

Developing and Maintaining a National Classification System, Experience from *Korean Decimal Classification*

Dong-Geun Oh^{*}

Professor, Department of Library and Information Science,
Keimyung University, Daegu 704-701, South Korea <odroot@kmu.ac.kr>



Dong-Geun Oh, Ph. D., MLIS, MBA, is Professor, Department of Library and Information Science, Keimyung University, South Korea. He is a former vice president and editorial committee chair of the Korean Library and Information Science Society, and now chair of classification committee of Korean Library Association. He is recipient of Korean Library Award 2001, Best Research Award 2002 (Keimyung University), and Academy Award 2009 (Korean Library and Information Science Society). Homepage: <http://odroot.kmu.ac.kr/indexeng.html>

Oh, Dong-Geun. **Developing and Maintaining a National Classification System, Experience from *Korean Decimal Classification*.** *Knowledge Organization.* 39(2), 72-82. 38 references.

ABSTRACT: *Korean Decimal Classification (KDC)* is described. KDC is a standard classification system officially published and maintained by the Korean Library Association. After tracing a brief history of modern classification in South Korea, we examine various characteristics and problems of *KDC* in detail, including the social context of developing it, its usage in the Korean libraries, the influences of other classifications on the system, characteristics of the schedule and major tables, and its newest edition (5th ed.). We make eight suggestions and recommendations for future development of *KDC*, in particular, and for the development and maintenance of unique national classification, in general, based on experience in South Korea.

Received 9 August 2011; Revised 26 September 2011; Accepted 29 September 2011

1.0 Introduction

Korean Decimal Classification (KDC) is the standard classification system officially published and maintained by the Classification Committee of the Korean Library Association (KLA). It has been used by most Korean public and school libraries, many college libraries, and some university libraries. KDC is one of the most important and influential tools for controlling bibliographic information in Korea. National independence from the rule of Japanese imperialism in 1945 had influenced almost all areas of the Korean society at that time, including the library community. The Korean War of the 1950s made another big change in Korean society. KDC began with the post-war reconstruction happening in all areas of the nation.

2.0 Literature Review

With the explosive growth of knowledge and information and the resulting increase of bibliographic materials, the desire to control and manage them has increased. One of the traditional methods to control them is to organize them systematically. Classification systems are easily invented tools that give people a feeling of order in the world of chaos and disorder. In the bibliographic world, so many kinds of library classification systems have been developed. Many articles report the characteristics of specific system, examine national classification schemes for various kinds of publications or for specific uses, or report the interesting processes of switching from national systems to international systems. For example, Zhang (2003) analyzes the general aspects of classification for Chinese Libraries; Anyanwu (1994) suggests an idea for a na-

tional classification scheme for Nigerian official publications; Comaromi and Satija (1985) introduce the Indianization of the *DDC*; and Svanberg (2009) reports the general problems and rationales related to switching from the Swedish national system, *SAB*, to *DDC*.

Turning our eyes to the Korean bibliographic situation, few articles have been published in international journals investigating and introducing bibliographic control in South Korea. Chung (2007) introduces a general overview about the *Korean National Bibliography*. Oh (1992, 1995) analyzed Korean Machine Readable Catalog(ing) and related systems through a comparison with those of other East-Asian countries. Related to classification, in particular, Oh and Yeo (2001) suggest an option for *DDC* class Religion for nations in which religious diversity predominates based on the Korean situation.

There are many Korean articles and literatures that analyze *Korean Decimal Classification* in particular. Oh, Bae, and Yeo (2002 and 2009) produced two general texts introducing and analyzing various aspects of the system. More recent studies have focused on its fourth and fifth editions: Kim (2009) analyzed the problems in the fifth edition and made recommendations for corrections. Other authors, including Yeo, Lee, and Oh (2008); Yeo, Park, Hwang, and Oh (2008), and Oh, Bae, and Yeo (2008), suggest ideas for the revision of the fourth edition based on the cooperative studies with researchers in specific subject areas. Yeon-Rye Kim (2009) and Kwak (2009) analyzed the Civil engineering and History classes.

Here we focus on various characteristics and problems, including the social context of developing *KDC*, its usage in Korean libraries, an analysis of the influences of other classifications on the classes in the schedule and the tables, and the characteristics of the new edition.

3.0 Brief History of Modern Classification in South Korea

During the Japanese occupation (1910-1945) in Korea, major modern libraries used various classification systems that were influenced by the Japanese systems. Railway Bureau Library Classification, assumed to be compiled in 1920, is known to be the first modern classification in Korea (Yeo 2006, 19-28). The independence of Korea from Japan in 1945 became an important turning point for Korean librarians who were motivated to develop their own tools for bibliographic control and cataloging, including classification system and cataloging rules. Major leading libraries and their

core library staff at that time naturally had great interest in developing new systems, both for their own use and for other libraries in Korea.

