MALTBY, Arthur: **Sayer's Manual of Classification for Librarians.** London: A. Deutsch 1975. 5. Ed. 336 p., size B5, refs, index. £ 4.95. ISBN 0 233 96603 X.

William Charles Berwick Sayers (1881–1960) will be certainly always considered as one of the greatest men among those who ever dealt with library classification. The appearance of a new edition of Sayer's Manual is always an event of great importance for those who have derived from this manual their fundamental knowledge of library classification; this also was the case of the author of this review.

However, there is an essential difference between the new fifth edition and the previous (fourth) one, of 1967. W. C. B. Sayers was still mentioned as the author of the fourth edition, though it had been "completely revised and partly re-written by Arthur Maltby" (quotation from the title page of the fourth edition), whereas the present fifth edition is a book written by A. Maltby; the name of W. C. B. Sayers appears only in the title ("Sayers' Manual of Classification for Librarians"). We can learn from the preface to the fifth edition that it "is virtually a new work, although a little "Sayers material" remains, notably in Chapter One and Chapter Seven"[1]. Somewhat further (on the next page of the preface) the author states that he thinks "the Manual represents the kind of book Sayers would write today".

The whole material is divided into twenty chapters, which are grouped in five sections. Section One is the most theoretical: it is devoted to the principles of library classification. Such problems as subject analysis, achievement of helpful order and notation are discussed and exemplified on the basis of "traditional" classifications as well as on the ground of faceted schemes (mainly CC); the problem of evaluating a classification is also discussed. In Section Two the history of classification is briefly presented; it is divided into two periods: before and after Dewey. In Section Three the review of the major five general (universal) classification systems (DDC, UDC, LCC, CC and BC) is done. We must note that the author has omitted Brown's Subject Classification (SC), which had been discussed in all previous editions of Sayers' Manual. Readers will regret the lack of tables, containing outlines of above-mentioned schemes; such outlines were inserted (in the form of pasted insets) into all previous editions. There is a small inaccuracy in the chapter devoted to UDC (Chapter Ten): square brackets are used in UDC as a device for forming subgroups composed of two or more simple numbers within a complex one, and not to indicate that one of two subjects is of a secondary importance and should be subordinated to the other one; for this purpose the double colon (omitted in the book of A. Maltby) is used. The review of existing general classification schemes is followed by a chapter in which the author presents some ideas how to build a new general classification system; this chapter reflects the ideas and theories formulated by the members of the (British) Classification Research Group (J. Farradane, D. J. Foskett, B. I. Palmer, D. Austin and others); a short description of PRECIS (preserved context subject indexing system used for the British Bibliography since 1971) is given.

Section Four is the most practice-oriented one: it is devoted to the classification policy and practice; i. a. the problem of selection of the most appropriate classification scheme is touched. Section Five is entitled "Classification for Information Indexing and Retrieval". The problem of choice between special and general classification is raised here. In the opinion of the author the possible rejection of any "formal" classification in favour of natural language indexing is a serious danger for classification schemes, particularly in special libraries. These considerations are followed by the discussion of various sides of the problem "classification and computer". In the author's mind some of the most interesting (from a classification viewpoint) are these computer-based systems, which have used UDC.

A partly annotated bibliography is annexed to each section. The book is provided with an alphabetical index of names and subjects.

The book of A. Maltby is certainly not destined for people who would want to acquire a considerable skill in using one single classification system (e. g. UDC). It is rather intended for those who are willing to get a good, well founded knowledge of classification in general. It seems to be especially useful for lecturers and teachers of classification and indexing languages.

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1 Chapter One (in the frame of Section One) is entitled "Value of Systematic Arrangement in Libraries". In Chapter Seven (within Section Two) the history of classification before Dewey is presented.

DAY, Stacey B. (Ed.): **Communication of Scientific Information.** Basel: S. Karger. München: Verlag Dokumentation 1975. 239 p., 8 figs., 10 tabls., DM 60,–

Collection of 22 contributions dealing mainly with the basic problem: to analyze the influences deriving from the fact that information spreads so widely. Ideas about methods for the distribution of information start to occupy human minds as well as the new terminology inherent in these problems.

Sociological factors of mass media and their influences on interpersonal communication as well as the impact of computerized systems on legislation are discussed. Some details about information transfer in the field of the biosciences round up a good presentation of new advances in bioscientific research.

The essays about nature, development, and interdependencies of various technical languages in the biomedical sciences seem to be of particular importance for thesaurus specialists, providing helpful background information. So-called sublanguages are analyzed according to the mode of how they may function together. The role of in integrated language for all participating languages is similar to the role of a thesaurus as an integrating language of all subclasses of languages belonging to the various disciplines to be represented in a thesaurus. Philosophical aspects of how words are coined by specialists, or how they creep into the vocabulary, are treated and are recommended reading for all theoreticians of classification science.

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