which was appointed by the Council of the Research Libraries in Denmark in 1972. This recommendation advised to look for a classification system that would be suitable for the demands of the research libraries. The UDC, being considered as the system that with the least endeavors and with the least elaboration could be fitted to the purpose if it was available in a Danish edition, came out as the winner.

At present the situation regarding classification in Denmark is in the state of a draw. Hopes for a common classification system exist, and much thought is being given to the possibilities for its realization. The American Dewey is entering the discussions, too, since it is provided on the Marc tapes and since it possesses the peculiar extra merit of not being used by either kind of library in Denmark. Since it is the ancestor of both of the systems in use it may have some chances.

Cooperation regarding the index to DK5 and a future UDC also seems to be something very desirable. So far, however, the doors are open to any new development.

Available in Spring 1977
in reprinted edition

Evgenij Ivanovic Samurin
Geschichte der bibliothekarisch-bibliographischen Klassifikation
(History of Library-Bibliographical Classification)

Band 1: Vom Altertum bis zum Beginn des 19. Jahrhunderts (From antiquity to the beginning of the 19th century)
Band 2: Das 19. und 20. Jahrhundert (The 19th and 20th century)

1977. Reprint of the edition 1969. Vol. I/II in one volume. XXXII, 1186 pages, 12 illustrations. Cloth appr. **DM** 160.00. In German.

In view of the structural diversity to be found in the subject catalogues of German libraries one is conscious of the urgent need für standardization, for a classification system commensurate with the present state of the various branches of learning, resulting in the optimal exploitation of library stocks.

This study by the internationally well-known Soviet library scholar E.I. Samurin provides an historical survey on the development of classification systems from antiquity to the present day. By critical examination and evaluation of material at hand as also of his own personal experience, he gives practical suggestions for the establishing of a subject catalogue.

VERLAG DOKUMENTATION, Publishers
D-8000 München 71, P.O.B. 71 10 09
Federal Republic of Germany

Mogens Weitemeyer
The Royal Library, Copenhagen

Which way to "Shared Classification"? A Danish View

Weitemeyer, M.: **Which way to "Shared Classification"? A Danish view.**
In: Intern. Classificat. 3 (1976) No. 2, p. 93–96

Report on the results of an investigation to clarify 1) which classification systems are in use in other countries than Denmark meeting some preestablished criteria and 2) how much of the Danish classification data is preclassified on available magnetic tapes and in which classification system. Data for the use of the systems are shown as well as the percentages for language distribution of foreign literature in Danish research libraries. Discussion of new trends which may lead to use of a rough classification supplemented with subject headings.

I. C.

1. Introduction

The following is a summary of the main points of a report, delivered in December 1975 to the Danish Advisory Council for Research Libraries on the use of international classification systems in Denmark (1). It had been preceded by two other reports of 1967 and 1972 respectively. In the 1967 report the UDC, DDC and LCC were investigated and evaluated with reference to a new university library's policy for shelving and cataloguing. The UDC was recommended in very cautious terms. It was realized that use of an 'international' system would result in the acceptance of rules or notations that seemed superfluous and in a lack of rules of notations of national and local value. The notation of the UDC seemed to minimize these problems, chiefly on account of its combinatorial structure (2). In the 1972 report on administrative requirements, the following five criteria were considered basic for a general classification system:

1) universality
2) possibilities for Danish influence on the system
3) internationality
4) a system already known in Denmark
5) possibilities for a subject index

Classification data (notations for a classed item entered on a bibliographic description, as e. g. the MARC format descriptions) were only touched upon in an appendix to the report in which the codes on exchange tapes were mentioned. At the time of the report it appeared that the USA, England, Sweden and France would all use the UDC. This would have meant that roughly 60% of the Danish research libraries accessions of foreign books would have been preclassified by the UDC. This aspect was of course

https://doi.org/10.5771/0943-7444-1976-2-93 https://www.inlibra.com/de/page/agb - Open Access -

most convincing for administrators. It depends of course on the actual availability of such classification data.

R. E. Coward's 1970 remarks (7) on conversion possibilities from UDC to other systems (but not vice versa) are perhaps still correct, but if the UDC is not used extensively on bibliographic data exchange tapes there is not very much to convert.

Regarding criterion 2) above – the question of Danish influence on the system would be restricted to local topics and special disciplines. Regarding criterion 4): – it is possible that a system similar to systems in use (e. g. the Dewey Decimal Classification) would be regarded as sufficiently familiar.

2. The 1975 Report: Exchange and "Shared Classification"

Until recently descriptive cataloguing was the major area for exchange projects. It is only now that the problem of international exchange of classification data is receiving so much attention that we should begin to discuss the topic of "shared classification"[1].