3.1. Rise and Fall of Korean Decimal Classification by Bong-Suk Park

Korean Decimal Classification (KDCP), edited by Bong-Suk Park (1947); Han-Un Decimal Classification, edited by Jae-Chang Koh (1954); and Kuk-Yeon Decimal Classification (1958) were the three major systems used in Korea at that time. In particular, KDCP was widely used during 1950s by the most Korean libraries.

Park, the editor of the KDCP, was one of the pioneers and the most influential person in the modern Korean library community (Lee and Jo, 2006). He had an important role and made contributions to the community comparable with the contributions of Melvil Dewey in the American library community and S. R. Ranganathan in the Indian community (Oh 2000, 9-19). Park worked for the National Library of Korea as a deputy librarian. He taught students at the National Library School—the only formal institute to teach the library science in Korea at that time—at the National Library as a faculty member. He played an important role in organizing the Korean Library Association as a chair of its preparatory committee. He had also edited major bibliographic tools including KDCP and the Korean Catalog Rules for Oriental Book (1948).

KDCP, published by the National Library and taught in its Library School, became the most widely used major classification system in early 1950s Korea. Park's enthusiasm for the library and his teaching at the Library School contributed to the popularity of the system in Korea. Like the *DDC*, it used Arabic numerals as its notation. It divided the main classes into three classes of humanities (Class 1 Philosophy and Religion; Class 3 Language and Literature; and Class 4 Fine and Performing Arts), social sciences (Class 2 History and Geography; Class 5 Society and Education; and Class 6 Politics and Economy), and science and technology (Class 7 Sciences and Medical sciences; Class 8 Engineering and Technology; and Class 9 Industries and Transportation). Generalities are allocated to Class 0, like other decimal classifications such as *DDC*. The Language and Literature classes, which are separated into 400 and 700 in *DDC*, are integrated into one class in this system.

KDCP limited its notations to a maximum of four digits. From the viewpoint of brevity in notation and

literary warrant of Korean libraries at that time, it is a reasonable choice. However, this resulted in limitations in the expressiveness and hospitality of the notation. Namely, many exceptions of the mnemonics were inevitable in the expansion of notations, and it was difficult to include newly emerging areas into the scheme. These characteristics have resulted in some complaints from the larger libraries. To make the matters worse, the editor, Bong-Suk Park, had unfortunately been lost during the Korean War. Some suggest that he might have gone to North Korea of his own free will. Because of this and other reasons, the system has not been revised at appropriate intervals. The loss of a key person and the widespread McCarthyism that came about after the war interrupted the continuous development of KDCP, and the usage of the system drastically decreased from the late 1950s.¹

The Korean library community had gradually become more interested in Dewey Decimal Classification, with the beginning of the first formal university library education in 1957 at the Yonsei University. Faculty members from the George Peabody College for Education had introduced and taught DDC as a main classification system in the school, and it had resulted in the widespread use of the system in Korean libraries. However, Korean librarians at that time had much difficulty in applying DDC, which did not adapt to Korean bibliographic characteristic, to their Korean collections.

3.2. Advent and Use of Korean Decimal Classification

Since having been re-established in 1955, the Korean Library Association has continually requested to develop a new classification system for Korean library community. In 1964, the first edition of the Korean Decimal Classification (KDC) was published by its Classification Committee as a result of cooperative work over a year. It has been revised continuously, and two volumes of its latest fifth edition were published in 2009. Table 1 summarizes the brief history of KDC.

Edition	Publication Year	Total Pages	Chief Editor
1	1964	642	Hye-Bong Chun
2	1966	686	Hye-Bong Chun
3	1980	1,027	Byung-Su Lee
4	1996	1,516	Ki-Won Kwon
5	2009	1,529	Tae-Woo Nam

Table 1. Brief History of KDC

Analysis on recent statistics confirms that most of the public libraries in Korea continue to use KDC (see Table 2). But the ratio of university and college libraries using KDC has decreased continuously and gradually. However, many of them still use it to classify their materials (see Table 3).²

As shown in Tables 2 and 3, KDC has been the most influential classification scheme in South Korean public libraries, both for Oriental and Western books. In case of the university and college libraries, more than 2/5 use the system for Oriental books and about 1/4 for Western books. Unofficial surveys show that most of the school libraries also use it. These situations in Korea are likely to remain unchanged for the time being.

4.0 Analysis on the General Characteristics of Korean Decimal Classification

The Korean Decimal Classification was developed to be used as a practical system for the Korean library community to apply to all library materials, including Korean and Oriental, and to reflect their bibliographic characteristics and literary warrant in Korean library collections, as well as meet the needs of the Korean library community and its users.

4.1. General Structure and Main Classes

KDC is based on the general structure of DDC, adapted for the Korean bibliographic characteristics, with references to other major classification systems. Therefore, it has, as the name implies, the general characteristics of DDC and other decimal classification systems. It includes a schedule numbered 000 to 999, expanded based on decimal notation, and has a relative index. The notation uses Arabic numerals to express its hierarchical structure, as well as, in some major areas, mnemonic nature. As a result, it has most of the merits and limitations of a better decimal classification system.

