2) in 944 (French history) and T2 -44 (Geographic subdivisions for France), extra numbers have already been developed in France from existing ones. The authors think however that this does not yet go far enough in representing the historical and geographical realities of their country and civilization;
3) conceptual and terminological problems are so prevalent in 340 (Law) that Béguet, Jouguelet and Naudi declare this part of the schedule irrelevant to the French legal system. The authors compare the process of integrating French legal concepts into the existing structure to trying to fit "well-defined objects into improperly shaped slots" (p. 29). 346 (Civil Law) does not allow for classification of the general subject or of its specific structure (people, property, obligations, etc.) Administrative law is too vastly dispersed. The authors offer suggestions as to how many problems relating to the coverage of the law of most countries could be solved in the DDC. The French team obviously resents the fact that the many suggestions made were not integrated in the final version of DDC21 in French, and denounces inconsistencies in decisions made by the editor.

In "French Dewey: potential influence in development of the DDC," Julianne Beall describes the types of changes that are practical for such a system as Dewey. Having explained how changes in class numbers hurt libraries that don't have the money to reclassify, Beall suggests ways of updating the schedules with minimal damage on that front: prefer simple expansions, avoid complete revision of parts of the schedule, avoid reusing a class number with a different meaning. She sees copy cataloguing across linguistic boundaries as "a compelling reason to keep [the] different language editions similar" (p. 36) to the original English one and to each other. The author describes the mechanisms of cooperation between the DDC editorial committee and national libraries or professional associations, with particular emphasis on the production of the French version of DDC 21. In what appears as a response to the preceding paper, Beall explains why a complete revision of T2 -44 is not deemed warranted at this time; she does, however, stress the fact that changes to the geographical tables are being discussed with French specialists. She also addresses the many problems around the representation of the legal domain, admitting that "the rationale is that Roman Law and Common Law systems are so different that no one law schedule can serve both adequately" (p. 43).

Annie Béthery, in "Teaching the DDC in French: the Université de Paris X-Nanterre experience" provides a long description of the various stages of training for a library career in France; all of us who have been through this type of training and those of us who now train others will not find anything particularly novel or even interesting in this description. The paper becomes more engaging when Béthery reminds us that DDC was introduced in France, relatively late in the history of the classification, following the implementation of policies designed to increase reading among citizens. The author explains how she conceived what was to become the widely popular *Édition abrégée* (Abridged edition) when she found herself having to simultaneously classify and index a large collection, and teach professionals to do this work without the help of French-language tools. The *Édition abrégée*[3] has kept abreast of changes in the full edition of DDC, and it is now used in nearly all municipal and departmental libraries, in school and college documentation and information centres, and at the Bibliothèque nationale.

*Dewey Decimal Classification: Francophone perspectives* will be entertaining reading for anyone interested in the history and the development of the classification scheme. The reader must know, however, that all papers included are structured around anecdotes rather than around theoretical or even practical proposals relating to the development of multilingual and multicultural knowledge representation tools, and that it adds little to the existing literature in this area.

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SOSIŃSKA-KALATA, Barbara. **Modele organizacji wiedzy w systemach wyszukiwania informacji o dokumentach.** [Models of knowledge organization in documentary information retrieval systems]. Warszawa : Wydawnictwo SBP, 1999. 387 p. ISBN 83-97629-22-7.

The latest work of Dr. Barbara Sosińska-Kalata (the preceding great work of this author was an extensive

3 Béthery, Annie. *Abrégé de la Classification décimale de Dewey*. Nouvelle éd. à partir de la XXIe éd. intégrale en langue anglaise. Paris : Cercle de la Librairie, 1998. 317 p. ISBN 2-76540-682-0.

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UDC handbook: its two consecutive editions came out respectively in 1993 and 1995) is devoted – in conformity with its title – to models of knowledge organization in information retrieval systems (IRS). The author confines herself, quite reasonably considering the bulk of the subject, to the presentation of documentary IRS, i.e. to such systems which refer to documents describing facts and not directly to the facts as such.

The book under review consists of three main parts. The first part, entitled "Public and private knowledge in a documentary information retrieval system," presents the general conception of the interpretation of knowledge which participates in the interaction occurring between an IRS (and the representation of public knowledge that is contained in it) on the one hand, and the system's user (and the cognitive structures of private knowledge which are typical of him or her) on the other hand.

The second part is essentially devoted to the user's personal knowledge, and constitutes a review of selected hypotheses and theories relating to those mechanisms of the cognitive systems and structures of knowledge organization as they are described in the literature of psychology and cognitive science.

The third part of the book is the most extensive and important. It contains the analysis of principles shaping the organization of knowledge in documentary IRS. This part is divided into five chapters that deal respectively with the following problems:

- the kinds of knowledge projection in documentary IRS, and a tentative typology of these IRS;
- the categories of knowledge projection in a system;
- the structuring of knowledge in traditional documentary systems;
- the structuring of knowledge in intelligent documentary systems;
- the representation of knowledge uncertainty.

The reference list contains more than 500 items. Familiarization with the content of the book is facilitated by an index which combines the features of a name index with those of a subject one.

By publishing *Models of knowledge organization,* Sosińska-Kalata has significantly advanced the theory and methodology of designing information retrieval languages (IRL) and IRS (which can be considered a sub-discipline of science since it is a common part of formal linguistics and information science), especially at the point where this sub-discipline comes into contact with cognitive science and psychology. The author has formulated many important conclusions and introduced many valuable distinctions and definitions. She has distinguished four basic classes of knowledge structure projection used in documentary IRS, and two basic features of public and personal knowledge projection (its structuralization and uncertainty). Sosińska-Kalata proposes the following typology of documentary IRS:

class of traditional systems
  manual traditional systems
  computer traditional systems
    offline systems
    online systems
class of intelligent systems
  non-adaptive intelligent systems
  adaptive intelligent systems

Let us draw attention to the fact that Sosińska-Kalata has classed non-intelligent online systems among traditional ones!

The book under review is written in Polish: this will unfortunately constitute a major hindrance for many of its potential readers. A summary and a table of contents in English are, however, available.

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HARVEY, Ross. **Organising knowledge in Australia : Principles and policies in libraries and information centres**. Wagga Wagga, N.S.W. : Charles Sturt University ; Riverina : Centre for Information Studies, 1999. xiv, 317 p. (Topics in Australian Library and Information Studies; no. 15). ISBN 0949060860 (Pbk).

Australia, an early player in the field of library automation, has contributed a sizeable input to the development of international bibliographic standards. The recent appointment of Giles Martin as a Dewey Decimal Classification assistant editor, the first such appointment outside the United States, may confirm this assertion. This book records, describes, and evaluates local practices and issues in bibliographic organisation and information access in Australia, and it presents Australian solutions to some of the problems encountered in knowledge organisation. Bibliographic organisation is very broadly defined here as the process of making information and documents in libraries and information centres accessible. It subsumes nearly the

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