The flow of cataloguing data is now (or will be in the near future) centralized through national agencies. In a more distant future the flow of classification data may be decentralized through libraries with special responsibilities in different countries.

In 1972 it seemed that the UDC would be given preference by USA, England Sweden and France. Now, however, it appears that the DDC has assumed the dominant position for use in national bibliographies. In order to acquire a better picture of the systems actually in use at present in other countries and of any changes planned for the future, a questionnaire was sent out, in which data were requested on both classification and indexing systems. The investigation centered on systems used in libraries (research, special and public) as well as in national bibliographies. It was intended to clarify the following two aspects of the problem:

1) which systems are in use that meet the criteria set up by the National Advisory Council's Classification Committee
2) how much of our classification data is preclassified on magnetic tapes for exchange, and in which classification systems.

Eleven countries replied to the questionnaire: Belgium, Bulgaria, England, Finland, France, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Germany (FRG), USA and USSR. There were also replies from the Federation Internationale de Documentation (FID).

3. Results from the investigation

3.1 Classification systems and classification data

The systems used in libraries in foreign countries vary widely. Because of the great disparity in size and number of libraries per country and the widespread use of individual or national systems, it would be a distortion of the international picture to put too much emphasis on the fact that UDC has a leading position in a number of countries. The focus has now been shifted: the problem does not lie with the advantages or disadvantages of the classification systems but with the possible availability of classification data according to one of these systems.

What *Rolf Kluth* called "shared classification" can be both – a national and an international activity. For international use either an international system would be necessary or a conversion mechanism from a national to an international system (and vice versa). It is vital however, to know which classification data are available or will be in the near future.

3.2 National bibliographies

The printed editions of national bibliographies are the first obvious source of classification data.

A revision of the information in *G. Pomassls* Synoptic Table (9) according to the material received in this investigation indicates that the national bibliographies that use UDC are: Belgium, Finland, Hungary, Luxembourg, Portugal, Rumania and Yugoslavia.

These bibliographies are unlikely to assume a significant position as suppliers of classification data to Danish research libraries.

3.3 Classification data in MARC form

Another source of classification data are the available national bibliographies on tape. If we consider those that are or will be available in computer readable form in the next years, we will get an entirely different picture. The following figure shows this clearly; in all of the cases the 18th ed. of the DDC has been applied:

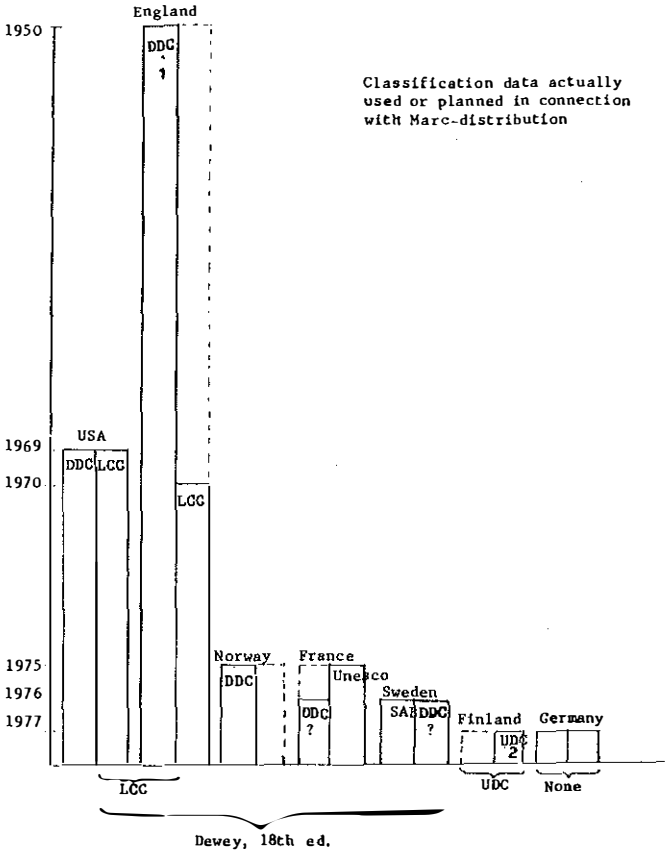

Fig. 1: Availability of classification data on computerized national bibliographies since 1950.

1) This expression was coined by Rolf Kluth in an unpublished paper.

https://doi.org/10.5771/0943-7444-1976-2-93 https://www.inlibra.com/de/page/agb - Open Access - (cc) BY

The *Library of Congress Classification* (LCC) is used by USA and England, which means that classification data is supplied for almost all of English literature since 1970.

The *Dewey Decimal Classification* (DDC) is used on MARC records from USA, England and Norway and may probably be implemented on the tapes from France and Sweden.

The *Universal Decimal Classification* (UDC) will only be supplied by the tapes from Finland.