In order to reflect Korean bibliographic characteristics and complement some shortcomings in DDC, its committee members have tried to consult other related former systems both at home and abroad, including KDCP, LCC, UDC, Nippon Decimal Classification (NDC), etc., as summarized in Table 4. Some of the main classes, divisions, and sections, especially those related to Oriental and Korean ones, are expanded based on those of NDC and KDCP. For example, divisions of the class 300 (Social Sciences) is based on the general structure and expan-

Classification Systems	1986 [*]	2009 ^{**}		
	Classification System Oriental Books	Western Books	Oriental Books	Western Books
KDC	97.7% (84)	80.3% (49)	99.1% (541)	97.8% (534)
DDC	0% (0)	8.2% (5)	0.2% (1)	1.5% (8)
Others	2.3% (2)	11.5% (7)	0.7% (4)	0.7% (4)
Total Lib. Surveyed	86 libraries	61 libraries	546 libraries	

Table 2. Changes in the Usage of KDC by the Public Libraries

Sources: ^{*} Adapted from Korean Educational Development Institute (KEDI) (1987). A study for the establishment and activation of library system. Seoul: The Institute, p. 62; ^{**} Statistics received through personal communication from Korean Library Association (KLA) in Dec. 1, 2010. This original data was collected by KLA as basic information for nationwide library statistics. 703 public libraries participated in the survey, but many of them do not response to the question about their classification schemes.

Classification Systems	1986 [*]	2001 ^{**}	2007 ^{***}	2010 ^{****}				
	Classification System Oriental Books	Western Books	Oriental Books	Western Books	Oriental Books	Western Books	Oriental Books	Western Books
KDC	57.1% (56)	45.9% (45)	45.3% (68)	26.0% (39)	43.1% (72)	23.3% (39)	43.2% (73)	23.7% (40)
DDC	40.8% (40)	51.0% (50)	52.0% (78)	71.3% (107)	54.5% (91)	74.3% (124)	54.4% (92)	73.4% (124)
Others	2.0% (2)	3.0% (3)	2.7% (4)	2.7% (4)	2.4% (4)	2.4% (4)	2.4% (4)	2.9% (5)
Total Lib. Surveyed	98 libraries	150 libraries	167 libraries	169 libraries				

Table 3. Changes in the Usage of University & College Libraries Using KDC

Sources: ^{*} Adapted from Korean Educational Development Institute (KEDI) (1987). A study for the establishment and activation of library system. Seoul: The Institute, p. 62; ^{**} Oh, Dong-Geun, Bae, Young-Hwal, & Yeo, Ji-Suk (2002). Understanding Korean Decimal Classification. Daegu: Taeil Press, p. 26; ^{***} Oh, Dong-Geun, Bae, Young-Hwal, & Yeo, Ji-Suk (2009). Understanding Korean Decimal Classification, 5th Edition. Daegu: Taeil Press, p. 29; ^{****} Data directly analyzed from the raw data about each library listed in two homepages of the following organization: Council on National College & University Libraries (<<http://www.knula.or.kr/index.php>>), and Korean Private University Libraries Association (<<http://www.kpula.or.kr/index.php>>)

Classification Consulted	Influenced Areas/Classes in KDC
DDC	General structure and most of the classes on the system
LCC	Most of the classes in social sciences (300)
UDC	Most of the classes in medical sciences (510)
KDCP	Those classes related to Korean and Oriental subjects
NDC	Those classes related to Japan and Oriental subjects

Table 4. Influences of Other Major Classification Systems on KDC

sions of LCC, and most of the sections of Medical Sciences on those of UDC. In theory, KDC has tried to integrate the strengths of various systems into its structure and subdivisions.³

In principle, KDC maintains the classification by discipline, as in the case of DDC.⁴ The introduction to KDC 5 specifies that the arrangement of the main

classes is based on the inverted order, which was used by Harris (Comaromi 1976a, 21), of the Baconian triad of history, poesy, and philosophy. But some classes in KDC are collocated by or incorporated into subject(s), as in Subject Classification (SC). For example, from KDC 5, music of various religions are classed altogether under the class “Sacred music”

(672), and the class “Landscape gardening” (525.9) is subdivided under the division of Agriculture (520).

The arrangement and order of the main classes in KDC are almost identical to those of DDC, except that the Language class is moved into the Literature class. So the order of main classes in KDC is rearranged as in Table 5—main classes Natural sciences, Technology, Arts, and Language have different class numbers from those of DDC. But the subdivisions of main classes and subsequent arrangement of divisions in the main classes of KDC are, in most of the classes, different from those of DDC.

