

senting papers at the FID/CR International Study Conferences on Classification Research in Elsinore, Denmark in 1964 and in Bombay in 1975. She was a prolific author and wrote more than 70 articles on topics ranging from the history of science and medicine to technical articles on various aspects of library and information science, including her primary interest - classification. Always interested in new approaches to the use of classification, in 1977 Richmond spent time at the British Library studying PRECIS and its application. The result was a book entitled *An Introduction to PRECIS for North American Usage*.

Professor Richmond was an ardent supporter and scholar of the work of the Classification Research Group (UK) and was a corresponding member of the Group and an instigator in an attempt to form a similar group in the US. From the outset she embraced both library science and information science contributing much to the eventual coalescence of the two disciplines. Over time her contributions were honoured by both groups. In 1968 the American Documentation Institute (later ASIS) presented her with its Technical Referee Award and in 1972 she received the Award of Merit from ASIS "for her contribution to the understanding of the theory and practice of subject analysis, in general and classification in particular". In the American Library Association she worked enthusiastically, serving as a committee member and chair, as a speaker at conferences and workshops and as assistant editor for *Library Resources & Technical Services*. She also served as a consulting editor for *International Classification* (now *Knowledge Organization*) and was a member of the editorial board of the *Journal of the American Society for Information Science*. For her contributions to library science, in 1977 Professor Richmond was awarded the Margaret Mann Citation by the American Library Association for her outstanding contribution "in the fields of cataloging and classification as a writer, scholar, practitioner, teacher, and contributor of common sense and wisdom." Her expertise and her creative insight will be sadly missed. However, she has provided a legacy for those who follow to carry on.

### IFLA Section on Classification and Indexing

In its Annual Report for 1996-1997, the Chair, Donna Duncan (Canada), reported on a number of projects being carried out by the Section. The Working Group on Principles Underlying Subject Heading Languages (SHLs) has completed the major portion of its work and a document went out for a six-month world-wide review in May of 1997. At the IFLA Conference in Beijing a draft document had been reviewed and a decision made to add a Russian contribution

but not to include MeSH subject headings because they represent a specialized subject heading system. The enhanced review document includes an overview of examples from ten subject heading systems and nine countries. The Working Group, chaired by Maria Inês Lopes (Portugal) is considering revisions with a view to producing a final document for the 1998 IFLA Conference in Amsterdam. In conjunction with the project on the State of the Art Survey of Subject Heading Systems, a Working Group of Dorothy McGarry and Edward Swanson (USA) had been established to analyze the survey responses and to recommend future action. Their recommendation was that national libraries who had not responded and even those who did need to be re-contacted in order to obtain initial information or to determine the nuances of subject heading systems in use. The project was re-examined during the Section's Standing Committee Meetings in Copenhagen.

Another major project of the Section has been to prepare a report on the *Requirements for a Format for Classification Data*. The seven page report has been approved and is available on the Internet ([www.ifla.org/VII/s29/projects/rep1.html](http://www.ifla.org/VII/s29/projects/rep1.html)). In a related discussion, the Joint Working Group's subcommittee recommended that "a separate UNIMARC format for Classification data" be created. The format will parallel the content and development of the MARC Format for Classification Data, so as to make possible the interchange of classification data represented in either format. This recommendation was accepted by the permanent UNIMARC Committee in March 1997 and work is going forward.

At the 1997 IFLA Conference in Copenhagen, the Section held a program at which 3 papers on classification matters were presented. As is the custom of the Section, one of the papers presented came from the country in which the Conference was located. Hanne Albrechtsen (Denmark) presented a paper on "The Order of Catalogues: Towards Democratic Classification and Indexing in Public Libraries" Albrechtsen's concern is one of how knowledge should be structured in digital libraries which combine text, graphics, pictures, sound, etc. In her presentation, she focused on Database 2001, a project of a Danish public library. Designed as a virtual library on the web, menus were designed as graphical layers of icons representing user groups and kinds of materials available. The subject icons in the databases went through several revisions. Efforts were made to use standard DDC class numbers and it was found that users found the classification difficult to understand. As a result the research team experimented with a more pragmatic and much more weakly structured classification designed to reflect the kinds of questions actually posed by different user groups. While the resulting

structure might appear to be "incorrect" or "illogical" it reportedly worked for children. In this context, Albrechtsen also referred to similar experiments, in particular the Bookhouse System for browsing by children developed by Annelise Pejtersen in the 1980s and a strategy for indexing images and fiction, called "democratic indexing:" developed by Rob Hidderley and Pauline Rafferty in England.

