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advances the observation that "BL's adoption of LCSH as its sole subject access system merely changes the context in which we [the British Library] contribute to such work". Not surprisingly, he refers to the fact that LCSH "needs a lot of development" and that "it is to a large extent economics which sets the agenda." In the paper he reviews "some of the familiar issues for LCSH development from the British Library perspective" and describes some of the subject indexing development in which the BL has been engaged. In general the focus on how LCSH is used at the British Library has changed from a focus on the usefulness of its records to how it provides access to the BL collections. Subject indexing for BNB has become a byproduct of this and a major advantage is that subject headings for retrospective materials can now be derived into the records of the BL catalogue to provide subject access to materials not previously indexed. Relative to this change three issues are addressed: "vocabulary control, policies for the application of LCSH and the shared cataloguing environment..." MacEwan states that it is important to take advantage of the reference structure althought this is not done by many libraries. As with any country outside the United States which adopts LCSH, Americanisms are a problem, but the answer for the BL and other libraries is to develop the thesaural control. Other issues are more serious, for example the need to "modernize awkward, or unsatisfactory subject headings". British history headings are a case in point where some changes would be major and the benefits of change must be considered against the cost. The change over has also involved major expensive retraining of cataloguers and the consistency of practices is a problem. The Library of Congress *Subject Cataloging Manual* is a difficult tool to use and there are there are good reasons for changing policy of application. This has caused the BL to reconsider the way in which cataloguing procedures are organized within the BL. Consistency in application is difficult, in particular the specificity. In conjunction with his third issue MacEwan describes the BL's involvement in a project to index fiction. The authors sees the future development of LCSH into a more effective system. In this context the most urgent priorities are the improvement of OPAC software to exploit LCSH and improvements in authority control. One of the improvements already in the planning is a full authority file of free-floating subdivisions. In his conclusions, McEwan states that " in the modern world, if LCSH does not change it will sooner or later be abandoned". There are compelling reasons for those who use LCSH to aid in its improvement, in particular through open dialogue.

The third and final paper by Yakov L **Shrailberg** and Ekaterina M. **Zaitseva** (Russia) focused on a "Russian-Language Database of Universal Decimal Classification: Creation and Implementation in Library Automation". The authors analyze the problems of the application of UDC in scientific and technical library and information centres with respect to their classified catalogues and in conjunction with the replacement manual catalogues with catalogues in electronic format.. Specifically the authors dealt with the UDC database created in the Russian National Public Library for Science and Technology based on the 4th edition (Russian) of UDC. Unfortunately the 4th edition has not been completed and this is not likely to accomplished in the very near future. In the light of this the discontinuance of the UDC, the process was considered impractical and a timely method for the updating of UDC has been work out. process of moving from the manual to the electronic catalogue while preserving the UDC during the transition was described in detail. At the same time efforts are being made to modernize the Russian usage of UDC and its maintenance in the new technologies.

Classification Research Group

At its 314th meeting in July 1998, the CRG continued its discussion on the concept "culture" .in the context of their review of the work on the *Bliss Bibliographic Classification (BC2)*. In their deliberations the Group considered various ways of expressing the term. Among other considerations, reference was made to the lengthy definition in *Longmans Encyclopedia.* Jack Mills expressed the idea that the term "concept" is "strongly delineated by Space and Time and best expressed by geographical order. However he was willing to include such terms as "Western", "Islam" , "Oriental" etc. The Group also agreed that, "for example, "Europe", as a Place of Origin, might well cover former colonial areas like USA, Canada, Australia." Discussions of "the arts" centred around schedule order and the similarities and differences among the various "arts" It was suggested that schedule order in the "Performing Arts" might differ from the "Fine Arts" where the "Artist" as an Individual should be the primary facet. he discussion also focused on artists who work in more than one medium . Another issue under discussion was the value of the "alternatives" technique used in Bliss. In general this principle was accepted as being a good thing, but it was recognized that guidance is needed for the classifier. In reporting on progress, Jack Mills, editor of BC2, thanked the CRG for its support in aid of completion of the Physics and Chemistry schedules of BC2. The work is going forward and Physics was to be ready for press in August, with the hope that Chemistry will be ready in December 1998.