evidence of reader resistance to long notations, while library staff find them more helpful for shelving and shelf-tidying than the short notations produced by broad classification, which have to be subdivided alphabetically by author. Libraries do not, of course, have to use the whole notation for shelving purposes – this document could be shelved at PHY LB or PHY L (Australonesian religions).

When I reviewd the second edition of *The Unesco: IBE Education Thesaurus* for *Education Libraries Bulletin*, I tested it against some titles taken at random from *British Education Index*. I decided to try classifying some of these titles by Class J of BC2 and the results were generally satisfactory:

Creativity and curriculum structure JKC EID

Raising of the school leaving age JDR O

Teaching the understanding of developing countries JKT BD3 EIK C

An integrated studies course in the sciences and the humanities in a Nottinghamshire secondary school JKT AZ3 KSC J8EM V

Smoking amongst grammar school girls JNO LFE MG (= Behaviour amongst grammar school girls)

I wonder how many other general classification schemes would be able to cope so well with such specific subjects?

One of the worst features of BC1 was its index, which was often inaccurate as well as being uneconomical (frequently repeating the subdivisions of the schedules) and inconsistent. BC2 being a fully faceted scheme, its indexes list only concepts and therefore are not likely to repeat BC1's lack of economy. I carried out a spot check of the indexes to Classes J, P and Q to test their accuracy and consistency and detected two errors: Examinations should be JFL, not JFD, and Temperance should be QNU ET, not QNU ESS. I should also like to see an entry under Parent-Teacher Relations as well as Teacher-Parent Relations. I could not carry out a spot check of the index to Volume 1, as there is none apart from an inadequate and hard to find index to places.

Another fault of BC1 was its presentation, with lack of pagination for the schedules and scattering of the systematic auxiliary schedules. We now have pagination, and the auxiliary schedules which remain are together in Volume 1, but otherwise I found the presentation of BC2 inferior to that of BC1. Classification schemes are not, it is true, meant to be read continuously, but there are sections of this, particularly in Volume 1, which are designed to be so read and (as I have suggested earlier in this review) deserve to be so read. Unfortunately I cannot recommend them to anybody who is as short-sighted as I am – my bifocal spectacles found them very difficult!

Was it worth doing, and would Bliss have approved of the result? To deal with the second question first, I believe the answer must be "yes". Bliss was a progressive, and he would surely have wanted to take advantage of the work of the other classification genius of the century, Ranganathan, and his followers. Dr. Campbell refers in his biographical note to the appreciative and encouraging letters which Bliss wrote to Ranganathan in 1933 when *Colon Classification* was published.

Was it worth doing? It is not likely to challenge the two giants, Dewey and Library of Congress, even though it is going to be a much better scheme than either. But there are many libraries, especially in Britain, classified by BC1 and it is up to them to accept the challenge of the revision. At least one library, the Tavistock Joint Library in London, has begun to use BC2 and others have indicated their intention of doing so. Publication in parts means that special libraries can take advantage of the revision without having to worry about lack of provision for fringe topics, which might be the case if they compiled their own schedules. Compilers of classification schemes will be able to use the BC schedules as a source of inspiration and ideas – Jack Mills knows that my colleagues and I have been doing this in our revision of *The London Classification of Business Studies*. Yes, it was worth doing and the result is far too good to be regarded simply as an excellent teaching tool, a monument to the dedication of its three compilers, and a memorial to a great American classificationist who had to look outside his own country to find appreciation of his work.

K. G. B. Bakewell

DOWNING, J. C., YELLAND, M. (Eds.): **Dewey International: papers given at the European Centenary Seminar on the Dewey Decimal Classification, held at Banbury, England, 26–30 September 1976**, sponsored by Forest Press and the Library Association. London: Library Association, 1977. 176 p. (Library Association Research Publication no.19)

The Dewey Centenary in 1976 spawned a number of conferences and symposia on both sides of the Atlantic, giving due honor both to the inventor and to the fact that a system conceived more than a century ago is still serving thousands of libraries and their users quite well. The present volume comes from the U.K. where paradoxically the Dewey system has found a larger following than in its homeland and where, above all, it is widely used in the form of classified subject catalogs, and not only as a mere mechanical device for shelf ordering, as is the case universally in the United States. The papers, as the title implies, are mainly devoted to the international aspects of Dewey, and provide some interesting insights into the inner workings of the editorial office, housed in and supported by the Library of Congress, and how the product of the American editors is then applied in other countries, particularly in France and in French-speaking areas of Canada, and in Spain. Other papers deal with the relationship of DDC to the UDC, the importance of the system for Universal Bibliographic Control, and its place in the automated system of subject indexing by PRECIS now used by the British National Bibliography in conjunction with Dewey numbers for a classified sequence and main listing of books. The teaching of Dewey in library schools in the U.K. is also dealt with, and it is gratifying to note that the relationship between DDC and library schools will soon no longer be a one-way street: Mr. Custer announced that the index to the forthcoming 19th edition (due in early 1979) will be tested by teams of library school students as to its effectiveness compared with the more traditional indexes of the 16th and 17th editions. This kind of feedback is urgently needed for the future healthy development of

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the system which, despite dire predictions to the contrary, is still alive and well, not only in Albany, N.Y., but around the globe, as witness Appendix C, which is a list of 47 countries that use the DDC in their national bibliographies. Other appendixes display a French proposal for development of class 300, particularly 329 Political parties, and 336 Public finance, to accommodate specific French conditions (not presently taken care of by Dewey because of its still largely Anglo-American bias). There is also a fairly exhaustive list of readings on Dewey since 1971, with a separate author and subject index.

