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A Russian-Language UDC Reference Database*

The application of the UDC for subject indication of abstracts in the abstract journals of VINITI was regulated in our country by a government decree as far back as 1962. Since that time, two editions of the UDC in the Russian language have been published: in 1969-1971 and in 1979-1987. However, as in our country the UDC was accepted only for the natural and technical sciences, the rest of the divisions of the tables were substantially abbreviated as compared with the international standard. Today the ideological obstacles to the full use of the UDC have been removed and the range of its use is expanding, since many new libraries are now using the UDC for the systematization of their collections.

In connection with this development, the necessity has appeared of creating a full standard of the UDC in the Russian language. Aiming to satisfy this need, the Russian Ministry of Science took the decision to finance the work involved in the creation of a non-commercial database on the full State Standard of the UDC. This work is being accomplished by the All-Russian Institute of Scientific and Technical Information, the "REKTOR" Scientific and Technical Centre, and a group of specialists from some other information bodies.

The database of the UDC is being created on the basis of personal computers, which will permit a wide dissemination of the data to different categories of future users. The database includes a series of structured text files in which the elements of classification notations are marked with the help of a developed system of functional labels. Divisions from the 1st to the 9th levels of the hierarchy, special indicators of these levels, headings of methodological instructions, eliminated classification divisions, aspect references and references without aspect, and examples are viewed as separate structure elements. Such a detailed categorization of the elements of the tables makes it possible to realize computerized processing and prepare a typographic edition with the help of the computer.

By now, about half of the volume of the tables has been fed into the database. This comprises the following divisions: Auxiliary tables, 0 General division, 1 Philosophy, 3 Social Sciences, 5/54 Natural sciences, 62 Technology. The full file should be completed in 1994. At present VINITI is coordinating with the UDC Consortium the conditions for preparing a full edition of the UDC for the first time in our country. This edition will be used not only in Russia, but on the entire territory of the former USSR. It is supposed that the first volume of the edition (5/54 Natural Sciences) will be put out already in 1993.