Germany's national bibliography has been computerized ever since 1965; however, it does not carry any classification data according to any of the international systems.

4. Language distribution of foreign literature in Danish research libraries

The collection size of foreign language literature in Danish research libraries will presumably vary with the subject areas involved. The libraries with heavy humanistic-philological collections will probably exhibit a more varied language picture than the technical and natural sciences libraries.

In order to clarify the ratios of the language distribution a count was taken in the 1973 and 1974 edition of the Danish Union Catalogue for Books (Accessionskatalogen) which comprises about 90 000 titles per year. The foreign-language literature is distributed as follows:

	1973	%	1974	
DDC				
English	52.7		48.7	
Norwegian	2.3		2.8	
French	7.4		8.8	
Swedish(?)	5.4		4.7	
		67.8		64.8
UDC				
Spanish & Potuguese	0.8	0.8	1.4	1.4
Other/No system				
German	19.4		22.8	
Italian	1.5		2.6	
Russian	4.8		4.1	
Other	5.7		4.7	
		31.4		33.8
		100.0		100.0

If the Belgian and Swiss French literature (estimated at 2%) is registered under UDC as well as within the group "other" (including Finnish) the figures will be:

DDC	65.8	62.8
UDC	8.5	7.7
Other/no	25.7	29.5
	100.0	100.0

Comments on the language distribution of foreign literature

The figures show that UDC and Other/No systems make up about 40% (the Swedish figures are added here), whereas DDC alone covers about 60%.

In machine readable form the classification data is available for nearly all of the 60% of the DDC classed documents; however, of the remaining 40%, 20% is available without classification data or with non-international ones. The UDC will only be available for about 3%. This situation may change some time, but it is unlikely that the figures will rise above 10–15%. Even if France would add UDC numbers to its entries, this would bring UDC only up to about 20%; it would, however, have no effect on the 60% DDC data since France would retain the Dewey numbers, if only because of the French public libraries.

A possible German decision to use UDC numbers as well as the Einheitsklassifikation on magnetic tapes from the Deutsche Bibliothek would increase the UDC data to about 35%. As far as I can see, West Germany might just as well choose the DDC.

It is thus very obvious that the decisions of some major countries with regard to the use of an international classification system do have a considerable influence on the administrative planning of some smaller ones.

5. Distribution of classification data

A practical bibliographic information net must be capable of delivering cataloguing data about titles easily and quickly. The UNIMARC standardized exchange format has been developed for the purpose of using the data in automated national bibliographies as they appear. In addition to the cataloguing data, classification data could be distributed in the same way. Countries using a special classification system could add to their machine-readable exchange edition also the data from an international classification system.

It is expected that a MARC network will be set up in the course of 1977–78 to channel the bibliographic data appropriate for exchange. Classification data available could be used directly or via conversion. Conversion mechanisms and correlation tables between national and international systems would have to be worked out.

The present use of the different classification systems, not in the last place of the UDC could be made much more effectice by such an exchange system. (12) The possibilities should be examined both from a technical and an administrative point of view. The FID or the existing MARC Network Committee should be interested in this.

6. New trends?

Which theory or tendency may indicate in which direction one should look to find a more suitable solution for the subject analysis and representation than via the existing classification schemes? There are trends bearing some relevance to this question that should be pursued, as e. g. the necessity to keep track with the constant restructuring of scientific disciplines, which leads to constant revisions of classification systems and thus to collisions with the administration of libraries. Might a simpler location system, perhaps together with a rough classification, become the preferred solution? Its hierarchy need not be very detailed, but it should be thoroughly supplemented with subject headings.

In the Anglo-Saxon countries systems of subject headings supplementing classification data – either LCC or DDC –

https://doi.org/10.5771/0943-7444-1976-2-93 https://www.inlibra.com/de/page/agb - Open Access - (cc) BY

have long been in use. When the British National Bibliography tried to expand the DDC with verbal subdivisions, they laid the basis for a verbal form of the Dewey number, the "Dewey-feature". It contains information for use with subject headings. Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH) does not reflect the LCC always, but PRECIS might be employed together with LCC as well as with DDC.

The combination of classification data together with subject headings as a solution of future problems in the Danish library world is not a new idea. *R. Mölgaard-Hansen* recommended this already in November 1965 by proposing a combination of UDC and subject headings for the university library of Odense (2).

The recent attempts towards establishment of an internationally acceptable system, the Broad System of Ordering (BSO), were only briefly mentioned in the Danish Classification Report of October 1972. Though it is not as yet known to what extent if any, the system may gain acceptance, the basic idea corresponds to the present trend toward less detailed systems with either verbal or notational extensions according to special systems. At any rate, it seems that increased efficiency might be achieved for subject access, be it by combination of classification data and subject headings or by using classification data and conversion mechanisms between different classification systems.

