

tial deviations in meaning as clearly shown by the following example:

LC	Dewey	Descriptor
BD646-648	117	Structure of matter and form

At position DDC 117 one will find, however, only "Structure", although with the indication, in small print below this number, "including matter, form order. Class relation of space and matter in 114".

The LCC number BD646-648 stands for a range from – through. Now if one goes to Pt. 2 and looks under DDC 117 one will also find a correlation to BD652 with the Descriptor "Matter and Motion/Force" and the same again under DDC 116 with relation to BD652, although the DDC Tables (Ed. 20 – it is assumed that this edition was used) say at this position "Change – including becoming, cycles, evolution, motion, process".

From this it can be seen that the conceptual identification of the chosen numbers poses problems.

These examples relate to single notations. Most of the correlated numbers are, however, combined ones, especially in the DDC, which, by its policy of tables and schedules, allows for combinations, e.g. of general concepts with geographic ones, whereas the LCC precombines in every class the general concept with a geographic one in its notation, so that most of the LCC numbers in these Conversion Tables are such precombinations. Here are some examples:

LC	Dewey	Descriptor
AM10-101	069.09	Museums, Collecting, History, by place
AM11-13	069.0973	United States

If in some cases there are several possibilities in the DDC to class a certain contents, this is expressed by two numbers, separated by a slash, as e.g.:

LC	Dewey	Descriptor
AM200-401	790.132/069.5	Collectors/Collecting
AM221	790.13209/069.509	History of collecting
AM301-396	790.13209/069.509	Collecting by place
AM303-311	790.132/069.5(0971)	United States

Here it also becomes evident that two identical DDC numbers may be correlated to two different LCC numbers. In some cases this may be due to an error, as e.g. in:

Dewey	LC	Descriptor
012	Z8001-8999	Personal bibliography
012	Z5301-5319	Biography

(The correct DDC number for Biography is 920.)

Regarding the use of these Tables, M.L. Scott said in her introduction: "... is a resource to be used for the conversion of entire libraries, but it will be most frequently used to convert individual MARC records

from bibliographic utilities that include only one classification number. For example, a record concerning a census of India may contain only a Dewey class number when an LC number is needed. These tables will provide that number without the necessity for extensive examination of the LC tables ..."

Unfortunately no subject index is provided giving access to the descriptors of the volume. With respect to the frequent use in the LCC of precombinations with geographic concepts and their indication of relationship to their broader concepts, this might have caused difficulties. One can therefore only hope that the officials of the LCC will sometime reconsider their present practice and introduce geographic auxiliaries for unambiguous identification and easier recognizability in the notation of a combination case.

These Conversion Tables may also be used in studying the weaknesses of the systems in question. It seems to me that they might be helpful in identifying areas for revision.

The Conversion Tables contain of course only those numbers for which a literary warrant exists, so that, as a result, most of the existing numbers of the schedules are not included. One may assume that with the steady growth of classed literature this may change in a distant future to perhaps cover eventually the entire schedules.

For all those who would like to study these Tables with regard to their scientific value, a warning must be expressed: in each case the schedules of the systems need to be rechecked for correctness of the numbers chosen. These Conversion Tables ought to be regarded as a pragmatic tool for the cases mentioned by Ms. Scott. But they show very clearly that not only the classification systems used contain numerous weaknesses, but also that their use leads to many diverging results. Perhaps some of these might have been avoided if the Tables had been carefully checked before printing and presentation to the public.

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FOSKETT, A. C.: *The Subject Access to Information*, 5th Ed. London: The Library Association Publishing, 1996. XV, 456 p. ISBN 1-85604-048-8

Since the mid-1990s we have seen the revision of two most outstanding books devoted exclusively to classification. They are: a revision of Sayers/Maltby's *Manual* by Rita Marcella and Roger Newton (1994), and now of A.C. Foskett's classic by the author himself. The book under review was first published in 1969 and has since been regularly revised (2nd ed.