KDC	Class Number	DDC
Generalities	000	Computer science, information & general works
Philosophy	100	Philosophy and psychology
Religion	200	Religion
Social sciences	300	Social sciences
Natural sciences	400	Languages
Technology	500	Sciences
Arts	600	Technology
Language	700	Arts & religion
Literature	800	Literature
History	900	History & geography

Table 5. Comparative Table of Main Classes in KDC and DDC

* Source: Adapted from the figure in Oh, Dong-Geun, Bae, Young-Hwal, & Yeo, Ji-Suk (2009). Understanding Korean Decimal Classification, 5th Edition. Daegu: Taeil Press, p. 32.

4.2. Auxiliary Tables

KDC has the following eight auxiliary mnemonic tables:

Table 1. Standard subdivisions

Table 2. Geographic Areas

Table 3. Korean geographic areas

Table 4. Korean historical period

Table 5. Languages

Table 6. Subdivisions of individual languages

Table 7. Subdivisions of individual literatures

Table 8. Subdivisions of individual religions

Most of the tables and their subdivisions, except in the case of Subdivisions of individual religions, are similar to those of DDC, but some minor adaptations and expansions to reflect the Korean bibliographic characteristics have been added.

Major characteristics of tables, including some differences between those of KDC and those of DDC, are as follows:

- 1) In Standard subdivisions, the notation -04 is used for Lectures, essays, and speeches, and the notation -08 for Series, collections, and selections. This table is much shorter and simpler than that of DDC.
- 2) Most of the notations of Geographic areas are used differently from those of DDC, as in Table 6. Asia and Korea precede Europe and other Asian countries. It is natural to first reflect the Korean local emphasis.

KDC	Notations	DDC
Asia	-1	Areas, regions, places in general; oceans and seas
Korea	-11	Frigid zones
China	-12	Temperate zones
Japan	-13	Torrid zones
Europe	-2	Persons
Africa	-3	The ancient world
North America	-4	Europe
South America	-5	Asia
Oceania	-6	Africa
Polar regions	-7	North America
Oceans	-8	South America
	-9	Other parts of world and extraterrestrial worlds

Table 6. Comparative Table of the Notations for Areas in KDC and DDC

- 3) Both tables, Korean geographic areas and Korean historical period, are not specified as separate tables, but instruct one to divide like -111-1199 from Geographic areas and 911.01-.082 from the Schedule, respectively.
- 4) The notations in the Languages table have mnemonics similar to those in Geographic areas. Consequently, the divisions in the main classes Language (700), Literature (800), and History (900) of KDC also have mnemonic characteristics among them, as shown in Table 7. This characteristic also applies to the divisions Geography (980) and Biography (990). In KDC, Spain and Spanish language and literature precede Italy and Italian language and literature, reflecting the literary warrant in Korean libraries. Considering the ratio of the population using the languages in the world, this order might be the more reasonable choice both for Korean libraries and for their users instead of DDC (Oh, Bae, & Yeo 2008, 143).

- 5) The notations in the Subdivisions of individual languages of KDC are similar to those of NDC rather than those of DDC, as in Table 8. But the citation order in specific languages and the usage of this table in KDC are almost identical to those in DDC.
- 6) The notations in the Subdivisions of individual literatures of KDC are almost the same with Table 3B of DDC, except that notation -8 is used for reportage and miscellany. The citation order in specific literatures and the usage of this table in KDC are similar to those in DDC.

4.3. Subdivisions of Individual Religions

Table 8 Subdivisions of individual religions is a unique table in KDC. In South Korea, various religions, including Buddhism, Protestant, Catholic, etc., co-exist, so, naturally, libraries should classify and process materials and information about these various religions (Oh & Yeo 2001, 76-77). To cope with this situation, which is different from other nations and regions

where one religion generally predominates, KDC arranges six major religions in 220 to 280 divisions of the Religion class (200), as in Table 9. The four religions that originated from Asian nations are included in the divisions—Buddhism and Hinduism from India, Taoism from China, and Chondoism from Korea.

This arrangement of divisions of religion makes it possible for KDC to introduce auxiliary mnemonic table for the Religion class, as in the case of the classes Language (700) and Literature (800). Table 10 shows the subdivisions of individual religions and examples of the class Buddhism (220) synthesized from the notations.

