FID/CR News 50

Nancy Williamson
FID/CR News Editor

UDC matters

The annual publication *Extensions and Corrections to the UDC (E&C) 1999* was published in November. This annual volume is extremely important to the users of UDC since it contains all important additions and changes to the system that have taken place over the past year. It includes the editor's annual report as well plans for upcoming revision and contributed papers by users of the scheme.

In her "Report of the Editor in Chief" ". Professor I.C. **McIlwaine** reports 1999 as a "stable" year with "editorial activity ... settled down into a regular pattern". The editor now has a full time research assistant. Vanda **Broughton,** who was for two years a part time research assistant, has been appointed to a full time lectureship at University College London and Julia **Fletcher** has been appointed full time assistant on a one year contract. Additional help comes from research students as needed. This means that there are three people in London involved in UDC revision and Caren **Apers** has been appointed as the UDC editorial Director of UDC operations in The Hague. The enlarged staff complement has enhanced the revision work.

E&C contains both "revised tables" and "proposals". The revised tables are complete and in final form. On the other hand "proposals" are open to further revision before final approval. They are presented in *E&C* so that UDC users may have an opportunity provide input to the final version. As always, Professor McIlwaine welcomes comments and suggestions on the proposals from UDC users. If no objections are forthcoming, the proposals ultimately become authorized tables.

Under "Comments & Communications" *E&C* 1999 contains 4 articles and a list of "Recent Publications". "La Classification Dècimale Universelle (C.D.U.) et le monde francophone" by Jaques **Burlet** describes the French edition of UDC as to its background, underlying principles, origins and editions. "FID, UDC and the future" by Stephen **Parker,** Executive Director of FID, describes the history and aims of FID and announces a plan for restructuring the organization in 2000, with efforts to provide a new fees structure. In this context, FID aims to extend the scope and benefits of FID membership and to improve communication among members. Special low fees for some of the "Least Developed Countries" in 1999 and a special membership offer has been brought about through cooperation between FID and IFLA. For the year 2000, the two organizations are offering joint membership to private individuals at 25 percent discount on their membership fees. Among other things, this joint membership signifies that FID and IFLA intend to collaborate wherever possible in the interest of information professionals. While FID continues to broaden its range of activities, it will continue its interest in classification research. **Parker** states that "FID remains committed to the maintenance of the UDC and, above all, to its expansion into new areas of application which will demonstrate its enduring value as a fundamental tool for the organization of knowledge and information."

An article on the "Romanian Thesaurus" by Yvonne **Dumitrescu** and Constanta **Dumitrasconiu** describes the cooperative project by 18 university libraries and three national networks to create a thesaurus for use in document indexing and in information retrieval in Romania. The thesaurus corresponds directly to UDC. The working methodology is described and sources of data include the UDC English Medium Edition, the 1993 Romanian edition of UDC and *E&C.* The thesaurus is intended to be multilingual. It is being created as separate micro-thesauri corresponding to UDC classes and will later be integrated into a macrothesarus. At time of writing, 5 of the micro thesauri had been completed. These were for UDC classes: 02 Librarianship; 1 Philosophy (except 159.9); 2/245 Religion and Theology; 57/59 Biology. Botany. Zoology(all monolingual) and 8 Linguistics. Literature (Multilingual Romanian-French-English)

In the final article, Gerhard **Riesthuis** discusses "Searching with Words: Re-use of Subject Indexing". Here the author describes two possibilities: 1) the conversion of precoordinated UDC notations into notations representing separate concepts to be searched using Boolean algebra; and 2) the possibility of

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adding text to the subject notation for searching with words. The procedures are described and applied. Since UDC notations are sometimes complex, each type of aspect had to be dealt with (e.g. common auxiliaries; parallel subdivisions). The results show potential for the searching using notation as a basis.

In "proposals", two UDC classes are presented - Class 2 Religion and Theology and Class 61 Medical Sciences. The revision of Class 2 by Vanda **Broughton** is described as a "substantial if not to say radical revision of the existing class" which was carried out in response to a need for a "more modern approach to literature". It also responds to the need to get away from Christian bias. The list of religions has been expanded and a small number of extra terms have been added across the class, but the "structure and intention of the scheme remains unaltered".

In keeping with the current thinking on UDC revision, facet analysis is applied in the revised Class 2 where appropriate. The effect of this synthetic capacity is to vastly increase the potential for expansion under any given religion or church. There is an auxiliary "table of general concepts" ('01/'09) to facilitate this process, and an auxiliary "table of special concepts" ('1/'9) for concepts special to a particular religion or church. For example there are major expansions for religious texts in both Judaism and Christianity. Also, predictable and consistent order has been incorporated.

The Class 61 proposal is part of an ongoing experiment to carry out a complete restructuring of Class 61 based on the *Bliss Bibliographic Classification.* "Class 61 - Medicine: Restructuring progress 1999" by I.C. **McIlwaine** and N.J. **Williamson** describes the year's work on this project. Included in the proposal are 611 Anatomy and Physiology; 612 Health sciences (general); 613.1/.4 Health, hygiene and Preventive medicine. Environmental health and safety; 613.5/.9 Curative medicine. Medical care (narrowly); 614.1/.9 Clinical Medicine .

Currently 615 Diseases and Pathology is under revision and a decision has been made to adapt the World Health Organization (WHO) International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Matters for use in Class 61. When 615 is finished the general classes of medicine will be complete. 616/619 will be devoted to the particular organs and systems of the body.

"Revised Tables" (i.e. new tables now authorized for use) include the new "Table of Common Properties", amendments to the area table (Table 1e), including an expansion for Canada and a restructuring for the United States of America. There are also noteworthy revisions to the tables for Tourism (338.48) and Environmental Science (502/504) as well miscellaneous revisions throughout the whole of UDC.

UDC **Pocket edition**

In late 1999, the British Standards Institution (BSI) announced the publication of *UDC -Pocket Edition.* (PD 1000: 1999). This publication is a new compact version of UDC intended for training and personal use. The publisher has stated that it "answers a long-felt need for a version that is compact, low-cost and user-friendly for beginners". It will be useful for learners, staff training, for organizing electronic files and for classifying small collections. It contains approximately 4000 entries and "preserves the essential characteristics of UDC" and eliminates unnecessary material. It is based on the Master Reference File (MRF), the UDC database of 61,000 records and includes the latest updates. It also includes a new introduction explaining the structure of UDC. It is now available from: BSI Customer Service, BSI Standards, 389 Chiswick High Road, London W4 4AL, United Kingdom. Tel: +44 (0) 20 8996 7000; Fax: +44 (0) 20 8996 7001; e-mail: info@bsi.org.uk. ISBN 0-580-33045-1. Price: 15

Classification Research Group (CRG)

The CRG continues to work on the development of the *Bliss Bibliographic Classification* 2nd ed *(BC2)* and to revise schedules produced earlier and now outdated. The Group meets approximately five times a year to consider proposals and to discuss problems. At its September 1999 meeting, Jack **Mills** announced that Bliss Class AY/B Science in general and Physics was at the publisher and was scheduled to be published in early November 1999. At its September 1999 meeting the Group focused on the structure of the Music Class. Inevitably, discussion focused on order and arrangement. In particular should the order of books or scores be decided first? Should there be parallel arrangements or not? How should composers be arranged - chronological or A/Z order?

At the November 1999 meeting, discussion began on the schedule in preparation for Class U/V Technology but rapidly broadened to consider more general issues arising in connection with the subject field Technology within any universal classification. In the course of discussion a number of important points were made: Technology is a subject area that lends itself easily to facet analysis. Further considerations led to a discussion of terminology along social/cultural

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