Book Reviews

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Book Review Editor

Universal Decimal Classification : Pocket Edition. [Ed. by Geoffrey Robinson]. London: British Standards Institution, 1999. 288 p. ISBN 0-580-33045-1. DISC PD 1000 : 1999.

Despite a chequered career in the 1970s and 1980s, the Universal Decimal Classification (UDC) remains one of the big three classification schemes of the day. Technically, it is considered much superior to the other two, namely the Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC) and the Library of Congress Classification (LCC). Notwithstanding some weaknesses inherited from the DDC, it has kept itself up and rejuvenated itself through technical and organisational improvement programmes. Over the last decade, the UDC has undergone many changes. The original FID/CCC, the committee in charge of its maintenance, was replaced in 1985 by the UDC Management Board. On the recommendation of the Task Force instituted by the Board, the FID relinquished its ownership of the UDC, which was then transferred to a UDC Consortium (UDCC) composed of the FID and of five publishers. The Consortium maintains headquarters at the Royal Library in The Hague and is now managed by a full time director. Professor Ia C. McIlwaine (University College, London) has been appointed as editor, and she works with the help of a full time research assistant. All members of the Consortium have the right to issue UDC editions in their own language. The British Standards Institution (BSI), a member of the UDCC, is responsible for English editions. The publisher of the *Pocket Edition* is DISC (Delivering Information Solution to Customers), a semi-autonomous division of the BSI. This pocket edition, PD 1000, is a "Published Document," and not a standard. The standard version of the UDC, known as the Master Reference File (MRF), contains about 61 000 entries in English and is at present only available in database format (CDS-ISIS) at the UDCC office. In size, it corresponds to the erstwhile medium edition issued in 1993. The former full edition (210,000 entries), medium edition (30% of the full) and abridged edition (10% of the full) no longer have official status. UDCC members can issue by-products derived from the MRF. The *Pocket edition* is one such product; it incorporates the changes published in *Extensions and Corrections to the UDC*, Number 20 (1998).

The *Pocket edition*, edited by Geoffrey Robinson, has been prepared under BSI committee IDT/3 "Universal Decimal Classification" on which four UK library and information bodies are represented; they are: the Library Association, the National Information Services and Systems (NISS), the Society of Indexers, and the Standing Conference of National and University Libraries (SCONUL).

The *Pocket edition* consists of three parts preceded by a newly written preface and a clear and concise introduction. These preliminaries also include a brief manual with examples. The three parts are: Part I: Common auxiliaries, p. 25-63, Part II: Main Tables 0/9, p. 64-182, Part III: Index, p. 183-287.

As they now stand, the nine auxiliary tables have been marked 1a/1k (1i and 1j are not used in table numbering). Table 1a, in two parts, is not a table per se but rather a means of synthesis for extensions and relations. In this edition, two well known symbols, namely the double colon (::) for irreversible relations and the square brackets [] used as an algebraic sign of grouping, have been omitted, though they remain valid in the standard edition. Among the common auxiliaries, the point-of-view auxiliaries denoted by .00... have been withdrawn and the concepts relocated throughout the schedules and in the auxiliary -05 "Persons" which is a part of the newly created auxiliary 1k "Common auxiliaries of general characteristics." Table 1k has two parts: -03 "Common auxiliaries of materials," and -05 "Common auxiliaries of persons and personal characteristics."

Examples:

-034 Metals	-055.1 Males
-035.5 Leather	-055.15 Boys

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-036.4 Rubber -056.262 Blind persons.

This table allows simultaneous use of two or more numbers as in -055.15-056.262 Blind boys

Hence, Extramural education of blind boys will be: 374.7-055.15-056.262.

The Common auxiliaries of properties –02, partially derived from the point-of-view auxiliaries, are a recent addition to UDC, but appeared too late to be included in the *Pocket Edition*.

The special auxiliaries of three kinds (by notation) remain the same: .0... , -0/-9 (including -01/-09) and '0/'9. The tendency is to make these special auxiliaries more general, with wider applicability. The special auxiliaries have been sidelined with a vertical bar, usually under the main number. Their scope is sometimes extended, e.g. in 6 Technology, extended scopes are highlighted by a running footnote (e. g. p. 136-175). Some of the common auxiliaries also have their special auxiliaries: for example, the common auxiliaries of Language, Form and Place have their special auxiliaries applicable to the whole of that table. For example, in Table 1c :

=... '0	Origin and periods of language
=... ' 01	Old period
=... ' 02	Classical period
=... 282	Dialects

By attaching these to any of the languages in this table such as

=111	English
=411.21	Arabic

we obtain compound auxiliaries, e. g.

=111'01	Old English
=111'282	Dialects of English
=411.21'02	Classical Arabic.

We may also use simultaneously two such special auxiliaries, e.g.

=111'01' 282	Dialects of old English.

In the same way, in main class 811 Languages, we may form the class number 811.124'02'36 Grammar of Classical Latin.

In the common auxiliaries of Form (Table 1d) we have (0.0...) as a special auxiliary, e.g. (0.035.2) Microforms. This could be attached to any subdivision in this table, say to (03) Reference works. Therefore we may have:

(03.035.2)	Reference works in microform.
(031.035.2)	General encyclopaedias in microorm
(05.035.2)	Serials in microform.