5.0 What is New to the Fifth Edition

As noted earlier, two volumes of fifth edition of KDC were published in 2009. It has taken 13 years to publish it since its fourth edition was originally published. The first volume is a Schedule of all 1,004 pages, including preliminary parts (30 pages), preface (12 pages), auxiliary tables (39 pages), summaries (12

Tables	Main Classes			
Geographic Areas	Languages	Language (700)	Literature (800)	History (900)
-11 Korea	-1 Korean	710 Korean	810 Korean	911 Korea
-12 Japan	-2 Japanese	720 Japanese	820 Japanese	912 Japan
-13 China	-3 Chinese	730 Chinese	830 Chinese	913 China
-24 United Kingdom	-4 English	740 English	840 English	924 United Kingdom
-25 German	-5 German	750 German	850 German	925 German
-26 France	-6 French	760 French	860 French	926 France
-27 Spain	-7 Spanish	770 Spanish	870 Spanish	927 Spain
-28 Italy	-8 Italian	780 Italian	880 Italian	928 Italy

Table 7. Mnemonics among Geographic Areas, Languages, History, Language and Literature in KDC⁵

* Source: Adapted from the figures in Oh, Dong-Geun, Bae, Young-Hwal, & Yeo, Ji-Suk (2009). Understanding Korean Decimal Classification, 5th Edition. Daegu: Taeil Press, p. 101 and p. 303.

Notation	KDC	NDC	DDC
-1	Phonetics, phonology, writing	Phonetics, phonology, writing	Writing systems, phonology, phonetics [*]
-2	Etymology, semantics	Etymology, semantics	Etymology [*]
-3	Dictionaries	Dictionaries	Dictionaries [*]
-4	Vocabularies	Vocabularies	[Unassigned]
-5	Grammar	Grammar	Grammar [*] ; Syntax [*]
-6	Composition	Composition	[Unassigned]
-7	Readers, interpretations, conversations	Readers, interpretations, conversations	Historical and geographical variations, modern nongeographic variations
-8	Dialects	Dialects	Standard usage of the language; Applied linguistics

Table 8. Comparative Table of the Notations for Subdivisions of Individual Languages in KDC, NDC, and DDC

* of the standard form of the language

KDC 5	Divisions	DDC 22
Religion	200	Religion
Comparative religion	210	Philosophy & Theory of Religion
Buddhism	220	Bible
Christian Religion	230	Christianity & Christian Theology
Taoism	240	Christian Moral & Devotional Theology
Chondoism	250	Christian Orders & Local Church
[Unassigned] ⁶	260	Social & Ecclesiastical Theology
Hinduism, Brahmanism	270	History of Christianity & Christian Church
Islam, Mohammedanism	280	Christian Denominations & Sects
Other religions	290	Other Religions

Table 9. Comparative Table of Division Religion (200) in KDC 5 and DDC 22

Notation	Mnemonic Characteristics	Examples (220 Buddhism) ⁷
-1	Religious Doctrines	221 Buddhist Doctrine
-2	Founders & Leaders	222 Buddha
-3	Sources & Scriptures	223 Buddhist Scriptures
-4	Religious Life & Practice	224 Diverse Memoirs & Religious Life
-5	Missions & Religious Education	225 Missionary Activities
-6	Religious Organization	226 Temple
-7	Public Worship & Other Practices	227 Buddhist Ritual & Ceremonies
-8	Sects & Dominations	228 Buddhist Sects

Table 10. Subdivisions of Individual Religions and Synthesized Examples from 220

pages), and main schedule (922 pages). The second volume is the Relative index, consisting of 525 pages.

The Classification Committee prepared four guidelines when it began to revise the 4th edition (Korean Library Association 2009, p. vii). It was very useful because the revision work was shared between the ten members of the committee. Some of the characteristics of the edition from these guidelines are given below (KLA, 2008).

- 1) One of the guidelines was that basic structure of the schedule including main classes, divisions, and sections should be maintained, except where partial adjustment was needed for unreasonable ones. The committee tried to minimize any relocation of those classes. Some of the classes that were revised include: (a) Computer sciences -- integrated into classes under 000; (b) Metaphysics (110) and Epistemology; (c) Public administration (350), Law (360), Management (325); (d) Korean and other traditional music (679); (e) almost all the classes related to Korean subjects; and (f) Geographic names of North Korea were updated.
- 2) The schedule and the relative index are written in vernacular Korean Hangeul only and not in Chinese character(s). This is different from its 4th edition, which included many headings and notes written in Chinese characters without any use of

Korean Hangeul. Chinese character(s) were added in parenthesis only to identify the synonym(s) and/or specified jargon(s) in the 5th edition. Since younger generations of Korean librarians and users have struggled with reading and writing Chinese characters, it is an inevitable and reasonable choice.

- 3) Some numbers in the mnemonic tables, including the Area table, are expanded, adjusted, and rearranged, in order to reflect the recent changes since the publication of 4th edition. Notations for oceans are newly added in this edition.
- 4) Proper names including personal names and geographic names related to China and Japan are written based on their own pronunciations in addition to the Korean readings of Chinese characters in parenthesis. However, the names before 1910 are written using the Korean pronunciations of Chinese characters, as in the 4th edition.

In addition to the aforementioned characteristics, the draft of KDC 5 had been upgraded through many public hearings within the library community. The Korean Library Association had continuously requested recommendations and comments from them, and its Classification Committee had tried to reflect them in the draft of and final version of the 5th edition.