1971, 3rd ed. 1977, 4th ed. 1982) to catch up with the fastly moving wave front of knowledge organisation and, of course, to meet the constant demand of the text. Computers and now IT have made for many changes in information storage and retrieval. The five editions document the changing shape and growing role of computers in their application to information storage and retrieval. The popularity of this book can be gauged from its translation into Spanish and Portuguese and its transcription into a talking book. This fifth edition was delayed inordinately, but it portrays the current scenario sharply and vividly.

The present edition has not only been thoroughly updated, but has also been recast to reflect the digital environment of the Internet, WWW, CD-ROMs, and of virtual reality and cyberspace. The information revolution with its huge traffic of data in cyberspace and mounds of information in the form of databases has thrown open unique opportunities and challenges in information retrieval. This book is concerned with the discussion of the problems of optimizing our responses to unknown item searches.

This book, divided into five parts, has 28 chapters in all. The first part of seven chapters is devoted to theory and nature of information retrieval systems and the two kinds of indexing languages, *viz.* derived and assigned ones. The section on derived indexes discusses the title-based indexes, keyword indexes and the citation indexes, as well as the role of computers and IT in designing and using such indexes. There is a new and useful chapter on computer-produced indexes. Part II, of eight chapters, is on pre-coordinate indexing: their features and elements such as subject headings, systematic classifications and notation. There is a full account of OPACs in Chapter 15. Part III (Chapters 16-24) continues the theme with some pre-coordinate indexing languages. It discusses, with details, the major classification systems such as DDC, Electronic Dewey (1993), UDC, BC-2, BSO, the Colon Classification and the Library of Congress Classification. The two further chapters are on various subject headings lists. The chapters are up-to-date, and critically descriptive. The author has taken pains to discuss the latest editions and present wider choices in search strategies in the light of many subject access tools available online or in print format. Part IV, of three chapters (25-27), is devoted to some post-coordinate languages, mainly thesauri from sciences, social sciences and arts, and has a new chapter on graphic arts retrieval. Finally, Part V of one chapter only, devoted to future libraries, describes digital libraries, various information storage media, and copyright problems. Complexity of information and information overload are some of the pertinent issues raised at the end. The chapter concisely presents the scenario of digitized and multimedia information on

the Internet or CD-ROMs and their implications. The author correctly emphasises that IT is simply a tool and that cyberspace is a new physical environment. The real purpose of libraries remains the same. Only new opportunities to serve the users have opened up.

The book is not restricted to classification in the narrow sense, rather, indexing languages and tools have been seen in the wider context of information storage and retrieval. It is an integrative book with a holistic approach. No other book integrates so skillfully the purpose and methods of classification and subject access tools with information retrieval, nay, with the overall purpose of libraries. Information retrieval has been seen in the perspective of a total communication pattern. The numerous subject headings in the CIP data of the previous edition reflect the wide range of topics covered in the book: subject cataloguing, indexing, abstracting and indexing, and book classification. Subject analysis, information storage and retrieval and OPACs seem other relevant subject headings for the present edition.

The treatment of concepts is crystal-clear and self-explanatory. The book is richly illustrated with diagrams, current examples and issues. Each chapter is labelled with feature headings, and ends with a concise summary. The references and notes are not only up-to-date, but refer also to continuing current sources for keeping oneself up-to-date. Abbreviations used have been fully spelled in the beginning. Regrettably there is no glossary, which would have proved an icing on this otherwise nutritious and delicious cake. The two indexes, one for names and one for concepts, are useful. Physically the book is flawless and free of misprints except the only one "1984" for 1884 (p. 281).

The text is up-to-date, witty, readable and commentative, which reflects the wide reading and scholarship of the author. The references to a wide variety of books, and their correlation to life and literature, makes the book a useful tool not only for students and teachers, but equally for library technicians and library managers. The book will help to design and reframe our syllabus in information retrieval and knowledge organisation.

The book very much perpetuates the Foskett Family's tradition of scholarship and humanism and never forgets the wider purpose of information and libraries in an age overwhelmed with technology.

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