In the latter system users and librarians were asked to index images at different levels of indexing. The results are then reconciled in a "shared vocabulary" for searching. The project takes a different approach to the problems of access to accommodate dissent and to create classificatory structures functioning as boundary objects. Both systems engage users in the production of the classification systems. Albrechtsen sees the role of classification systems changing towards "a role as social instruments, facilitating communication and cooperation in the open, distributed environment of the modern electronic library." She also discussed the importance of local classification systems developed by libraries and their communities. These are seen as replacing standard schemes such as DDC. While the "readers interest" approach is not unknown in the past, Albrechtsen recognizes in her conclusions a chance that "user-oriented catalogues and vocabularies will follow a mechanistic conception of knowledge, instead of a social view." She cautions that "future development of democratic indexing and cooperative classification needs to be guided by a theory of knowledge and gain more consciousness of the underlying relationship between user access in libraries and collective knowledge structures, that are the basis for knowledge production.

In her paper "The Varied Usage of the Dewey Decimal Classification System at the Bibliothèque nationale de France" Suzanne Jouguelet (France) discussed the reasons for choosing DDC, its application to the library's reading room collections, the signposting of the collections, and the computer system involved. Finally, she addressed future developments, including the forthcoming French edition of the DDC 21. Beginning in 1991, the staff of the Bibliothèque nationale de France was concerned with its open access collections and the choice of a classification scheme. Discussion considered the alternatives of developing a new scheme and a choice from among DDC, UDC and the Library of Congress Classification. Preference was given to DDC because of the soundness of the editorial work, its capacity for change, the diversity of DDC tools offered and the plans for the publication of a French translation of DDC 21. It was felt that DDC is readily adaptable to current knowledge; it has a logical and flexible arrangement; the notation is simple and mnemonic; it has an excellent index; and the computerized version

of the schedules allows for easy manipulation of the schedules. For the moment only the collections on open access in the reading rooms at the library's Tolbiac site have been classified by DDC but over the next 5 years the open access collections will grow to more than 700,000 volumes. The library is subject divided for both public and technical services operations and the classification project began using the English language edition of DDC 20 supplemented with French translation of the intermediate edition. Since the Summer of 1996, the English edition of DDC 21 has been used while awaiting the French edition of DDC 21. Jouguelet explained that considerable adaptation has taken place because the five departments and their reading rooms are not divided strictly on DDC's disciplinary lines. For example "the science and technology department not only refers to classes 5 and 6 but also to 0 for general works and computers, 1 for psychology and 3 for the sociology of science". The use of DDC for shelf arrangement represents a third level arrangement after department and subject. Thus the process required a long period of reflection and decision. In order to facilitate the classification process, a call number allocation unit which functions across departments was established in the Spring of 1994. This unit developed call number allocation rules and established lists of call numbers by subject, collaborating with cataloguers and acquisition specialists. In 1994 a Dewey coordinator was appointed for each department.

Every effort has been made to maintain "readability" and "logical" arrangement. Among the adaptations are the bringing together of language (class 4) and literature (class 8) for each linguistic area. Among other problems addressed were the handling of ethnology, geography and sociology. Ultimately, the adaptation led to a manual of call numbers first compiled in 1993. Eventually it grew to 10,000 call numbers, but has remained stable since 1995. Some new numbers have been created and labelled "non-Dewey number". Special groupings were also made for a corpus of works by and about authors (criticism, biographies, etc) in disciplines such as literature and philosophy. Non-Dewey numbers represent approximately 16% of the class numbers assigned. Jouguelet also described a method of "signposting" to aid in the answering of questions directly linked to the location of the collections in the reading rooms. Three levels of signposting were established - on the sides of shelves, on the tops of shelves and, at the most detailed level, on the edges of the shelves themselves. The basis for this was the DDC hierarchical levels. The computer system has been set up so that a thematic search permits identification and location of materials: 1) by area in which a room is chosen and a list of its subjects is displayed along with a plan on

how to get to the room; 2) by subject with a subject tree display, and 3) by carat leading to an area in a room.

