

general of ASTED and the organization responsible for the translation. Cabral outlined the perspectives from which the work was viewed. He also discussed the need for such a translation in Canada (particularly Quebec) and in France, described the function of the scientific committee under which the work was done, referred to the financing of the project and the distribution of the completed product

The work of translation was discussed by Raymonde **Couture-Lafleur** (Canada) in his paper "The French Translation of the Dewey Decimal Classification : the Making of a DDC Translation." His presentation referred to the process, the problems and difficulties encountered and indicated that there are "both good things and bad things" about the revisions of this kind. Specifically, here was a need to comply with the English version, so that and some entries were kept were "closer to the English world than to the French reality", but at the same time it was necessary to make some concessions to the needs of French libraries. Not surprisingly he indicates that "a strict translation does impose restrictions, but it also has the advantage of providing a more secure framework". Education and Law were areas where modifications were needed to better reflect French reality. Similarly for French History and Quebec History needed augmentation. The author had words of advice for others who launch into similar projects. The translators must be aware of the enormity of the task and the need for careful preparation and make careful choices at the outset. Those involved must be competent, reliable and efficient and the coherence of the total work has to be kept in view.

Julianne **Beall** (USA), Assistant Editor of DDC, examined the "French Dewey: Potential Influence on Development of DDC." In her discussion, she focused on the content and process of change intended to improve the DDC for world wide use. In doing so she discussed the potential influence of recommendations for change in four areas: the History of France (944.0+), the History of Quebec (971.40+), the Area table for France (T2-44+) and Law (340). Beall began by outlining the dilemma of change to meet needs for the international use of DDC while trying to maintain a stable system for those with large collections already classified in existing class numbers. "How can the pain be minimized?" Beall's basic recommendations are to prefer simple expansions were possible as opposed to restructuring and relocations; to restructure only when it is really needed; to avoid complete revisions where possible; and to avoid the reuse of the name numbers with different meanings. Further she stressed the importance of keeping language editions synchronized and included a brief look at some other translations, namely the Turkish, Spanish and Italian editions. Each of the four areas topics subject to ma-

ior change were discussed in some detail. In each case Beall raised possible alternative ways of approaching problems and outlined the reasons for certain solutions.

Finally a presentation on the "French Translation of Dewey Decimal Classification: Assessment and perspectives from the Scientific Contribution by the Bibliothèque nationale de France" was prepared by Bruno **Béguet**, Suzanne **Jougelet** and Max **Naudi**. The particular aspect of the work carried out by the Bibliothèque nationale de France was the proofreading and editing of the text which had been translated. Their mandate was to verify proper use of vocabulary, appropriate usage and quality of content. Their paper describes the process which was undertaken, and translation problems encountered including the North America bias of the original text. As part of their analysis the authors present a detailed study of three of the domains requiring major modification - Education, French history and Law - which presented problems the French members of the team because of differences in terminological, cultural and content requirements. The business of translation is not easy especially when the communication is across continents. However, the members of the team found the undertaking both "stimulating" and "difficult" while enhancing the quality of exchanges both internal and external to the Bibliothèque nationale de France. In their final words, the authors agreed that "evolution and openness, are needed even though the pitfalls of enlarging the tables by adding too narrow national concepts should be avoided." The papers were available at the conference in both English and French. For further information contact: e-mail Dewey@loc.gov. or Joan Mitchell, editor, Dewey Decimal Classification, Library of Congress, Decimal Classification Division, fax +1 202 707 0279, phone +1 202 707 5265.

## DDC News

In the August 1998 "Dewey Decimal Classification Update" it was announced that the first update disc (Version 1.1) of Dewey for Windows is now available from OCLC Forest Press. This version includes changes announced in *Decimal Classification Additions, Notes and Decisions (DC&)*, selected LCSH/DDC mapping from the Dewey home page, additional built numbers, a cuttering function and the OCLC Four-Figure Cutter Tables as well as the *Dewey for Windows Guide*, the online companion guide to help classifiers use the system. The next update (Version 1.2) will be available in late 1998. Among the changes will be the inclusion of the revised area tables for South Africa and the United Kingdom. Version 2.1 will be the final version under Windows 3.1. Beginning in 1999, future versions will be 32-bit applications using Windows NT 4.0+ or Windows 95.

