

This last appeal can serve as a useful hint of a summation of the conference: this volume shows librarians who are aware of the value of computers in the subject-access enterprise, but who also see the value of classification (variously defined, of course). Information science, in Holiday's presentation, is the background of the full-text, non-metalinguistic systems that rely for their invigorating feedback on the thesaurus: but what is a thesaurus if not a *classification* of either a natural language (as a whole) or of a discipline's vocabulary (a sector of a natural language)?

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Notes:

1 Though not necessarily primordial in point of time: it has taken a long time for this point to incubate far enough to be so stated as being applicable in a *general* way -- though Miksa is surely one of the presenters here who has been explicit about its applicability to various systems of subject access emanating from the Library of Congress.

2 Here is the sort of point at which reports of *conversations* between the presenters would have been even more valuable than the presentations themselves -- though I can sympathise with anyone who hesitates before the task of reducing such inchoateness to publishable form

3 This latter connotes, for me, a considerable lessening of the integration among the elements of the universe, and therefore a step in the direction of the atomistic epistemology.

References:

- (1) Foucault, M.: *The Order of Things: an Archaeology of the Human Sciences*. New York: Pantheon 1970 (Transl. of *Les mots et les choses*, Paris: Gallimard 1966)
- (2) Williamson, N.: FID/CR News 25. Int.Classif. 16(1989)No.1, p.30-33
- (3) Drabenstott, K.Markey; Demeyer, A.N.; Gerckens, J.; Poe, D.T.: Analysis of a bibliographic database enhanced with a library classification. *Libr.Resources & Techn.Serv.* 34(1990)p.179-198
- (4) Miksa, F.: *The Subject in the Dictionary Catalog from Cutter to the Present*. Chicago: Amer.Lib. Assoc.1983.
- (5) Gilreath, J.L.; Wilson, D.L.(Eds.): *Thomas Jefferson's Library: A catalog with the entries in his own order*. Washington, DC: Library of Congress 1989.

SATIJA, M.P.: **Colon Classification (7th Edition): A Practical Introduction**. New Delhi: Ess Ess Publ.1989. 236 p., ISBN 81-7000-103-X

The Preface of Mr.Satija's book begins with a quote from D.W.Langridge: "Colon is the embodiment of an ideal. As an introduction to the principles and practice Colon Classification remains invaluable". Who among us teaching and practicing classification would not concur with this observation? If we take classification seriously, we must pay homage to Ranganathan, and in this we must struggle to remain up-to-date. It is for this reason that Mr.Satija's introduction to the 7th edition of

the Colon Classification (CC7) is so welcome a tool. It is especially welcome in that CC7 has introduced many changes and has achieved a new, rather frightening, level of complexity. Also, as Mr.Satija himself confesses, it is plagued with "organic weaknesses and inner inconsistencies" (p.VII). Further, it is riddled with misprints. All the more necessary then is Mr.Satija's reliable practical introduction into its use.

The first half of this introduction to the use of CC7 is an exposition of the major concepts underlying the classification. Beginning with a discussion of its structure and basic principles Mr.Satija considers in sequence the common schedules, common isolate, devices, basic subjects, complex classes, phase relations, and notation. There then follows a select bibliography of works about CC7. The second half of the volume presents, with examples, the basic structure of 33 of the CC7 special isolate schedules, beginning with Generalia and ending with Laws.

What is good about this introduction to CC7 and what deserves criticism? To begin with the good, Mr.Satija is an experienced and colorful writer. One sees in his writing the flair of style, particularly in the use of metaphor, and the love he bears for his subject that characterized the writing of his "revered and valiant father Ranganathan". It is quality truly to be appreciated. Secondly, Mr.Satija is very clear and frank in his exposition; he has the ability to simplify without distorting. Thirdly, Mr.Satija is knowledgeable and is able to guide his readers through CC7 avoiding the shoals of inconsistency and misprint (for the most part: is the superimposition device used in CC7 or not? Cf. pages 24 and 40)). At the same time he levels frank and appropriate criticisms. Fourthly, the examples he gives of the CC7 syntax are interesting and simple, yet they show off well the sophistication of CC7 (e.g. "Saturday nights in the summer of 1987"). Such examples, a great boon to student and teacher alike, constitute a valuable complement to the classification itself.

Useful as Mr.Satija's introduction to CC7 is, there are matters that might be improved upon when he comes to write another such introduction. (Hoping that CC7 is an interim manifestation of the CC, he regards his own work also as interim in nature.) Foremost is the need for a better index. So much of the terminology associated with CC7 is technical, the beginner is prone to ask again and again "what does this mean?" Yet a search of the index often produces disappointment. For instance "isolate" does not appear there; and while "basic subject" does, the section of text dealing explicitly with this topic is not indicated. Surprisingly the index lacks cross references and, thus, lacks vocabulary control. The CC terminology is such that it needs both a good index and a separate glossary to explicate, for instance, the relationships among terms like "Speciator", "Special Component", "Special Constituent", and "Specials". Another reason to have included a glossary is that sometimes it is necessary to use a technical term before it is formally

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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SATIJA, M.P., AGRAWAL, S.P.: **Book Numbers: Some Indian Methods**. New Delhi: Concept Publ. 1990. VII, 96p. = Concepts in Communication, Informatics, and Librarianship, 6. ISBN 81-7022-238-9

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 ad hoc 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:

Optical 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.