The DDC system will in future also be used for materials received on legal deposit and there is a project for the construction of a DDC number authority file which will be closely linked to the subject authority file. The system and its development and management will be monitored and evaluated. The DDC 21 French edition will be introduced upon its expected completion in 1998. It is hoped that with this translation "certain adaptations ... may be proposed for France in specific fields such as administration, law and history."

In a third paper Steven Pollitt (United Kingdom) discussed "The Key Role of Classification and Indexing in View-Based Searching". In his presentation, Pollitt addressed "the potential for using knowledge structures in user interface" in online retrieval. "View-based searching seeks to exploit the classified arrangements in thesauri and existing classification schemes to improve performance." Pollitt described a system called HIBROWSE, an interface developed for EMBASE, a database published by Elsevier Science that contains 7 million records which reference biomedical literature. HIBROWSE demonstrates the power of its approach to retrieval and is strongly related to faceted classification. The relevance of this approach is discussed in the context of OPACS and the author concludes that research into classification and indexing is becoming more relevant than ever. In his introduction Pollitt reviewed the contributions of such classification theorists as Pauline Cochrane, Charles Hildreth, Jean Aitchison and Alan Gilchrist, Ranganathan and the Classification Research Group. Briefly he discussed the background to view-based searching with reference to CANSEARCH and its use of MeSH. Following this he described the nature of HIBROWSE. The EMTREE thesaurus concerning diseases was used. This vocabulary is divided into 15 facet hierarchies and the system allows a user to select a topic by displaying various "views" (e.g. by disease site, by therapy and by age group) and records are retrieved using the facets and post co-ordination. This device is seen as an improved means for searching OPACS. In conclusion the author stated that "the role of classification and indexing is crucial to our continuing development and systems which take advantage of the evolving ways to represent knowledge structures at the user interface will ensure a higher quality and more rewarding experience in our lifelong learning."

## Dewey Decimal Classification

OCLC Forest Press has a very active research and development programme. There is much useful information on DDC and related activities at the OCLC website which can be accessed through <http://www.oclc.org/oclc/fp> and which is well worth visiting by researchers, practitioners, educators and students. A brief resume of the highlights is given here.

At the ALA 1998 Mid-Winter Meeting in New Orleans, DDC Editor Joan Mitchell announced that *Dewey for Windows* (Version 1.1) is available from OCLC Forest Press. This version includes database updates and several new features to enhance classifier productivity. It also includes *Decimal Classification Additions, Notes and Decisions (DC&)*, vol. 6, no. 1. A Cuttering function has also been added to version 1.1 and there is a project afoot at OCLC to add book numbers to DDC numbers in WorldCat and to Cutter new entries automatically. In December 1997, OCLC Forest Press began to offer a new subscription option for CatCD for windows with LC Subject Authorities to be included with *Dewey for Windows* on the same disc.

The Decimal Classification Editorial Policy Committee (EPC) met in Washington in November 1997. At this meeting the EPC was beginning a period of refocusing and strategic planning in preparation for research and development of DDC 22. As a lead-in to discussions Nancy Williamson presented a think piece on "Discipline-based Classification in an Interdisciplinary World" and provided a brief report on the functions and activities of the Universal Decimal Classification. During the working sessions of the meeting the Committee addressed three major concerns - user input, the role and purpose of the EPC in the development of the Classification and potential joint projects with other organizations. In this context discussion of user input centred around a mini-survey conducted by the DDC Committee of the Library Association in the UK. In terms of role and purpose, Susi Woodhouse, EPC representative from the UK, made a presentation suggesting how the "EPC might evolve to respond to the increasingly international nature of Dewey and the critical importance of user input, and to assume an increasingly strategic advisory role". The EPC is also very interested in co-operation and liaison with related organizations. Among other things, the UDC Consortium and OCLC Forest Press are exploring areas for potential cooperation which could benefit both systems. While in its beginnings UDC was derived from DDC and although the two systems have evolved separately, they have much in common.