
P. Dhyani
Department of Library Science and Documentation,
University of Rajasthan

Colon Classification Edition 7 – An Appraisal

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Describes the new features of Edition 7. States the plus points and weaknesses of this edition. Pinpoints the modifications and changes made in the Edition as against Edition 6. (Author)

1. CC Ed 7 – Published

Edition 7 of Colon Classification – basic and depth version, volume I, has at last seen the light of the day. To Ranganathanians it is a moment of great satisfaction in perpetuating the philosophy of the great master. This edition was supposed to be ready for publication and use as early as 1971. However it could be brought out only in 1987. It is true that the library community all over the world has been anxiously waiting for a new revised edition of the Colon Classification about which enough had been discussed and published in DRTC annual seminars, in “Library Science with a Slant to Documentation” and in other library and information science journals.

The author of this edition is the late Dr. S.R. Ranganathan and its editor is Dr. M.A. Gopinath – a faithful and devoted disciple of the great luminary. In his Preface the editor has stated that (a) the Index Volume and worked out examples will be presented in two additional volumes which means that CC Edition 7 will be in three volumes; (b) that the schedules of Edition 7 are so expanded that these can be used as well in Edition 6; (c) that a Colon Classification Bulletin is intended to be published to discuss and explain the expansions introduced in the new edition and other new developments; (d) further efforts are also being made to issue supplementary schedules for specific subjects, modified, simplified basic version of the Colon Classification schedules and, finally, (e) a bold attempt is being made to publish CC in various Indian languages in collaboration with national and state library associations and library and information science schools.

2. The Structure of CC Edition 7, Volume 1

Volume 1 of Colon Classification Edition 7 is divided into five parts – Part A to Part E. In Edition 6 there were only three parts. Out of these three parts only two parts have been included in volume one of the new edition excluding all the four alphabetical indexes and Part 3 related to classics and sacred books. Each of these five parts are further subdivided into several Chapters. For

example, Part A – Introduction is divided into six Chapters – Chapter AA, Chapter AB and so on. This part describes the history of Colon Classification and theory of library classification. Part B has three Chapters having pedagogical value and it works as a guide to beginners to learn the use of CC. Herein the Editor has ably made an attempt to familiarise CC by describing the procedure to be adopted for classifying documents with the help of eight steps laid down by Dr. S.R. Ranganathan in his work *Elements of Library Classification*. However, the Colon Classification is such a complicated scheme for the beginners that the three chapters alone are not enough to make them well versed in the use of the scheme. It is imperative for a beginner to be conversant with five fundamental categories, rounds, levels, devices etc. before he embarks on classifying a simple subject. Part C is divided into 24 Chapters. This part barring few additions and omission of rules is akin to Part 1 of Edition 6. The interesting feature of this Part is that it describes in detail the work of three Planes – Idea Plane, Verbal Plane and Notational Plane. In Chapter CT of Edition 7, Mnemonic and Superimposition Devices are not specifically enumerated. However, as compared to Edition 6 these are being used more extensively. In Edition 7 instead of using the term ‘superimposed isolate’ to be got by the Superimposition Device, the term ‘compound isolate’ is used and is described in Chapter CQ, wherein it is stated that “an isolate in a schedule may be combined with another isolate in the same schedule” and that “the indicator digit for second, third etc. component isolate is – (hyphen)”. Similarly, to give effect to the Enumeration Device the Canons of Seminal Mnemonics, Schedules Mnemonics and Principles for Helpful Sequence are to be used.

The Chronological Device, Geographical Device, Subject Device, Alphabetical Device and Enumeration Device are described in Chapters CU to CY. The use of the Alphabetical Device was not much preferred upto Edition 6, as Dr. Ranganathan himself had clearly pointed out the “the device is to be used only in cases where no other method of subdivision gives a more helpful sequence”. However in Edition 7, the Alphabetical Device has been used freely and extensively even for forming such isolates for which isolate numbers are enumerated in Edition 6 e.g.

(a) *Space Isolates*: In the new edition political divisions are enumerated upto state level only and it is left to the classifier to extend these divisions by using the Principle of Geographical Contiguity. In general the classifier may prefer to use the Alphabetical Device and not the Principle of Geographical Contiguity for extending such divisions.

(b) *Language Isolates*: The African non-semitic languages are to be subdivided by (AD) e.g. 6B Bantu.

(c) The *Alphabetical Device* has also been used more freely in different main subjects. One such main subject is BYC Astrophysics where in 7 pages the schedule (AD) has been subscribed at 19 places. In C Physics there are now five concepts which are to be subdivided by (AD). In this schedule about 101 such isolate numbers are already enumerated. In 0 Literature now work isolate number may also be got by (AD). The use of three scientific formulas propounded by Dr. Ranganathan for the work facet has been left to the choice of the individual classifier in the new edition.

