

regard, the Editor continues to attend meetings, to present papers and give workshops and to speak about UDC at various international conferences and meetings. With the departure of Executive Director, Ben Goedegebuure, the Editor has also attended meetings of the UDC Consortium in her capacity as Chair of FID/CR. Since his appointment as Executive Director, Stephen Parker has taken over the role of "full" member of the Consortium but Professor McIlwaine continues to attend Consortium meetings by invitation, in her role as Editor in chief of UDC. In the final paragraph of her report, the Editor remarks that "a good working pattern for undertaking revisions has been established". At the same time she points to the continued importance of the assistance of experts and users of the scheme. The Consortium is now in the position of being able to "commission" experts to undertake revisions in fields where the Editor and her Assistant are not expert. She also makes a plea for more feedback from users. Without feedback the Editor has to assume that what is being done is satisfactory to users, and it "comes as an unpleasant surprise" when objections are received after changes have been implemented.

As has become the custom, in this issue of *E&C*, "Comments & Communications" are included from a variety of sources. Ia McIlwaine reports on the "IFLA Meeting in Amsterdam" and the status of "The UDC at the Present Time". Three papers discuss UDC in particular user countries. These are: "The use of UDC in Romania", by A. Kiraly, "Ninety Years of the UDC in Polish Libraries", by L.A. Bielicka, and a paper on "Bilingual (English-Czech) UDC Master Reference File on CD-ROM", by M. Balikova, B. Stoklasova and S. Psohlavic. Two papers from the UDC workshop at the IFLA Conference in Amsterdam in 1998 are included. These are a paper describing the "UDC Master Reference File", by Gerhard Riesthuis and Vanda Broughton's paper on "The Revision Process in UDC: an Examination of the Systematic Auxiliary of 'Point-of-View' Using Facet-Analytical Methods". This latter paper is important in terms of current revisions and is an appropriate follow up to a paper on this topic by Geoffrey Robinson which appeared in the 1997 *E&C*. A brief paper by Geoffrey Robinson entitled "BSI and the UDC" provides a discussion of the British Standards Institution and its involvement in UDC from 1943 to the present time. T. Ishikawa has provided a brief annual report for 1997 on INFOSTA, the Japanese classification society, and there is also the annual list of "Recent Publications" related to UDC.

In the "Proposals" section there are two papers directly related to the revision process. Vanda Broughton prepared a paper on "The Development of a

Common Auxiliary Schedule of Property: a Preliminary Survey and Proposal for its Development". This paper provides an analysis of the categories previously represented in Table 1i; discusses the nature of "property" as a category, as well as properties in general and special schemes. It also provides an outline of the proposed auxiliaries property. The paper is very germane to current revisions. "Class 61 - Medicine: Progress on Restructuring", by I.C. McIlwaine and N.J. Williamson briefly describes the status of the work on the revision of Class 61 and presents the proposed schedules for three of the general classes that will provide the foundation for the classes that will deal with the various systems of the body. These general classes include: "611 Anatomy and Physiology", "612 Health Science. Medical Sciences" (general); and "613.1/4 Health, hygiene and preventive medicine. Environmental health and safety". Since the publication of the *E&C*, work on two additional classes has been virtually completed: "613.5/9 Curative medicine. Medical care" and "614 Clinical medicine and Pathology". General class "615 Diseases and Pathology" is in progress. When 615 is finished, this will complete much of the work on the general classes and work on the systems of the body can begin. In the section on "Revised UDC Tables" there are 30 pages of revisions from across the classification system – an essential update for users of the scheme. "Annexes" included are related to the "United Kingdom: Administrative Divisions, an Extended Classification", by Geoffrey Robinson and "Proposals for Amending Extended Editions" from the Austrian Standards Institute". As stated in the Robinson paper, these proposals recognize the need for "tables at an extended level of detail ... for one's own country and for certain other users specializing in information about the country concerned."

IFLA Section of Classification and Indexing

At the 65th Council and General Conference of IFLA in Bangkok, Thailand, August 20-28, 1999, the Section on Classification and Indexing will present a programme centred on the theme "Subject Retrieval in a Web Environment". The four papers to be presented include: "Structural and Multilingual Approaches to Subject Access on the Web", by Lois Mai Chan, Xia Lin and Marcia Lei Zeng (USA); "Subject Gateways in Southeast Asia: an Examination of Classification Practices", by Edward Lin Huck Tee (Morash University, Australia); Chinese Translation of DDC: Indexing Problems and Resolutions", by Wang Dongbo, Zhang Qiyu and Hou Hanqing (Na-

tional Library of China); and "Problems of Development of the National Russian Subject Authority File", by Irina Tsvetkova and Julia Selivanova (National Library of Russia, St. Petersburg). A brief summary of these papers will appear in a future issue of "FID/CR News".

Under the direction of its Chair, Ia McIlwaine, the Standing Committee of the Section continues its work on a number of projects. The Working Group on the Principles Underlying Subject Heading Languages (SHLs), chaired by Maria Inêz Lopes, has completed its work; its report has been reviewed and is expected to be published in mid-1999. The Standing Committee is also participating in a Joint Working Group of the Classification and Indexing and Information Technology Sections on the "Requirements for a Format for Classification Data". This activity involves the modification of the *USMARC Format for Classification Data* to provide a *UNIMARC* format for classification data. The work is expected to be completed by August 1999. The Working Group on the State of the Art Survey on Subject Heading Systems, chaired by Magda Heiner-Freiling, reported at the Amsterdam Conference on additional survey data received and plans were put into motion to publish an article on the survey in *International Cataloguing and Bibliographic Control*. Further information on the Section and its activities may be found at the IFLA website, www.ifla.org.

Classification Research Group (CRG)

At its 318th meeting the CRG discussed the possibility of an updated time table for completion of the *Bliss Bibliographic Classification (BC2)* and the question was raised as to how *BC2* would be maintained and updated in future. It was agreed that the main burden for updating would probably rest with the users of *BC2*. The major portion of this meeting was taken up with a discussion of Class CG/CW Chemical Substances. Jack Mills introduced a draft outline which he had prepared for discussion. Debate focussed on schedule order with general works on elements and compounds filing before works on specific elements and their compounds. Elements are filed in the order of their appearance of the Periodic table as defined by the orbital blocs in which they occur. This order reflects the division of the Periodic table grouping into two sequences (A&B), an arrangement universally observed until recently, when IUPAC recommended a single numbering of groups (from 1 to 18). It was felt that "this new numbering, although simpler, gives an order much inferior in terms of the collocation of closely related elements and has not

therefore been followed" in the *BC2* proposal. From this point on the discussion turned to various specific aspects of order related to the general pattern of citation order and the subordination of functional groups to basic molecular structure in organic chemistry. There was also a brief discussion on the problems of large classes in CU/CW. Eric Coates queried the relationship of these structures to structures already provided for in the classes for acyclic and cyclic compounds. The relations of biochemical substances and biochemistry were also considered. Those present generally agreed that more discussion would be needed before the whole class could be finalized. It was announced that at the next meeting on Friday, July 9, 1999, the subject will be chemical compounds, with special attention to complexes, polymers and biochemical substances.