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FID/CR Conferences and Workshops

A one-day workshop on the Universal Decimal Classification will be held during the 1998 IFLA Conference in Amsterdam, August 16-21, 1998.

At the time of writing plans are still in progress for a half-day preconference seminar on classification to be held at Jaipur, India in conjunction with the FID Conference in New Delhi in October, 1998.

For further information watch for announcements on the FID list serv (lis-fid@mailbase.ac.uk) or contact the FID/CR Chairman, Ia McIlwaine (e-mail uczw07@ucl.ac.uk; fax; + 44 0171 383 0557)

UDC Report of the Editor in Chief

In her 1997 Annual Report, Ia McIlwaine indicates that 1997 was "a year of goodbyes" for FID in general and UDC in particular. With the departure of Ben Goedegebuure as Executive Director of FID, UDC lost a highly valued supporter. Ben had chaired the UDC Consortium since its inception and was intimately acquainted with both the technical and managerial problems of UDC. "The Consortium was fortunate in persuading Alan Stevens of the British Standards Institution (BSI) to take on the chairmanship in his place" and Dr. (now Professor) McIlwaine was asked in her capacity as chairman of FID/CR to assume the role of FID representative on the Consortium.

In another staff change Frits Oomes, Technical Director of UDC, resigned in January 1997. His place has not been filled as the Consortium, instead, decided to advertise for a part-time business manager whose role would be to promote UDC. This position has not yet been filled. In the meantime, Mrs. Jossy Koper has been running the UDC Secretariat and filtering queries that she cannot handle to the Editor or the BSI as appropriate. Some routine procedures are being taken care of by BSI and others including the final preparation of *Extensions and Corrections* have been contracted out. In addition, in August 1997, a part-time Research Assistant for the Editor in Chief was hired and she works out of the School of Library, Archive and Information Studies, University College London. As Professor McIlwaine states, "It was ex-

tremely fortunate that Vanda Broughton who, for many years has worked on the *Bliss Bibliographic Classification* was able to take up the post, as she brings with her a wealth of expertise in classification." As a result, for the first time the Editor has on hand an assistant and someone whose time is given completely to the revision and development of UDC. On the managerial side of UDC, the Consortium has commissioned a Management Consultant to produce a Business Plan for UDC and has contracted David Strachan, one time Technical Director, to undertake a quality review of the machine readable file - the Master Reference File (MRF).

As always, the UDC is in continuous revision. During 1997, the taxonomic classes of Botany were totally revised. As an offshoot of the work on Astronomy, class 527 has been vacated clearing from class 52 subjects that are no longer perceived as branches of astronomy. In other revisions, Navigation has been revised and relocated, largely in 629, where it was already partly provided for, and partly in 656. Also, the early part of the area table covering physiographic regions has been revised with major improvements in the grouping and division of topics. The area table for Germany has also been revised to reflect the reunification, "preserving stability where possible but providing for the five new states of eastern Germany and their subdivisions. As well as updating the MRF, an extended version, equivalent to the old 'full edition' is offered, as there is known to be still some demand for this level of detail."

Looking to the future, a number of revision projects are in progress. It is anticipated that the 1998 edition of *Extensions and Corrections* will contain completely revised schedules for Medicine and Astronomy along with substantial amendments to Chemistry. Work has also begun on the revision of Physics which the Research Assistant is well qualified to undertake, having worked on the Bliss revision of this same subject. The revision of Mathematics is also in process but will not be ready before 1999. However a proposal for the revision of 517 - Analysis is published in the 1997 edition of *Extensions and Corrections*. Serious consideration is being given the abolishment of the "Common Auxiliaries of Point of