It is tempting to compare this collection of papers with the one held a year before at the Allerton Park Institute in the United States, Nov. 1976, which at least partially was also devoted to DDC in other countries. The American conference was largely concerned with theoretical and historical aspects, whereas the British one seems on the whole to have been oriented towards the future. Those interested in the Dewey system will be well advised to study both publications; there is only very little overlap and they complement each other in a most felicitous way.

Hans H. Wellisch

VAN SLYPE, Georges: **Conception et Gestion des Systèmes Documentaires**. (Creation and management of documentation systems). Paris: Editions d'Organisation 1977. 264 p. 95 F. ISBN 2-7081-0324-5

This book is reviewed in this journal mainly because it contains a remarkably lucid assessment of the problems of documentary languages (chapter III, pp. 87–125) at the point of confluence of information science and linguistics.

It judiciously compares and differentiates the characteristics and areas of applicability of classification systems and descriptor thesauri.

In the enumeration of the types of semantic relationships (p. 96–97), the author invents a number of new terms, the more or less arbitrary choice of which may be an obstacle to the inexperienced reader. On the other hand, too little is said about the computer management of thesauri and its cost effectiveness.

The book also lists a number of formulae for the determination of the optimal volume of a thesaurus; it misses another formula, presented in 1967 by Vernimb, which may well be based on more logical considerations than those cited.

The book was obviously written by someone who has thought a lot about practical applications of information theory, and who, through his lectures, has learned to pass the message to the reader. In order to show that the book is meant to be read not only by students and lecturers, but also by system users, system operators and system designers, Van Slype has subdivided each chapter into three facets which underline the topics of particular concern for either of these classes of readers.

This is a very interesting feature, which deserves to be extended to other manuals in the future.

Another useful innovation is the condensed presentation, in microfiche form, of those annexes and illustrations the volume of which would have made the book bulky and uneconomic.

The book is presented in such a way as to facilitate its use to the utmost: a variety of type fonts, a number of typology tables, condensed presentation through multiple indentation, etc.

But its most valuable contribution to information science is, without any doubt, chapter II (pp. 46–85) on the psycho-sociology of knowledge transfer. Van Slype reminds us of the fact that all too often the human factor is neglected and underrated in the conception and design of information systems. Extremely interesting facts are uncovered, and statistics are given on the more or less rational behaviour of the producers, the intermediaries and the users of scientific and technical knowledge.

Because of this chapter and because of a large number of innovations of conception and presentation, the book certainly deserves to be translated, at least into English and German, just as Soergel's basic manual on thesauri deserves to be translated into French and German.

L. Rolling

BAHNER, H., FRIEDE, H.-J., HAENDLER, H., SCHOEN, P.J. (Comp.): **Thesaurus Tierische Produktion**. (Thesaurus on Animal Production). Vol. 1: Faceted representation of the vocabulary and special indexes. Vol. 2: Alphabetical index of the thesauruswords with references to the descriptors. 2nd ed. (In German). Stuttgart: Dokumentationsstelle der Universität Hohenheim 1976. 167 + 461 p., DM 75,–

Zweifellos gehört die Dokumentationsstelle der Universität Hohenheim zu den ältesten und bewährtesten Dokumentationsstellen der Bundesrepublik Deutschland. Vor allen Dingen gehört sie zu den ganz wenigen Dokumentationsstellen, an denen neben der Literaturdokumentation schon seit langem eine echte Datendokumentation betrieben wird. Man sollte meines Erachtens keine Gelegenheit vorüber gehen lassen, um immer wieder auf die Notwendigkeit und auf die Bedeutung einer solchen Datendokumentation hinzuweisen, weil wir mit dem Problem der Dokumentation ganz sicher nicht fertig werden, wenn wir uns nur auf die Literaturdokumentation beschränken, die ja nichts weiter als einen ersten Schritt in der notwendigen Richtung darstellt. Dies ist auch der Grund, weshalb ich hier die Pionierarbeiten Haendlers und der Dokumentationsstelle Hohenheim auf dem Gebiete der Datendokumentation von Futtermitteln besonders erwähne.

Der gute Ruf Haendlers und seiner Mitarbeiter sowie die jahrzehntelangen praktischen Erfahrungen der Dokumentationsstelle Hohenheim lassen von vornherein erwarten, daß alles, was an Veröffentlichungen aus diesem Hause kommt, sehr gründlich wissenschaftlich durchdacht und praktisch erprobt ist. Nicht anders verhält es sich mit dem „Thesaurus tierische Produktion". Der Thesaurus umfaßt 2 Bände, von denen der erste die Einführung, eine alphabetische Liste der Deskriptoren, eine facettierte Darstellung des Vokabulars und 2 alphabetische Sonderregister (für Länder und für Nutztierrassen) enthält. Der zweite Band enthält Hinweise für die Benutzung des alphabetischen Registers, eine alphabetische Liste der Deskriptoren und ein alphabetisches Register der Thesauruswörter mit Verweisen auf Deskriptoren.

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