Shakespearean works, will all have the same class number and also the author number referring to Shakespeare. Further individualization by initial letters of the titles, in such cases, results in too long book numbers, as illustrated here:

Antony and Cleopatra by Shakespeare   S32AN
Antony and Cleopatra ed.by K.Deighton S32ANT
Antony and Cleopatra ed.by M.R.Ridley S32ANTO

Similar problems arising in Fiction, Poetry and Biography, could have been profitably cited in the book along with their solutions to make the book all the more useful.

The fourth chapter dealing with the collection number describes the need, criteria and method of assigning collection numbers as given by Ranganathan.

All in all the authors are successful in highlighting the three important Indian systems and also in making a point that some of the indigenously designed methods, if little known, might be as scientific as many other popular systems and hence deserve scholarly attention.

The book, written as a part of a series under the general editorship of Shri S.P.Agrawal is expected to spark reader's interest in the subject covered.

Shabahat Husain

(1)   Comaromi, J.P., Satija, M.P.: Brevity of notation in Dewey Decimal Classification. New Delhi: Metropolitan 1982.

(2)   Satija, M.P., Comaromi, J.P.: Introduction to the practice of Dewey Decimal Classification. New Delhi: Sterling Publ.1987.

(3)   Comaromi, J.P., Satija, M.P.: Dewey Decimal Classification: History and current status. New Delhi: Sterling Publ.1989.

(4)   Satija, M.P.: Colon Classification (7th ed.). A practical introduction. New Delhi: Ess Ess Publ.1989.

(5)   Comaromi, J.P.: Book numbers: A historical study and practical guide for their use. Littleton: Libraries Unlimited 1981. p.5

(6) Satija, M.P.: A printer on Ranganathan's Book Number. Delhi: Mittal Publ.1987.

(7) Satija, M.P.: History of Book Number. Int.Classif. 14(1987)No.2, p.70-76

(8) Lehnus, D.J.: Book number: History, principles and application. Chicago: Amer.Libr.Assoc.1980.

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COMAROMI, J.P. et al.: **Abridged Dewey Decimal Classifiation, 12th ed.** Albany, NY: Forest Press, OCLC 1990. XIII,857p. ISBN 0-910-608-42-3

The DDC is now considered a system eminently suitable for medium-sized college and public libraries, although it finds users in all types of libraries. Ironically enough, the very first edition (1876) of only 44 pages and comprising, in all, less than 1000 classes was considered too detailed by many librarians. Ensuing early editions were likewise thought to be unnecessarily detailed by some librarians; and a real need was felt to help small libraries cope with the lengthy numbers. Therefore, in 1894, for the first time an abbreviated outline of the full edition was issued; and before long, an abridged version was issued in 1921 independently of a new unabridged edition; it constituted an elaboration of the first abridged edition of 1894. The abridged editions were published later as and when the need arose. Still later, an abridged edition followed a particular unabridged edition. The sixth abridged edition was directly abridged from the 14th (1942) unabridged edition. This policy continued through the 9th abridged edition (1965). The 10th was not a directly abridged version of the full 18th edition (1971) but rather an adaptation of the latter at a few points, thus creating inconsistencies in that in some cases a given subject was assigned different numbers in the two schedules. Fortunately, the old policy of true abridgement has now been restored. Thus the 12th edition published in August 1990 was directly abridged from the full DDC20 published in January 1989. Therefore, those small libraries which have outgrown the abridgd version can readily switch over to the full edition without any problem.

To serve different collection sizes and subject specializations the DDC is now available in many official versions of details besides its 35 translations and adaptations. These versions include: The full version, now in its 20th edition (1989) with 30,000 entries; the abridged version, now in its 12th edition (1990) with about 2600 entries, and the DDC for schools, whose current 4th edition (1986) is also called the international edition, with about 1225 entries; this version is nicknamed the "Baby" of the DDC family (1). In addition, many subject fascicules, e.g. for religion, music, etc. are available, besides the numerous homemade adaptations to suit different cultures and local needs throughout the world (2).

The abridged edition is usually about 1/5th of the full version; and it is aimed at school and small public libraries and other general collections ranging up to 20,000 volumes. In the 12th abridged edition under review, of the total of 870 pages, 34 (3.9%) are devoted to prefatory material including Editor's introduction, glossary and index to the whole; while 146 pages (16.8%) are devoted to the *Manual*, i.e. conversion tables for the old and the new numbers. The *Manual*, a new feature of this edition, reflects the policies of the Decimal Classification Division of the Library of Congress, the largest single user, as well as the laboratory of the system. It is aimed at practicing librarians rather than those only learning the number structure. The conversion tables, etc. are obviously meant to help switch over from the previous to the new edition. 70 pages (8%) are devoted to auxiliary tables; here there are only four tables (T1-T4), as compared to seven in the full edition. The schedules comprise 435 pages (50%), while the relative index has 170 pages (19.7%) only.

The abridged DDC12 has all the new features of its parent DDC20, namely: the simplified editor's introduction: "This introduction is written primarily for students and beginning classifiers" (p.5), detailed and copious notes and instructions, and a simplified and trimmed relative index. User's convenience is the hallmark of this edition, to put is briefly. Computer-aided editing by an Editorial Support System (ESS), and computerized photocomposition have resulted in crisp printing and high standards of production, though adequate marginal spaces are lacking. An additional improvement over the full version is that the *Manual* has been located at an anterior position to the tables and the schedules. This seems to have been done following criticism of the DDC20 concerning the location of its *Manual* in the 4th volume near the relative index (3).

The changes in the schedules include the new schedules for 001-006 Data processing, and 780 Music; changes in 200/288 Christian religion, 323 Civil rights, 384 Communication; expansion in 612 Human physiology, and corresponding changes in the World history and Area Table (T2). As remarked earlier, only the first four Tables (T1-T4) have been retained and Tables 5-7 of the original were dispensed with. This means that class numbers cannot be given to the bilingual dictionaries; and biogaphies cannot be distinguished by subject. In T3 there are no sub-tables, nor does the literature schedule enumerate the periods of various individual literatures. This means that in the literature there is only grouping by language and form.

The relative index has been greatly trimmed in size and number of entries, especially by removing the "*see*" references. The "*see also*" references, as usual, lead to broader and related terms. The use of the index is now just about as easy as the ABC, permitting it to be used even by young and uninitiated library users. However, some inconsistencies are noted. For example, under 'Birds', there is no number for 'bird zoology'; but under