The new features of Part D – General Divisions and Common Isolates are (i) provision of a check list of com-

ponent incident in a subject. The helpfulness of this table would be evident only when it is used by the classifiers; (ii) Chapter DB is on the Vedic System of Classification which has no relevance in so far as the use of CC is concerned. It only informs the users that out of the two roots from which CC emanates one is the Vedic Culture and this does not require elucidation of the Vedic System. Moreover it is already described in *Prolegomena to Library Classification ED 2*; (iii) Chapter DD enumerates Environment Divisions without any theory or guidance as to their use. These divisions are more or less based on different main subjects and wherever needed the classifier has been given the autonomy to devise them on the basis of different main subjects. These divisions may also be used for forming Environmented Specials by prefixing the digit 9; (iv) A detailed schedule of Basic Subjects is provided in Chapter DE which enumerates class numbers for about 776 Basic Subjects. These Basic Subjects include: traditional main subjects, non-main subjects, systems, specials, environmented basic subjects etc. A classifier would require to consult this schedule quite often together with the schedule of specific main subjects because class numbers for several Basic Subjects are available only in this schedule; (v) The Partial Comprehensions are now termed as Agglomerations and the * (asterisk) is being used to indicate agglomerates formation and interpolation e.g. A * Z Sciences, B * ZZ Physical Sciences; (vi) The Canonical divisions in Edition 6 were used as traditional sub-classes of a main class. They were specifically indicated as Canonical divisions in the main class where these were used. No such indication is available in Edition 7 wherein it has been used as Canonical Basic Subject and is denoted by the term Canonical Constituent of the Main Subject. Only by training and experience a beginner would know which of the main subjects are having Canonical Basic Subjects; (vii) Upto Edition 6 the system and Specials were denoted as Amplifying Facets of Kind 1 and Kind 2 and were treated as different levels of the Personality Facet. In Edition 7 these are now denoted as Systems Basic Subject and Specials Basic Subject and are used as divisions of a Main Subject or Non-Main Basic Subject. The Systems Division is denoted by the term 'System Constituents of the (MS)' and the Specials Divisions are denoted by the term 'Specials Constituent of the (MS)'. The indicator digit – (hyphen) is used as the speciator symbol. However, it is surprising why examples cited on page 66 are enumerated without the use of a hyphen. On page 67, it seems that – by a printing error – the classifier is being directed to get the class number for Systems (BS) by (GD) instead of by (CD); (viii) Environmented Basic Subjects are also used in Edition 7. These are denoted by the term Environment Constituent of the (MS). The class number for this type of (BS) is to be used on the basis of Chapter DD – Environment Divisions, the use of which is to be preceded by the digit 9; (ix) Enumeration of bare Basic Class numbers for 10 Subject Bundles in Chapter DF is yet another new feature of Part D.

3. Additions and Modifications

3.1 Language Isolates

Chapter DG enumerates language isolate numbers in which many new languages have been interpolated e.g. 1117B American English, 113Z Scandinavian, 147 Ukrainian, 1598 Sinhalese. The Alphabetical Device is being used for non-Semitic African languages. Another characteristic of this schedule is that it has been extended to include language isolates by variant and stage, which in Edition 6 formed part of the Main Class Linguistics. The isolate numbers by variant and stage are to be added to language numbers by using the indicator digit = (equal to). The sequence being Language = Stage = Variant.

3.2 Time Isolates

Chapter DH enumerates Time Isolates. The enumeration begins with the schedule for (T2), which is subdivided on the basis of 'By Meteorology', 'By Temperature', 'By Humidity', 'By Divisions of the year' etc. It is submitted that Schedule (T1) should also be indicated prior to Civil Time. The chronological divisions have now been limited to S2300 to 2399 AD which in Edition 6 were enumerated upto YC 3100 to 3199 AD. The digit Z has now been used to indicate Future Time.

For forming the compound time isolate the – (hyphen) is used as indicator digit e.g. N72-U Rainy time of 1972. However some confusion has been created in the use of the indicators – (hyphen) and ← (arrow) as is evident from the following example: –

23← U Rainy new moon day
N72-23-U Rainy new moon day in 1972.

3.3 Space Isolates

The Space Isolates are enumerated in Chapter DJ. The main features of this schedule are: – (a) z is used in this edition for forming space isolates on the basis of geographical features (termed as Physiographic features in Edition 6). These isolates are to be divided on the basis of Environment Divisions (Chapter DD) from Ub to Ux 6 by omitting the initial digit U e.g.

	<i>Environment Divisions</i>	<i>Space Isolates</i>
River	Uf7	zf7
Mountain	Um7	zm7

(b) The new edition has provision both for Population Cluster Group and Individual Population Cluster. The space isolates by Population Cluster Group are enumerated e.g.

