

FID/CR News 49

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A detailed account of the Pre-Conference Seminar on Classification prepared by M.P. Satija was published in the "FID/CR News" 48 in *Knowledge Organization*, volume 25, no. 4 (p. 211-213). Regrettably, the heading, normally given on a separate line in bold type, was buried in the text, obscuring the account and giving the impression that the Seminar was part of the report on the IFLA Section on Classification and Indexing. My sincere apologies to Dr. Satija for this unfortunate error and confusion.

Universal Decimal Classification

Volume 20, 1998 of *Extensions and Corrections to the UDC* was published in November 1998 and is available from the UDC Consortium in The Hague. This annual publication is an essential adjunct to the classification schedules themselves. It is designed to bring UDC users up-to-date on revisions and additions to the classification scheme and to solicit comments and suggestions on proposals for change.

In this issue the "Comments & Communications" section includes a number of brief papers and reports on the status and development of UDC. In "A Time of Change and Challenge" Alan Stevens, Chairman of the Consortium, informs UDC users of recent administrative changes affecting the work of UDC revision. A number of personnel changes have taken place over the past year, including the appointment of a Research Assistant to work with the Editor. On an optimistic note, Stevens points to the continuous improvements being made to UDC under its capable Editor and notes that the Consortium continues to "build ... informal relationships with the management of the Dewey Decimal Classification". A website, now in operation at <http://www.aber.ac.uk/~infolib/udc.html>, is designed to improve the awareness of UDC and to promulgate UDC products. In the "Report of the Editor in Chief", Professor Ia McIlwaine describes the work of revision in greater detail. The appointment of Vanda Broughton, Research Assistant

attached to University College London, is welcome news indeed. Vanda is experienced and highly qualified to work with the research and development of UDC, having worked with Jack Mills on the Bliss Bibliographic Classification (BC2). Her involvement has contributed much to the "steady programme of consistent revision" that has evolved. In 1998, the work of the Editor and her assistant has "concentrated on the auxiliary tables and various approaches have been taken to make their application more logical and standardized". This work has implications for the whole classification and is reflected in the 1998 amendments to the scheme. Two tables in particular have been chosen for scrutiny as the first step. These are Table 1i Common auxiliaries of point of view, and table 1k-05 Common auxiliaries for persons. The Common auxiliaries of point of view table has been cancelled and its contents will be replaced in several different ways. There will be increased use of colored numbers where appropriate; some topics in the table will be relocated with Common auxiliaries of form: and a new auxiliary table of "properties" will be created. Revision of the Common auxiliaries for persons will resolve conflicts, provide for terms previously absent from the table and deal with obsolete terms. The Editor is also tackling the problem of the location of materials on "women". The topic "women" has been removed from the end of class 3 following "Gypsies". Feminism as a philosophical school has been placed in class 14 and a new class for Gender studies has been created at the beginning of class 3. In keeping with this, material on "women" previously in 396, will be brought forward to the beginning of Class 3. In another context, the "enumeration of the various ranks of the armed services has been standardized and a new special auxiliary table has been created at 355.08, which applies throughout 355/359. Later in 1999, the new Common auxiliaries of properties table will be introduced. Other revisions to appear soon include revisions to classes 53 and 54. Also the Common auxiliaries of materials, Table 1k-03, will be revised, as will the special auxiliaries at the beginning of class 62. Work on the new class 61 continues.

Every effort is being made to make the activities in the realm of UDC as well known as possible. In this

regard, the Editor continues to attend meetings, to present papers and give workshops and to speak about UDC at various international conferences and meetings. With the departure of Executive Director, Ben Goedegebuure, the Editor has also attended meetings of the UDC Consortium in her capacity as Chair of FID/CR. Since his appointment as Executive Director, Stephen Parker has taken over the role of "full" member of the Consortium but Professor McIlwaine continues to attend Consortium meetings by invitation, in her role as Editor in chief of UDC. In the final paragraph of her report, the Editor remarks that "a good working pattern for undertaking revisions has been established". At the same time she points to the continued importance of the assistance of experts and users of the scheme. The Consortium is now in the position of being able to "commission" experts to undertake revisions in fields where the Editor and her Assistant are not expert. She also makes a plea for more feedback from users. Without feedback the Editor has to assume that what is being done is satisfactory to users, and it "comes as an unpleasant surprise" when objections are received after changes have been implemented.