Another important characteristic of the new edition is that more than 20 persons from various subject areas participated in the work for KDC 5. In particular, Technology (500), Computer sciences, and Arts (600) classes were revised and expanded based on the suggestions and ideas from the subject specialists in Civil engineering, Computer sciences, Medical sciences, Mechanical engineering, Architecture engineering, Human ecology, Korean traditional music, etc.

6.0 Suggestions for Future Development and Concluding Remarks

Korean Decimal Classification will celebrate its semi-centennial anniversary in 2014. Any suggestions for improvements will help to maintain the popularity KDC has in the Korean library community, both now and in the future. The target users of this system are not clear. KDC is now used by various libraries ranging from the university library holding more than 1.6 million volumes (e.g., Youngnam University) to a very small public library in a village with minimal volumes of books. So it is desirable for it to identify and focus on its core users and to more specifically reflect their needs. For example, if needed, an abridged edition for small public or school libraries may be considered.

A web-version of KDC has not yet been developed. Many Korean libraries have introduced various tools for library automation. Many librarians are more accustomed to online versions of those tools, and they would like to hear any news about online delivery. So, the release of a web-version of KDC would be timely.

There still remain many inconsistencies in the expansions of the classification system itself and the applications of the tables, including those of standard subdivisions, etc. Continuous improvements that reflect the suggestions and comments from both inside and outside the library community are needed, in order to keep up with continually evolving knowledge.

There is no one person who is exclusively and fully responsible for general works and operations related to KDC. This is because KDC was developed by the cooperative and collective efforts of the Classification Committee members of the Korean Library Association and published by the Association. So it is desirable to appoint an able person from the Association to serve as an executive regular member of the Committee, who will function more than just a liaison. This person could also arrange all the works related to the standard bibliographic tools such as KDC, KCR, etc., that are managed by KLA. This person could process and support all the problems related to KDC, includ-

ing the continuous recommendations and ideas coming from the library community in order to incorporate them into the system.

Cooperative participations of specialists from various subject areas have proved to be useful during the revision of KDC 5, especially for expanding, rearranging, and improving the classes of the related areas. So it is recommended to invite other specialists from other subject areas to participate in revising the next edition.

Cooperative efforts with the National Library of Korea are needed to upgrade the KDC in various works, including its revision, instruction and training of the librarians using it, promotion, etc. The National Library is a central library of Korea per the Library Law of Korea. Major operations regulated by the Law include those of compiling and standardizing the national bibliography and leading, supporting, and cooperating with other libraries in the nation. The Library itself holds Oriental collections of more than 5.4 million volumes, and most of them are classified by KDC (about 1.0 million volumes of Western materials are classified by DDC). All of the KORMARC records, as well as all of the CIP data it produces as a national agency for the Korean bibliographic standard, contain KDC numbers. The Library has both a one-week off-line training course and online instruction programs that cover the general theory and practice of KDC for the librarians. Considering the importance of the cooperation with the National Library, KLA has appointed a staff of the Library as a member of its Classification Committee since the revision of the 3rd edition. More cooperative ventures are for the mutual benefits among library community.

Systematic efforts to promote the system are needed. These can range from encouraging related research; constructing and using website; developing educational resources, including various user guides or manuals and tutorials, both online and off-line; holding workshops about the classification theory and practice in general, as well as KDC in particular; and building and expanding communication channels both inside and outside the library community in order to gather various opinions and suggestions about the system. In this regard, the efforts of OCLC to promote DDC system are a very useful model for benchmarking.

Revision for the future edition should be done at regular intervals. Delay in the publication of new edition, as in the case of former editions, can result in dissatisfaction and complaints from the users, and consequent out-of-datedness of the system compared

to other systems, including DDC, can result in the consideration of switching from KDC to another system.

Korean Decimal Classification is one of the few national classification systems that has continued to be used by libraries nationwide. It is maintained and promoted by the national library association (Korean Library Association) and used by national central library (the National Library of Korea). In addition, there are so many domestic materials to be processed, because "South Korean publishers have produced more than 42 thousands new titles and more than 106.2 millions copies of new books" in 2009 alone (Korean Publishers Association, 2010).

In the age of more global and worldwide integration, major international bibliographic tools will continue to influence the bibliographic tools of other nations. And, as we can see in the case of MARC21 formats (Library of Congress 2010)⁸ and in the example of the National Library of Sweden (Svanberg 2009), the number of the nations and national libraries that decide to abandon their own national systems and switch to other international systems will gradually increase. For some nations, it might be an easier and a better decision to use these international systems, rather than having to deal with the many difficulties of maintaining their own systems.⁹

Notes

¹ General characteristics of KDCP are well analyzed and summarized by Oh, Dong-Geun (2000, 9-19), Won, Jong-Lin (2000, 29-83), Kim, Jin-Su (2000, 263-311), and Nam, Tae-Woo (2000, 313-336).