01 Hamlet, 02 Village, 03 Town etc.

Whereas the Individual Population Cluster are to be got by (AD) preceded by 0 (zero) e.g.

JaipurCity	44 = 0J
BombayCity	44 = 0B

(c) To devise a compound space isolate the indicator digit = (equal to) is to be used. In other words the indicator digit = (equal to) is to be used whenever the following space isolates are to be added to Political Divisions e.g.

1. Geographical features	Rivers of India	44 = zf7
2. Individual Population Cluster	Jaipur City	44 = 0J
3. By Orientation	South India	44 = 9G
4. By Subject Device	Rice Belt of India	44 = (J381)
5. By Chronological Device	United Nations	1 = CN4

The provision of the indicator digit = (equal to) for forming compound space isolates has made CC numbers more complicated and confusing both for libraries and users. Moreover the number of digits in a (CN) have been increased. For example

<i>Space Isolates</i>	<i>Edition 6</i>	<i>Edition 7</i>
UN Area	1N4	1 = CN4
Himalaya	4.g7H	4 = zm70H
River Godavari	44.9G.p1G	44 = 9G = zf70G

(d) In Edition 6, Political Divisions were enumerated extensively even upto the district level whereas in Edition 7, Political Divisions are enumerated upto the state level only. These are to be further subdivided by the classifier by using the Principle of Geographical Contiguity. This is not a conducive process to use. Further, it would not be possible for every classifier to apply this Principle with ingenuity. For uniformity and consistency purposes enumeration as provided in Edition 6 would have been better. If libraries will at all change to Edition 7 they might prefer to use the space isolates of Edition 6 or the Alphabetical Device rather than applying the Principle of Geographical Contiguity.

(e) This is one of the schedules in the new Edition where the Law of Parsimony, the Canon of Mnemonics and the Canon of Uniformity have been violated. A few examples will testify this: -

(i) In (MS) V, History (1P1) is to be got by (GD) in both editions. Not a single community isolate is enumerated in Edition 6, whereas in Edition 7, the 243 Political Divisions, 17 divisions By Orientation, 3 divisions By Area surrounded by ocean, the divisions By Empire, By (CD) and (SD) have all been repeated from the Schedule of Space Isolates under (1P1) of (MS) V History.

(ii) The isolate numbers for many Geographical divisions are enumerated only in (MS) V History e.g.

Space Isolates	V History	Schedule for Space Isolates
Japan	42	x
Muscat	46412	x
Turkey (Asia)	47	x
Turkey (Europe)	51	x
Equatorial Guinea	668T	x

(iii) 93 which is used for 'Land within the Pacific Ocean' has one subdivision 934 Melanesia in the schedule for Space Isolates, whereas in (MS) V History there are 36 subdivisions of the space isolate number 93. Similarly, 943 Antarctica and its 3 subdivisions, 947 Arctic Islands and its 4 subdivisions are available only in (MS) V History.

(iv) The terminology used in the Schedule for Space Isolates and (MS) V History lacks uniformity e.g.

(IN)	V History	Schedule for Space Isolates
41V	Formosa	Taiwan (Formosa)
551	West Germany	Federal Republic of Germany
56V	Ireland (Eire)	Irish Republic (Eire)
594	Hungary	Hungary
594	Balkan State	x
688X	Malagasay	Madagascar
73	USA	United States
752	British Honduras	British Honduras (Belize)
8Z	Other Islands	Other Small Islands

(v) There are innumerable printing mistakes in these schedules. A few examples are given below:

Space Isolates	V History	Schedule for Space
Eurasia	3Z	42
Manchuria	41T	411
Korea	41U1	41V1
North Korea	41U2	41V12
South Korea	41U3	41V15
Hong Kong	41V5	41Y5
Pakistan	44X	44VX
USSR	57T	52T
Uganda	688T	688
41V1	Mongolia	Kashsiung (correct term is Kao-shiung)
671V	Ceuta	Centa
C * Z	Division by (GD)	Divisions by (CD)

3.4 Common Isolates

Chapters DK to DN provide schedules for Common Isolates. The Schedule for Common Energy Isolates has been extended and many Energy Isolates enumerated in different main classes of Edition 6 have been transformed into Common Energy Isolates in Edition 7. A Schedule for Common Matter Property Isolates is a welcome feature. The isolate numbers of this schedule have been described as Pseudo Mnemonic because these can be devised on the basis of the isolate numbers of various Basic Subjects by transforming the capital letter into a small letter and omitting the indicator digits if any. However, the Special Matter Property Isolates are enumerated in the specific Main Subjects. With a few additions, the Common Personality Isolates are identical to that of Edition 6. But the two examples cited therein do not provide correct guidance e.g.: - 2; 9D.fff9N62 (a) the CPI is to be used after the space facet, this example has not used it; (b) the meaning of double ff and the use of the indicator digit · (dot) is not clear; and (c) what has been used for F?