Using this with a main number we get:

5(05.035.2)	Science serials in microform
5+6 (05.035.2)	Science and technology serials in microform.

Layout: The compact, cute, low cost and handy *Pocket Edition* in small type print has all the features of the master edition. The three-digit numbers are printed in boldface along with their caption, whereas two-digit numbers (subclasses) are given in Roman caps. Lack of margins on either side is a disadvantage as it leaves no space to record local extensions and decisions. Boxed summaries of each main class give an attractive look to the tool. In the new edition, symbols independent of any language have been used to represent information. These are:

Arrow	=	See also
Diamond	=	Examples of built numbers
Square	=	Inclusion note
Sideline	=	Special auxiliaries
Hash #	=	Non-UDC numerical extension
Alphabets A/Z	=	Non-UDC alphabetic extension.

The awkward sign □ ("subdivide as") in IME has been replaced by the verbal instruction "divide like" for extension of a base number by analogy with another number in the schedules. The asterisk * for non-UDC numbers has been replaced by a hash # in table 1h, which frees the former for use as a wildcard in computer searches.

The tables, both main and auxiliaries, contain mainly simple numbers, with only a few compound ones. A simple number is one that is taken from a single place. In contrast, a compound number is a combination of two or more numbers, whether main or auxiliary. Some examples of compound numbers are given, preceded by diamond, e.g.

56	Paleontology
◊ 56:581	General paleobotany.

The policy seems to have been to reduce, if not eliminate, the enumeration of compound subjects. It could facilitate the compilation of thesauri and other controlled vocabularies based on the schedules.

Changes: Being an abridgement consisting of 4000 classes from the Master Reference File, this edition suggests no changes of its own. Nevertheless, it invites comparison with the UDC *Abridged Edition*, BS 1000A: 1961 and the IME 1993. The most striking difference consists in vacating class 4 Linguistics and shifting it to 81, thus rectifying the long-standing criticism of sepa-

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rating the languages from literature. Here 811 is to be divided as the auxiliary =1/=9 (Table 1c, pp26-32). Thus:

English linguistics	811.111
French linguistics	811.133.1

Using the special auxiliaries of 81 we may have, e. g.,

811.111'36	English grammar
811.133.1-25	Spoken French

681.3 Data processing has been moved to 004 with elaborate details. 38 Commerce has merged with 339 Commerce and world economy. Sociology is at 304/305 and 308, to be extended by the common auxiliaries of persons -05, and the auxiliaries of racial, national and ethnic groups (= ...). Psychology remains undeveloped at 159.9. The subdivisions of historical periods in 940/990, enumerated in the IME 1985/1988, have been withdrawn, as it is nearly impossible for such a general classification to enumerate historical periods for each national history. The *Pocket edition* uses the common auxiliary of time for any historical period. For example, 942.08 History of Victorian England in IME is now 94(410.1)"1837/1901." The new number, though lengthier, is mechanical and mnemonic, and of course free of any bias. Literature has been moved to 821, extendable by common auxiliaries of language =1/=9, whereas earlier language literatures were enumerated at 820/890. We now have:

English literature	821.111
English plays	821.111-2
English verse plays	821.111-2-1
English verse comedies	821.111-22-1

There are minor changes in 791 Cinema and 792 Theatre. What still remains a queer mixture is 65 Management.

Future plans: The Editorial Board is currently considering a proposal to fill the vacant class 4 with Medicine and Psychiatry, currently found in 61. This transfer would provide room for the expansion of the densely occupied 62 Engineering. Modernisation of 621.3 Electrical engineering is also under consideration. The complete restructuring of Medicine in faceted form has already been completed, and future editions may incorporate the new medicine schedule. Revisions of class 2 Religion and theology have been completed; the revised class was published in *Extensions and Corrections to the UDC* (1999). The new schedule for Religion gives equal ranking to non-Christian religions. In both cases, facet analysis is based on *Bliss Classification* (BC2), and Jack Mills is now a member of the UDC Editorial Board. It has been agreed that facet analysis will now be employed, using guidelines from BC2. Cooperation with BC as well as with DDC is operational.

Problems: The *Pocket Edition*, inevitably, must remain at a very broad level. In the common auxiliaries of place (Table 1e) the enumeration is only to country level, except for English-speaking countries (e.g. USA and Canada are divided to state and province level). In the language auxiliaries, the grouping of three major and widely spoken south Indian languages, namely Kannada, Malyalam and Tamil at =573 is like trying to contain an ocean in a lake. There are also problems of collocation and placement. 316 Sociology has been separated from 304 Social questions and 308 Sociography. 379 Leisure is oddly placed in 37 Education: it could have gone in 39 Way of life, tradition, Folklore, etc. In 025.43 Classification, categorisation by kind of notation leads to an absurd grouping, throwing Colon Classification together with the Library of Congress Classification.