The final draft of the revised area table for South Africa has been available for comment on the Dewey home page and final comments were to be received by September 11, 1998. The revised area table for the United Kingdom is to be issued in the Fall of 1998 along with the South Africa Table. The editors are studying ways of improving Table 3 for literature and a discussion paper is available on the Dewey home page and comments are requested by December 31, 1998. Beginning with vol. 6, no.2, *DC&* will become an electronic publication and will no longer be published in printed form. (Home page address: <http://www.oclc.org/fp/>).

The Decimal Classification Editorial Policy Committee (EPC) is formulating its plans for the next five years. An editorial work plan for 1998-2003 has been approved. The removal of Table 7 (Groups of persons) from the Classification has been approved, as has a plan for limited regularization of geographic treatment in the 700s. Considerable work is being carried out in the area of translation. As indicated above the French translation of Edition 21 has just been published. The Russian translation is expected in the Fall of 1998 and ALECSO (Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization) has signed a contract to produce an Arabic translation of Edition 21. An Arabic edition of Abridged edition 12 was published earlier in 1998. In addition, work is nearing completion on the Italian edition of Edition 21 and a Spanish translation is projected for August 1999.

### IFLA Section on Classification and Indexing

At the 64th IFLA General Conference in Amsterdam, the Chair of the Section on Classification and Indexing, Professor Ia **McIlwaine** reported on several projects being carried out by the Section. The Working Group on Principles Underlying Subject Heading Languages (SHLs) has completed its work. The final report went out for world wide review at the end of 1997, agreement was reached on some minor changes and final version completed and validated. The report was to be ready for publication at the end of June 1998. At the Copenhagen conference in 1997, IFLA's Joint Working Group on a Format for Classification Data recommended that a UNIMARC format for Classification data to parallel the MARC format developed in the USA be prepared. The Section is represented on the working group and the work on the format is going forward. In 1996 the Standing Committee of the Section had a project to carry out a "State of the Art Survey on Subject Headings" The survey, which was sent out to national libraries around the world, was intended to gather data on subject indexing languages used for the purposes of

national bibliography and catalogues of national libraries, and on classifications used instead of, or in addition to, verbal indexing systems. Because of low response, it was decided to do a follow-up, and a second questionnaire was sent out in January 1998 to 110 countries which had not answered the first questionnaire. There was encouraging response, and while the results did not provide a great detail on the systems used, it was felt that the contacts made with colleagues in the national libraries was valuable for purposes of future contacts. There was discussion at the Amsterdam Conference to determine how the data could best be disseminated. IFLANET might be a possibility. As one of its activities the Standing Committee has been invited to participate in the forthcoming conference on National Bibliographic Services to be held in Copenhagen, Nov. 27-29, 1998. Professor McIlwaine will represent the Section at the conference and a discussion paper on the role of the subject approach in national bibliographies was prepared for the Conference by Lois **Chan** and Ia McIlwaine. The paper had been circulated to Standing Committee Members in December 1997.

During the 64th IFLA Conference in Amsterdam, the Section on Classification and Indexing sponsored a programme in which three papers were presented. Following the Section's tradition of presenting at least one paper on classification and indexing from the host country, Gerhard **Riesthuis** and R **Storm** (Netherlands) gave a paper on "GOO: Dutch National System of Subject Indexing". This system is used in the Dutch Union Catalogue (NCC) which integrates the catalogues of about 400 Dutch libraries. The catalogue uses the Dutch "Basic-Classification" (BC) and a national subject heading system call the "Gemeenschappelijke Trefwoordenthesaurus" (GTT). The catalogue can be searched on a large number of access points including subject headings and classification notations. The BC, available in Dutch, English and German, can be found on the Internet. It is a broad classification of 48 main classes and some 2200 subclasses. Its main purpose is to serve as an overview of available literature. In addition to "normal" descriptors the GTT contains geographical descriptors, corporate names, titles and names of works of art, bibliographic form descriptors, literary genres, and names of events, drugs, and other objects.

In a second paper, Andrew **MacEwan** (United Kingdom) discussed "Working with LCSH: the Cost of Cooperation and the Achievement of Access: A Perspective from the British Library". This paper has its roots in the fact that in 1995 the British National Bibliography reinstated the use of the Library of Congress Subject Headings - a result of retrenchment and the need to cut costs. MacEwan examines the situation that has developed at the British Library and