

FID/CR News 46

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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 uczcw07@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-

remely 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

View". Indeed the work has already begun. In his article "An Odd Point of View: Some Reflections on Table 1i in the UDC Common Auxiliaries", Geoffrey Robinson of the BSI questions the role of these common auxiliaries on the grounds that the table "is superfluous in an aspect classification such as UDC that already provides for the expression of the relationship of any one concept to another through the use of the colon". Parts of the table, in particular ".000 auxiliaries and the subdivisions for personnel" have been relocated in Table 1k-05 'Persons' where they properly belong" and work on "assessing the extent to which the remainder of the point of view table is superfluous is well underway". The Editor would "like to hear urgently from anyone who strongly supports the use of this table and who actually implements it to any great extent."

The full "Report of the Editor in Chief" of UDC appears in *Extensions and Corrections* for 1997. As always, the Editor encourages UDC users to peruse *Extensions and Corrections* carefully and invites comments and suggestions on the ongoing revision of the scheme.

Awards

Congratulations to Professor Dr. Emilia Currás who has been awarded the Kaula Gold Medal Professor Currás, who holds a PhD in Chemistry from the Universities of Berlin and Madrid is presently the Director of the Scientific Information and Documentation Unit, Universidad Automata de Madrid. She has been active in FID as a member of the FID Council and of the Spanish Council of FID and in ISKO as President of the ISKO-España and member of the ISKO's Scientific Committee. She has published widely and is well known in international information science research and education circles throughout the world.

In Memoriam

Cyril William Cleverdon, one of the world's best known and respected information scientists, died in England on December 15, 1997. Cleverdon decided early in life that he wanted to become a librarian, but his professional career took its most important direction in the late 1930s when he became librarian of the newly founded College of Aeronautics at Cranfield, England. While in this position he was instrumental in founding the Aslib Aeronautics Group and as a special librarian became interested in indexing techniques and their effectiveness. Ultimately his professional involvement led to grants from the National Science Foundation (US) and his research as Director of two Aslib-Cranfield projects (1958-70). He was a

pioneer in information science, particularly in research to determine the factors involved in the performance of indexing languages. The Aslib-Cranfield projects are a landmark in the history of the development and improvement of information storage and retrieval systems. While there were many who criticized his work, Cleverdon's findings and his principles of recall and precision ratio are still in use today. His research is frequently cited, references to his work can be found on the Internet and the influence of his research continues to this day. His work is arguably one of the most outstanding contributions to the design of information storage and retrieval systems of the latter half of the 20th century. As a highly regarded information scientist, Cleverdon performed many important tasks during his career. Among these were Director of the Conference on Merchandising Information Storage and Retrieval and Director of the NATO Advanced Studies Institutes. He also received many honours testifying to his international stature. Among the awards which recognized his achievements were: the Award of Merit, from the American Society for Information Science (ASIS), Honourary Fellow of the Library Association, Biennial Award of the Special Information Retrieval Group of the Association for Computing Machinery, and Fellow and Past President of the Institute of Information Science Professional Award. One writer has referred to him as "the father of information science." A tribute to Cleverdon including an assessment of his contribution to information retrieval will be published in the June 1998 issue of the *Journal of Documentation*.

Professor Phyllis Allen Richmond, internationally recognized scholar in classification research, passed away in Cleveland, USA, on October 6, 1997, after a long illness. Professor Richmond received her university education from Western Reserve University (later Case Western Reserve) and the University of Pennsylvania where she received a PhD history of science in 1946. After a brief period of time as a researcher in the medical field, she returned to Western Reserve where she received a Master of Science in Library Science Degree (M.S.L.S.).

Professor Richmond had a highly creative mind and as a researcher, librarian and university professor she combined her expertise and interest in medicine with library and information science research and teaching. Her academic career began at Syracuse University in 1969 and she became a Professor at the School of Library Science at Case Western Reserve in 1970, a position which she held until her retirement in 1984. She endeavoured to instill in her students an interest in classification theory through one of the few advanced level courses offered in that subject in the United States at that time. She participated actively in classification research internationally, pre-