

## Ben Custer

**Ben Custer**, Editor of the *Dewey Decimal Classification* and Chief of the Decimal Classification Division, Library of Congress, 1956-1980, passed away on January 20, 1997 in Oberlin, Ohio USA. DDC Edition 21 is dedicated to Mr. Custer with a note recognizing his efforts to expand the use and usefulness of classification: "Reaching out to library organizations and users throughout the world, he turned the development of the Dewey Decimal Classification into a worldwide cooperative venture." Those who knew him will remember Ben as a dynamic force in the development of DDC.

## Dewey Decimal Classification Activities

No sooner is one edition of DDC put to bed than another is begun. The Dewey Decimal Classification Editorial Policy Committee (EPC) is currently looking toward Edition 22. In preparation for this the EPC has been conducting a retreat to consider DDC's philosophical underpinnings, structure and scope. The Editor and the Committee are very receptive to comments and new ideas.

Recent activities of the LC Decimal Classification Division were reported on at the ALA Midwinter Meetings in Washington, DC in February 1997. The following is excerpted from the report and updated from the World Wide Website at URL: <http://www.oclc.org/fp/> The full report is available at the website.

During the Midwinter Meetings OCLC Forest Press sponsored a highly successful continental breakfast and Dewey update. It was so well received that current plans are to continue the breakfast as a regular event at future ALA Conferences. The programme included two presentations and a question and answer session with the editors. In the first presentation a "Dewey Classification Cutter Project" was described by Ed. O'Neill, OCLC Office of Research. The OCLC Division of Research is currently investigating a process that will provide complete Dewey call numbers (i.e. class numbers with accompanying cutter numbers) to WorldCat, the OCLC Online Union Catalog. The underlying purpose is to provide users with services to help them use the Dewey Decimal Classification on the OCLC system more effectively. The project has two separate components. First, the project will result in the addition of a new field (093) to the USMARC record in order to accommodate the full DDC class number, including cutters and workmarks for all book records with 082 (Dewey Decimal Call Number) or 092 (Locally assigned Dewey Decimal Call Number) fields in WorldCat. In addition, OCLC will provide the Cutter-Sanborn and Three-figure Cutter tables in electronic format, with OCLC-

developed "Cutter-macro" to make it possible to search and retrieve specific cutter numbers. These tables are a revised version of original tables and are designed to be compatible with Cutter tables already in use. It is not planned to produce the tables in an "eye-readable" version at this point, but the revised tables will be included with future versions of *Dewey for Windows*. It is expected that the tables will be made available to all users of OCLC Cataloging Services, including PromptCat, CatCD for Windows, CatME for Windows, as well as online OCLC users. In February this project was under investigation and with appropriate review/approval it could be active in 1997. A brief overview paper, "Dewey Classification Cutter Project" by Linda G. Gabel containing examples was given out at the breakfast meeting and a fuller discussion of the project will be published in the OCLC Office of Research Annual Report.

The second presentation at the breakfast meeting was a demonstration of current version of *Dewey for Windows* by Julianne Beall, Assistant Editor, DDC. *Dewey for Windows*, a Microsoft Windows<sup>TM</sup>-based version of DDC Edition 21, was issued in August 1996. In February 1997 it was announced that two activities were underway to help classifiers use *Dewey for Windows* more efficiently. An up-graded help system and an online companion book were being produced. The new help system is posted on the Dewey Home page and Users may download the upgraded help system and replace the help system issued with the product.

Three other very useful documents were distributed at the breakfast meeting. "New Computer-Related Topics in DDC 21" consists of a list of DDC class numbers, annotated with examples, on topics of electronic publishing, internet, internet with respect to a subject or discipline, internats, Java and the World Wide Web. "Animals and Plants in Aquatic Environments: DDC 21 Guidelines" focuses on the new ecology schedule in 577 designed to bring together the various ecological aspects of specific aquatic environments. For marine environments it brings together the specific ecological aspects of marine environments in specific oceans. It interprets the instructions at class numbers 592-599 and provides examples. "Sexual Harassment in Education" is a one page document which explains the use of DDC in handling this interdisciplinary subject problem with examples. These papers were not found at the website but could be requested using the addresses below.