² There have been no exact data collected periodically by the national agencies or through the extensive surveys about the usage of KDC recently in South Korea. We can only use the data collected by some researchers or organizations for their own purpose. Table 2 and Table 3 are taken from the analyses on the data listed in the following materials and/or homepages: (1) KEDI (1987), 62; (2) Statistics received through personal communication from Korean Library Association in Dec. 1, 2010; (3) Council on National College & University Libraries (2001), 91, and its homepage (<<http://www.knula.or.kr/index.php>>); (4) Homepage of Korean Private University Libraries Association (<<http://www.kpula.or.kr/index.php>>). The numbers of the libraries surveyed or analyzed has increased as new public and university/college libraries are established in South Korea. Parts of the data were also

listed in the books by Oh, Bae, & Yeo (both in 2002 & in 2009).

³ In this regard, I agree strongly with the thought that bibliographic systems can reflect nationality. I myself call the type of Korean culture as "Jjigae culture"—Jjigae is a generic term to name all the types of soup or stew cooked using various kinds of ingredients and sources. "There are many different varieties but it is typically made with meat, seafood, or vegetables in a broth seasoned with gochujang, doenjang, ganjang or saeujeot" (Wikipedia Sep. 17. 2010). So KDC can be called a kind of "Jjigae classification system." This analogy can also be applied to KORMARC, Korean Machine-Readable Catalog(ing)—it can be called as "Jjigae-MARC." Jjigae has become a very popular dish in Korea, not because it is made from so many various kinds of ingredients, but because it is cooked so well using the ingredients. I sincerely hope that our KDC can be regarded as a type of well-cooked one that is as good as Jjigae.

⁴ The origins of DDC and its influences from Harris and Bacon were well analyzed by Comaromi (1976b), Wiegand (1998), Miksa (1999), etc.

⁵ The headings in this table are simplified for easy tabulation. In order that can be somewhat different from the headings in the schedule and tables of KDC, e.g., the heading of -24 in the table of KDC is written as "United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland."

⁶ Shintoism, which had been located at 260 until the 4th edition, has been relocated to 291.3, reflecting the literary warrant in South Korea.

⁷ Notations for these sections of Buddhism synthesized from the subdivisions of individual religions are, in fact, enumerated and further subdivided in the schedule of KDC 5, because these sections are major ones in Korean libraries.

⁸ For example, Canada and Great Britain, which had developed and maintained their own MARC formats, have now discontinued these formats, and switched to MARC 21 formats, and the national library of these nations, Library and Archives Canada and the British Library, both serve as the maintenance agency for the MARC 21 formats, with the Library of Congress.

⁹ I myself have seen and heard about the decreasing influences of Colon Classification even on the Indian library community when I visited many libraries in India. There may be many different reasons for this, but the delay in the publication of new edition caused by some difficulties related to its revi-

sion may be one of the main reasons. I think this situation is very similar to the experiences of 1950s' KDCP in Korea. And from these instances, we can get a sense of a very small aspect of difficulties experienced by the personnel committed to some national systems who have limited resources, as they work to revise and maintain them as an independent system.