It remains for the Danish libraries to further investigate the use of foreign classification systems regarding both notational and subject indexing (verbal) representation of document contents, wether for direct use (DDC) or for conversion from one system to the other (DDC to UDC and vice versa). An indexing system will serve our purposes too, especially if it is applicable to both DDC and UDC, as is the case with PRECIS (13).

References:

(1) Weitemeyer, M.: Klassifikationssystemer og klassifikationsdata i udlandet 1975. Copenhagen 1976. 56 p.
(2) Mölgaard-Hansen, R.: UDC, DC, and LC in competition on the domain of the university library. In: Tidskrift för Dokumentation 24 (1968) No. 1, p. 12–16.
(3) Weitemeyer, M., Tiedje, A.: Rapport til overbibliotekaren, Odense Universitetsbibliotek. Tre klassifikationssystemers mulige anvendelighed. Odense 1967.
(4) Foskett, A. C.: The subject approach to information. London 1969. 310 p.
(5) Gutachten zur Frage einer Einheitsklassifikation für die Bibliotheken der Bundesrepublik Deutschland. Berlin: Büchereiverband. Arbeitsstelle für das Büchereiwesen 1972. 152 p. = Bibliotheksdienst Beiheft 78/79.
(6) Maltby, A. (Ed.): Classification in the 1970's. London 1972. 269 p.
(7) Coward, R. E.: MARC International. In: Libri 21 (1971) p. 132.
(8) Salomonsen, A., Weitemeyer, M.: National bibliographies and automation. Bibliographies nationales et automation. Intermarc Group. Copenhagen, May 1975. 32 p.
(9) Pomassl, G.: Synoptic table concerning the current national bibliographies. (IFLA).
(10) Fleischer, D.: AfB. Kolloquium Einheitsklassifikation in Frankfurt am 3. u. 4. Okt. 1974. In. Bibliotheksdienst (1974) p. 544–548.
(11) Schultheis, J.: Die doppelt notierte Einheitsklassifikation. In: Buch u. Bücherei (1975) p. 68–69, 72.
(12) Rigby, M.: Computers and the UDC. A decade of progress. The Hague: FID 1974. 108 p. (=FID 523).
(13) Austin, D.: PRECIS. A manual. London 1974. 551 p.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

The DDC Allerton House Conference

Sponsored by Forest Press and the Graduate School of Library Science, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign the 21 st Annual Allerton Library Institute was devoted to the topic "Major Classification Systems: the Dewey Centennial". It took place Nov. 9–12, 1975 in Monticello, Illinois, with an attendance of almost 100 participants. The following ten lectures were presented and discussed: *C. David Batty:* Library classification: 100 years after Dewey. *John P. Comraromi:* The historical development of the Dewey Classification System. *Margaret E. Cockshutt:* Dewey today: an analysis of recent editions. *Mary Ellen Michael:* Dewey today: The United States and Canada; a survey of users. – *Joel C. Downing:* Dewey today: the British and European scene. – *Gordon Stevenson:* The Library of Congress Classification scheme and its relation to Dewey. – *Peter Lewis:* Factors in the selection of a classification scheme for a large general library. – *John Rather:* Bibliographic searching by classification in an automated system. – *Derek Austin:* The role of indexing in subject retrieval. – *Paule Rolland-Thomas:* The role of classification in subject retrieval in the future.

European Centenary Seminar on the DDC

September 26–30, 1976, Banbury, Great Britain: 40 librarians from 18 European countries and the United States met on occasion of the 100th anniversary of the publication of the first edition of Melvil Deweys Decimal Classification (DDC). Just days of celebration and commemoration? By no means!

Users exchanged experience. Practitioners of different colors became acquainted with the editor of the DDC, Ben Custer of the Library of Congress. He and the publishers (Forest Press) endeavored once again to determine the future commitments of the DDC in an international library community, in which effort they sometimes seemed to be looking ahead to *the next hundred years* of Decimal Classification!

In addition to a few orientation addresses, e. g. by *R. K. Gardner* on the use of the DDC in North America, the seminar had three thematic centers of interest, namely:
(1) Cooperation in the library field between Washington and London (i. e. between the USA and the UK) in the further development of the DDC and the preparation of a new edition – a cooperation which, as is well known, came about only in the past 10 years (papers by *R. Sweeney, J. Downing,* and *B. Custer).*
(2) Problems of the translation of the DDC into other languages and in particular of its transposition and transposability into other civilizations: the question at issue here was the practical application of the DDC in countries and cultures presenting non-negligible differences from conditions in the USA and Great Britain (papers by *G. Guillien, M. Pelletier,* and *C. Rovira).*

https://doi.org/10.5771/0943-7444-1976-2-93 https://www.inlibra.com/de/page/agb - Open Access -