The Dewey Decimal Classification website has a great deal of very useful information and regular visits to it are highly recommended. Classification workshops are announced there. Also, for example, the DDC Classification Division provides a weekly list of LC Subject Headings/DDC 21 Numbers. This is a

useful source of recently added LC Headings paired with DDC 21 class numbers and is an excellent aid to classifiers with respect to new subjects. The URL is: <http://www.oclc.org/fp/>. Questions, comments and requests for information may be directed by e-mail to [dewey@loc.gov](mailto:dewey@loc.gov), or to **Joan S. Mitchell**, editor, Dewey Decimal Classification, Library of Congress, Decimal Classification Division, Washington, DC 20540-4330.

### Infoterm

Infoterm, the Information Centre for Terminology, established in 1971, is sponsored by Unesco within the framework of the UNISIST programme. It works in liaison with the Technical Committee 37 "Terminology (principles and co-ordination)" of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). Infoterm has recently been undergoing a reorganization and has announced its move to new premises and will operate within a new framework. Its new address is: Simmeringer Hauptstr. 24, A-1110 Vienna, Austria (tel: + 431 74040-441; fax: +431 74040-740).

Infoterm has announced several activities associated with TermNet for 1997 and 1998. TSTT'97, the 2nd International Conference on Terminology, Standardization and Technology Transfer, will meet in Beijing, China, in August 1997. The programme, is being organized by the China National Technical Committee on Terminology for Standardization (CNTCTS). Presentations are expected to include topics such as: relations between terminology and other related disciplines, terminology standardization, terminology and lexicography, harmonization of terminology represented by Chinese characters, computational aids in terminology, and terminology with respect to technical transfer, knowledge engineering and natural language processing. A second event, the 4th Terminology Summer School on "Methods of Terminology Management", will be held in Vienna Austria, August 11-15, 1997. The programme is being organized by the International Institute for Terminology Research (IITF) in cooperation with the International Network for Terminology (TermNet). Fees: for TermNet members, one participant may attend free of charge with a fee of ATS 3,000.00 for each additional participant; the regular fee is ATS 6,000.00; and the fee for students is ATS 3,500.00. The curriculum is targeted for translators, technical writers, lexicographers, documentalists, subject specialists interested in terminology and localization managers. For registration and further information interested participants should contact: TermNet, Grung. 9/17, A-1050 Vienna Austria (fax: + 431 586 7764). Finally, TAMA '98, the 4th TermNet Symposium on "Terminology in Advanced Microcomputer

Applications: Tools for the Multilingual Information Society" will be held Jan. 15-16, 1998 at the Vienna International Centre, the Vienna headquarters of the United Nations. The Symposium will feature a software exhibition. Prospective participants are invited to submit papers or workshop proposals pertaining to the following topics: terminology and terminology management tools; terminology and translation (translation memory and machine translation); terminology and text corpora (text management tools, text analysis tools, and concordance programs); and terminology-related aspects of localization tools. This is a preliminary announcement and no deadline for submission of papers was given. Further information may be obtained from TermNet (tel: +431 586 77 63; fax +431 586 77 64).

### ALA Subject Analysis Committee

At the ALA Midwinter Meetings in February, the Subject Analysis Committee (SAC) continued its many activities through its subcommittees. Currently it is addressing problems and working to establish guidelines in the following areas: subject access to computer files, subject relationships/reference structures, subject authority files, form heading/subdivision implementation with respect to the Library of Congress Subject Headings, principles underlying subject heading languages, and the revision of fiction guidelines.

At the 1997 ALA Annual Conference in San Francisco, SAC will sponsor a one and one-half day (June 26-27) preconference institute on "Demystifying Subject Cataloging of Electronic Resources." The programme will focus on how to analyze electronic documents, apply subject headings and assist users in locating such resources by their subjects. Time will be allotted for hands-on practice in small groups and for evaluation of results. The particular target audience is professionals involved in the creation, use or management of subject cataloguing data related to electronic documents in all types of libraries and information agencies.

### Recent Publications

Chan, Lois Mai and Mitchell, Joan S., eds. *Dewey Decimal Classification: DDC 21 and International Perspectives*. Dublin, OH: OCLC Forest Press, 1997.

This is the proceedings of a workshop presented at the 1996 IFLA Conference in Beijing. Topics covered include: major changes in DDC 21, Dewey for Windows, DDC in national bibliographies, DDC in China and the Asia-Pacific regions and the translation of the Spanish edition.