References

- Anyanwu, Virginia. 1994. Toward a national classification scheme for Nigerian official publications. *Journal of government information* 21: 129-38.
- Chung, Yeon-Kyoung. 2007. National bibliographies: past, present and future—the Korean experience. *IFLA journal* 33: 220-8.
- Comaromi, John P. 1976a. The historical development of the Dewey Decimal Classification system. In Henderson, Kathryn Luther ed., *Major classification systems: the Dewey centennial*. Urbana-Champaign, Ill.: University of Illinois, Graduate School of Library Science, pp. 17-31.
- Comaromi, John P. 1976b. *The eighteen editions of the Dewey Decimal Classification*. Albany, NY: Forest Press.
- Comaromi, John P. and Satija, Mohinder Partap. 1985. History of the Indianization of the Dewey Decimal Classification. *Libri* 35: 1-20.
- Council on National College & University Libraries of Korea. 2001. *Bulletin of national college & university libraries* 19.
- Council on National College & University Libraries. 2010. Homepage. Available <http://www.knula.or.kr/index.php>. (Accessed Dec. 02, 2010).
- Kim, Ja-Hu. 2009. Suggestions on the 5th edition of the Korean Decimal Classification. *Journal of Korean Library and Information Science Society* 40n2: 5-26.
- Kim, Jin-Su. 2000. A study on the KDCP. In Oh, Dong-Geun ed., *The life and thought of a librarian Bong-Suk Park*. Daegu: Taeil Press, pp. 263-311.
- Kim, Yeon-Rye. 2009. A comparative study on the KDC, NDC, and DDC classification system for civil engineering. *Journal of the Korean Biblia Society for Library and Information Science* 20: 219-32.
- Koh, Jae-Chang, ed. 1954. *Han-Un Decimal Classification*. Seoul: The Bank of Korea.
- Korea Institute for Defense Analyses, ed. 1958. *Kuk-Yeon Decimal Classification*. Seoul: Korea Institute for Defense Analyses.
- Korean Educational Development Institute (KEDI). 1987. *A study for the establishment and activation of library system*. Seoul: The Institute.
- Korean Library Association. 2008. *Proceedings of the Open Hearings for Korean Decimal Classification, 5th Ed.* Seoul: KLA.
- Korean Library Association. 2009. *Korean Decimal Classification*. 5th Ed. Seoul: KLA.
- Korean Private University Libraries Association. 2010. Homepage (<<http://www.kpula.or.kr/index.php>>). (Accessed Dec. 02, 2010).
- Korean Publishers Association. 2010. Publication statistics 2010. <http://www.kpa21.or.kr/bbs/board.php?bo_table=d_total&wr_id=103>. (Accessed Nov. 10, 2010)
- Kwak, Chul-Wan. 2009. A study of revision of the history class (900) for the KDC 6th edition. *Journal of the Korean Biblia Society for Library and Information Science* 20n3: 149-61.
- Lee, Yong-Jae, and Jo, Jae-Soon. 2006. The modern history of the library movement and reading campaign in Korea. *Paper presented at IFLA Conference, 20-24 August 2006, Seoul, Korea*.
- Library of Congress. 2010. MARC development overview. Available <http://www.loc.gov/marc/overview.html>. (Accessed Dec. 15, 2010)
- Miksa, Francis L. 1998. *The DDC, the universe of knowledge, and the post-modern library*. Albany, NY: Forest Press.
- Nam, Tae-Woo. 2000. Classification theory of Bong-Suk Park. In Oh, Dong-Geun ed., *The life and thought of a librarian Bong-Suk Park*. Daegu: Taeil Press, pp. 313-36.
- Oh, Dong-Geun. 1992. KORMARC: its characteristics and influence on the library automation in Korea. *International Information & Library Review* 24: 341-52.
- Oh, Dong-Geun. 1995. Comparative analysis of MARC in Korea, Taiwan and Japan. *Program, Electronic Library and Information Systems* 29: 123-34.
- Oh, Dong-Geun. 2000. Pioneer of Korean library community, Bong-Suk Park. In Oh, Dong-Geun ed., *The life and thought of a librarian Bong-Suk Park*. Daegu: Taeil Press, pp. 9-19.
- Oh, Dong-Geun, and Yeo, Ji-Suk. 2001. Suggesting an option for DDC class religion (200) for nations in which religious diversity predominates. *Knowledge organization* 28: 75-84.
- Oh, Dong-Geun, Bae, Young-Hwal, and Yeo, Ji-Suk. 2002. *Understanding Korean Decimal Classification*. Daegu: Taeil Press.

- Oh, Dong-Geun, Bae, Young-Hwal, and Yeo, Ji-Suk. 2008. Suggestions for the classes language and literature of the 4th edition of Korean Decimal Classification. *Journal of the Korean Society for Library and Information Science* 42n3: 141-57.
- Oh, Dong-Geun, Bae, Young-Hwal, and Yeo, Ji-Suk. 2009. *Understanding Korean Decimal Classification, 5th Edition*. Daegu: Taeil Press.
- Park, Bong-Suk, Ed. 1947. *Korean Decimal Classification (KDCP)*. Seoul: The National Library of Korea.
- Svanberg, Magdalena. 2009. Dewey in Sweden: leaving SAB after 87 years. Paper presented at *Looking at the Past and Preparing for the Future, an IFLA satellite pre-conference sponsored by the Classification and Indexing Section, 20-21 August 2009, Florence, Italy*.
- Wiegand, Wayne A. 1998. The “Amherst Method”: the origins of the Dewey Decimal Classification scheme. *Libraries and Culture* 33: 175-94.
- Wikipedia. 2010. Jjigae. Available <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jjigae>. (Accessed September 17, 2010).
- Won, Jong-Lin. 2000. A study on the thought on the library of Bong-Suk Park. In Oh, Dong-Geun ed., *The life and thought of a librarian Bong-Suk Park*. Daegu: Taeil Press, pp. 29-83.
- Yeo, Ji-Suk. 2006. A study on the Korean Library Classification in the Japanese occupation in Korea. Doctoral dissertation, Keimyung University, Korea.
- Yeo, Ji-Suk, Lee, Joon-Man, and Oh, Dong-Geun. 2008. The improvements of the subject chemical engineering in the 4th edition of Korean Decimal Classification. *Journal of Korean Library and Information Science Society* 39n2: 249-66.
- Yeo, Ji-Suk et al. 2008. The improvements of the subject computer science in the 4th edition of Korean Decimal Classification. *Journal of Korean Library and Information Science Society* 39n3: 345-68.
- Zhang, Wenxian. 2003. Classification for Chinese libraries (CCL): histories, accomplishments, problems and its comparisons. *Journal of Educational Media and Library Sciences* 41n1: 1-22.