

The book, however, lacks a good number of examples for practice. The emphasis seems to have been put more on the theoretical than the practical aspects. Despite this criticism, I unreservedly value the authors' efforts. At the same time, I can't help but wonder if the book will have wide access as the place of publication, the cost and the availability will especially affect the users in developing countries.

The *User's Guide* will be a valuable tool to technical services librarians, subject catalogers, students and teachers of library and information science. It is intended for college and university libraries in general, but more particularly for library schools. The authors produced a work of high quality that stands out in its category.

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M. P. Satija. *The Theory and Practice of the Dewey Decimal Classification System*. Oxford, England: Chandos, 2007. 206 p. (Information Professional Series). ISBN 978-1-84334-234-2 (pbk.) ISBN 978-1-84334-235-9 (hbk.)

M.P. Satija, professor at Guru Nadav Dek University (India), is well known to *Knowledge Organization* readers, classification instructors and specialists of the *Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC)*. He co-authored the 1987 *Introduction to the Practice of Dewey Decimal Classification*, collaborated with Lois Mai Chan and the late John P. Comaromi in the preparation of the *Dewey Decimal Classification: A Practical Guide*, and prepared the *Exercises in the 21st Edition of the DDC* as well as the *Exercises in the 22nd Edition of the DDC*.

Satija's new contribution to the theory and practice of the *DDC* is intended for students and working librarians. His text emphasizes both number location through the schedules and number-building with auxiliary tables. This double emphasis, asserts Satija, can be explained by the fact that *DDC* remains primarily an enumerative classification scheme, even while becoming increasingly synthetic with each new edition ("Preface," p. xi).

Professor Satija strives to introduce and to illustrate all issues and methods involved in using the *DDC* in a methodical and simple way (p. xii). He succeeds in reaching his goal, but sometimes at the expense of the reader's ease in following the author in all the rules, special cases and exceptions that are explained or often simply presented in the form of examples.

The textbook is divided in three sections: 1. History (Chapters 1–2), 2. Introduction and Foundations (Chapters 3–4), and 3. Application (Chapters 5–14). Throughout the document, references are made to the print version of the 22nd edition, published in four volumes by OCLC in 2003.

Chapter 1 presents a brief history of the *DDC*. It is accomplished and informative, with appropriate emphasis given to a few significant events, such as the publication in 1958 of the 16th edition, which marked the beginning of a second life for the *DDC* (p. 6). Two useful tables are provided. Table 1 presents all editions of the *DDC*, with the date of publication, the total number of pages, the number of copies printed and the editor for each. A similar table presents the fourteen *Abridged* editions. Chapter 1 closes on a description of alternate versions/editions of the *DDC*. Surprisingly, nothing is said about the various language versions of a classification system that exists in more than 30 languages (<http://www.oclc.org/us/en/dewey/about/translations/default.htm>). Chapter 2, "Governance and Revision", fully elucidates the critical process of revising and updating the scheme.

In chapters 3 and 4, readers are introduced to the foundations and basic structure of the *DDC*. While chapter 3 offers a very detailed presentation of the four-volume print version of the 22nd edition, the following chapter, "Basic Plan and Structure", provides basic information about the system, assuming that the reader knows very little about it. Several references to facet theory and its application to the *DDC* are made—an appropriate reminder of Satija's extended knowledge of Ranganathan's work and the *Colon Classification*.

Chapters 5 to 7 are short but offer adequate introductions to the functions of subject analysis, location of class numbers, as well as application of tables and rules of precedence. Paragraphs are clearly identified, with significant and useful section titles. At this point, the reader—particularly the student—begins to perceive more clearly the complexity of the system. Starting in Chapter 6, numerous examples are provided to illustrate the various rules.

Satija devotes separate chapters to Tables 1, 2, 3, and 5, while Tables 4 and 6 are covered in a single

chapter. An introduction to each table emphasizes the changes that have occurred in the latest edition. Here again, many examples are provided. But as some sections are entirely made up of examples, without any introductory or concluding text and with a minimal explanation (e.g. pages 104, 106, 125, 136–144), readers are forced to figure out for themselves the exact way of reading or explaining the problem or the rule. Furthermore, references made to the volumes and the page numbers of the previous edition are useful only if one works with the original print version of the 22nd edition. At times, only a page number is supplied. On page 89, for example, one reads: “A brief paragraph of instructions (p. 215) precedes the enumeration of area number”—the reader must deduce that the page number refers to Volume 1.

Chapter 13 explains the complex process of multiple synthesis. If the examples provided appear useful at first, the explanations become at one point somewhat sketchy and increasingly difficult to follow. Novice users will undoubtedly have trouble with this one. Conversely, Chapter 14, “Using the Relative Index”, offers a clear and detailed description of this searching tool.

There is no concluding chapter with reference to future applications of the DDC. The appendices include a chronology of the DDC, a table of DDC editors, and a review tutorial with answers. However, the sixty questions only cover the history and foundations of the system. No practical exercises have been provided. Furthermore, only thirty-two terms are defined in the glossary. For further information on the DDC, a select bibliography lists 150 sources, mostly print documents. The short index is accurate and useful.

The document has been carefully prepared and edited. The information is presented in a sober but efficient manner. Relevant sources are suggested at the end of each chapter. There are very few typographical errors, but some mistakes should have been caught in the bibliography. For example, one reads *Library Research & Techniques* where he or she should read *Library Resources & Technical Services*. A few references also appear twice, the author's name having been entered a first time under the surname and a second time under the first name. For example, Andrzej, D. and Durlik, A. are one and the same. The journal *Li-*

braries and Culture also appears under the title *Librarian and Culture*. The correct form of the author's name is the second one; the correct form of the journal's title is the first one.

M.P. Satija's latest contribution to the small bank of textbooks available to classification instructors and learners is, without doubt, a good one. However, some parts of the document are not accessible to novices. These sections are too technical, stressing on the rare exceptions to the common rules of class number identification and building. It at times appears as if the author has reviewed each and every class number provided in the schedules! In this respect, the recently published *Essential Dewey* by John Bowman can be considered more accessible to true beginners.

Very few references are made to WebDewey and to the increasing flexibility and usefulness of the electronic version of the classification. One can't help but wonder how and why the choice was made to present the DDC not as a system, but rather in reference to the four printed volumes only, and this without any discussion pertaining to its physical presentation.

References

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