Index: There are 9 000 main and 3 500 sub-entries in the index, for a total of 12 500 entries in 104 pages; this provides an average of three access points per entry in the schedules. The index includes all the principal divisions, inclusion notes, common and special auxiliaries and built-in compound numbers. Collocation of terms indicates relations. There are no cross-references though qualifiers are added where necessary to disambiguate homonyms. In cases of synonymy, all terms have been indexed to avoid "see" references, e.g., Aves and Birds are both entry points in the index. Index entries are arranged in word-by-word form to conform to the BS/ISO 999 standard. Names are established in accordance with appropriate AACR2 rules.

Uses: UDC is equally useful for arranging text-based documents, document surrogates and other information objects such as motion pictures, sound recordings, CDs, maps, art collections, photographs, coins, and stamps, and even abstract entities such as places and organisations. The *Pocket edition* is being marketed as a useful tool for staff and student training; according to its editor, Geoffrey Robinson, it was decided that PD 1000 should be a teaching edition. It is eminently suitable for organising electronic files, and for shelf arrangement of small collections containing up to 20 000 books and other types of documents. UDC is already used on several web sites to arrange directories of references (see for example the National Information Services and Systems (NISS) directory of networked resources at http://www.niss.ac.uk). Its use outside the library is increasing.

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Conclusion: The UDC has geared up and taken effective steps to meet the challenges of networked information. This has been made possible by organisational remedies and a firm will to survive and thrive. All set on an even keel, it is ready to meet any contingency of the (specialised) information world. Still, there are some challenges to be met, especially in producing a trilingual Standard edition on CD-ROM and in successfully filling the vacant class 4. The *Pocket Edition* has still to incorporate changes in 2 Religion and 61 Medicine, soon to be posted on the UDC web site. Nevertheless, UDC comes up as a system of high quality, easy applicability and international validity. The *Pocket Edition* is a useful and valuable by-product, likely to be translated into other languages.

References and URLs:

Extensions and corrections to the UDC. No 21 (November 1999). The Hague : UDC Consortium, IV, 198p. ISSN 0014-542

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Universal Decimal Classification : International medium edition. Milton Keynes : British Standards Institution, 1993. BS 1000M : 1993.

Universal Decimal Classification : Pocket Edition. [Ed. by Geoffrey Robinson]. London: British Standards Institution, 1999. 288 p. ISBN 0-580-33045-1. DISC PD 1000 : 1999.

URLs of interest :

http://www.bsi.org.uk/disc
http://www.udcc.org
http://www.bsi.org.uk
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Dewey Decimal Classification : Francophone perspectives : Papers from a workshop presented at the General Conference of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), Amsterdam, Netherlands, August 20, 1998. Classification décimale Dewey : perspectives francophones : communications d'un atelier présentées à la Conférence générale de la Fédération Internationale des Associations de Bibliothécaires et de Bibliothèques (IFLA), Amsterdam, Pays-Bas, 20 août 1998. Edited by Julianne Beall and Raymonde Couture-Lafleur. Albany, NY : Forest Press, 1999. 58 + 60 p. ISBN 0-910608-67-9.

This compact publication includes the five papers presented at a meeting sponsored by the IFLA Section on Classification and Indexing to mark the publication of a French-language version of the 21st edition of the *Dewey Decimal Classification* (DDC21)[1]. The purpose of the half-day meeting held at the 1998 IFLA Conference was to "highlight the expertise of French-speaking specialists in this area, examine the impact of the 21st French-language edition of the DDC, and explore the phenomenon of rendering realities specific to one particular cultural environment in a second language" (Foreword, vii).

Louis Cabral, of the Association pour l'avancement des sciences et des techniques de la documentation (ASTED) in Québec, describes how the project of translating DDC21 came about and evolved in "Developing partnerships : Producing a French-language version of the 21st edition of the Dewey Decimal Classification." Three national libraries (the National Library of Canada, the Bibliothèque nationale de France, and the Bibliothèque nationale du Québec), and a professional association, ASTED, which coordinated the work of all partners, were involved in this important project. As the most recent edition in French of the Dewey classification dated back to 1974, this new work responds to a pressing need for an up-to-date knowledge organization scheme. Cabral reminds us that most of the 13,000 public and school libraries in Canada and Québec are DDC users, and that DDC is recommended for all central lending libraries and for holdings loaned through municipal libraries in France. Furthermore, developing countries have demonstrated an interest in the classification scheme. The project of translating the classification system was conceived in 1991, well before the publication, in 1996, of DDC21 in English; ASTED first focussed on a possible translation of the 12th abridged edition, before redirecting its efforts into a different venture which led to the publication of the very popular *Édition intermédiaire* (Intermediate edition) in 1996[2], and eventually to a full translation of DDC21. The working team on the most recent project was composed of a scientific committee with representation

1 *Classification décimale Dewey et Index*. 21ème éd. Éditée par Joan S. Mitchell, éditeur, (...) et al.; version française sous la coordination de Raymonde Couture-Lafleur et Louis Cabral. Montréal : ASTED, 1999. 4 vols. ISBN 2-921548-38-0.

2 *Classification décimale de Dewey*. Éd. intermédiaire. Montréal : ASTED, 1994. 2 vols. ISBN 2-921548-11-9.

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