The second example Y,1; 2.4413.B.Y-RBS also needs clarification in so far as the use of CPI and indicators are concerned. It would be better if, as in Edition 6, the facet formula for CPI were provided also. There are also innumerable printing mistakes in the facet formula given for different Anteriorising Common Isolates. Specific rules and theory to use common isolates should also have been provided as they were given in Edition 6.

3.5 Phase Relations

Concerning the Phase Relations there are only two new additions.

- (1) Provison of a Tool Phase.
- (2) Change of the indicator digit from 0 (zero) to & (ampersand)

3.6 Special Isolates

Chapter E provides schedules for different Main Subjects from z Generalia to Z Law. In Part 2 of Edition 6 there were four alphabetical indexes together with schedules for main classes. These were the Geographical Index for geographical divisions, two separate Indexes to Natural Groups for main classes I Botany and K Zoology and one general index. These do not find their place in Part E of Edition 7. There are also innumerable additions and modifications in the schedules for main subjects in Edition 7. In Edition 6 there were main classes like Universe of Subjects, Book Science, Journalism, Management etc. for which only bare main class numbers were provided. All such main classes now have been equipped with separate schedules. In this edition there are schedules for new main subjects like BYC Astrophysics, SY Social Psychology and TUS Educational Psychology. Many new Canonical Basic Subjects have been included in the main subjects like B Mathematics, G Biology, H Geology, M Useful Arts and N Fine Arts. Main Subjects like E Chemistry and X Economics have been completely modified in the following manner:

E-A	Systems
E1	General Chemistry
E2	Physical Chemistry
E3	Analytical Chemistry
E4	Synthetic Chemistry

However, each of these secondary main subjects lack a facet formula which is necessary for the smooth and correct use of the schedules.

X	Economics and XX Industrial Economics
X2	Consumption
X3	Distribution
X422	Demand
X44	Business Cycle
X5	Trade
X6	Private finance
X7	Public Finance
X8	Social Finance
X91	International Economics

The (MS) 2 Library Science is amplified by adding a schedule for 2V Library Services. BX is now used for Astronomy. For D Engineering only a provisional schedule has been provided. In O Literature the work number now may be got either by (AD) or by using three formulas for work facet as provided in edition 6. The facet formula for P Linguistics is now P, Language, Element; Property; Method. For stage and variant number the classifier has to use the schedule for Language Iso-

lates in Chapter DG. In L Medicine the enumeration is more or less identical except that the System Allopathy now has been assigned the class number L-K. The following printing mistakes need corrections: (i) In the facet formula for L Medicine the indicators need to be added, (ii) in the enumerated ready made class numbers for diseases the indicator, (comma) is not used for (1P1) and on page 234 the indicator: (colon) is used for (MP) digit 4 disease, and (iii) likewise the class numbers for systems and specials are enumerated without indicator digit = (equal to).

3.7 Notational System

The notational system of Edition 7 consists of 60 substantive digits, i.e. 23 Roman small, 26 Roman capital, 10 Indo-Arabic numerals and One Greek letter Δ and 14 Indicator digits. The new Indicator digits used in Edition 7 are:

*	(Asterisk)	To indicate agglomerates formation and interpolation
“	(Double Inverted comma)	To indicate common isolates (ACI)
&	(Ampersand)	To indicate Phase Relation
=	(equal to)	To indicate Speciator of kind 2
+	(Plus)	To indicate second and later part of (AD) or the second or later part of the fraction of intergral number
e		To indicate Application or Tool Phase Relation
p		
x		

The number of zones in an array have now also increased to five and number of sectors to sixty six.

4. Conclusion

In short the publication of Edition 7 of CC is a positive development in making CC a living scheme. For this, due credit must be given to Dr. Gopinath who has been totally committed to the cause of CC. However the non-availability of CC, the repeated assurances for its revised edition involving a long waiting period without any positive result had raised a question mark in the minds of all those using CC. The academicians pondered how long it would be possible to continue CC as a teaching tool without its reprint editions. Similarly librarians also wavered how to manage the use of CC in the libraries. It is too early to comment how far Edition 7 would fulfil the expectations and needs of the library community and help in making it a living scheme. However, on the basis of past experiences it is difficult to hazard when and how long the grandiose plans of the editor – the two additional volumes of CC, CC in various Indian languages, and a CC Bulletin will become a reality.

Dr. P. Dhyani
Associate Professor and Head, Department of Library Science,
University of Rajasthan, Jaipur-302004, INDIA.