As has become the custom, in this issue of *E&C*, "Comments & Communications" are included from a variety of sources. Ia McIlwaine reports on the "IFLA Meeting in Amsterdam" and the status of "The UDC at the Present Time". Three papers discuss UDC in particular user countries. These are: "The use of UDC in Romania", by A. Kiraly, "Ninety Years of the UDC in Polish Libraries", by L.A. Bielicka, and a paper on "Bilingual (English-Czech) UDC Master Reference File on CD-ROM", by M. Balikova, B. Stoklasova and S. Psohlavic. Two papers from the UDC workshop at the IFLA Conference in Amsterdam in 1998 are included. These are a paper describing the "UDC Master Reference File", by Gerhard Riesthuis and Vanda Broughton's paper on "The Revision Process in UDC: an Examination of the Systematic Auxiliary of 'Point-of-View' Using Facet-Analytical Methods". This latter paper is important in terms of current revisions and is an appropriate follow up to a paper on this topic by Geoffrey Robinson which appeared in the 1997 *E&C*. A brief paper by Geoffrey Robinson entitled "BSI and the UDC" provides a discussion of the British Standards Institution and its involvement in UDC from 1943 to the present time. T. Ishikawa has provided a brief annual report for 1997 on INFOSTA, the Japanese classification society, and there is also the annual list of "Recent Publications" related to UDC.

In the "Proposals" section there are two papers directly related to the revision process. Vanda Broughton prepared a paper on "The Development of a

Common Auxiliary Schedule of Property: a Preliminary Survey and Proposal for its Development". This paper provides an analysis of the categories previously represented in Table 1i; discusses the nature of "property" as a category, as well as properties in general and special schemes. It also provides an outline of the proposed auxiliaries property. The paper is very germane to current revisions. "Class 61 - Medicine: Progress on Restructuring", by I.C. McIlwaine and N.J. Williamson briefly describes the status of the work on the revision of Class 61 and presents the proposed schedules for three of the general classes that will provide the foundation for the classes that will deal with the various systems of the body. These general classes include: "611 Anatomy and Physiology", 612 Health Science. Medical Sciences" (general); and "613.1/.4 Health, hygiene and preventive medicine. Environmental health and safety". Since the publication of the *E&C*, work on two additional classes has been virtually completed: "613.5/.9 Curative medicine. Medical care" and "614 Clinical medicine and Pathology". General class "615 Diseases and Pathology" is in progress. When 615 is finished, this will complete much of the work on the general classes and work on the systems of the body can begin. In the section on "Revised UDC Tables" there are 30 pages of revisions from across the classification system – an essential update for users of the scheme. "Annexes" included are related to the "United Kingdom: Administrative Divisions, an Extended Classification", by Geoffrey Robinson and "Proposals for Amending Extended Editions" from the Austrian Standards Institute". As stated in the Robinson paper, these proposals recognize the need for "tables at an extended level of detail ... for one's own country and for certain other users specializing in information about the country concerned."

IFLA Section of Classification and Indexing

At the 65th Council and General Conference of IFLA in Bangkok, Thailand, August 20-28, 1999, the Section on Classification and Indexing will present a programme centred on the theme "Subject Retrieval in a Web Environment". The four papers to be presented include: "Structural and Multilingual Approaches to Subject Access on the Web", by Lois Mai Chan, Xia Lin and Marcia Lei Zeng (USA); "Subject Gateways in Southeast Asia: an Examination of Classification Practices", by Edward Lin Huck Tee (Monash University, Australia); Chinese Translation of DDC: Indexing Problems and Resolutions", by Wang Dongbo, Zhang Qiyu and Hou Hanqing (Na-