



Dewey Decimal Classification NEWS



August 2010
IFLA Edition

Dewey at IFLA

OCLC will host the annual International Dewey Users Meeting (formerly known as the Dewey Translators Meeting) in conjunction with the World Library and Information Congress (76th IFLA General Conference and Assembly) in Göteborg, Sweden. The meeting will be held Friday, 13 August, 16:00–18:00, in Swedish Exhibition and Conference Centre, Meeting Room J2. The agenda includes presentations on WebDewey 2.0, the Swedish mixed translation, the expansion of 297 Islam under way in cooperation with the Arabic translation team, Dewey research projects, and activities of the European DDC Users' Group.

WebDewey 2.0

OCLC has contracted with Pansoft, the Karlsruhe-based developer of the translation support software used by several Dewey translations, to develop the successor to the current WebDewey and Abridged WebDewey interface. OCLC expects to launch WebDewey 2.0 in October 2010. The new system will include a generic user interface script to support access to Dewey data in different languages, and access to different terminology sets. Future releases will include features such as display of the history information associated with each class, and support for WebDewey as a source of user-generated content.

DDC 23, Abridged Edition 15, 200 Religion Class

The Decimal Classification Editorial Policy Committee (EPC) expects to complete final review of proposals for the print version of DDC 23 by September 2010. Publication of DDC 23 is expected in mid-2011; the price for the four-volume set in North America is \$399. Abridged Edition 15 and 200 Religion Class are expected to be published in late 2011.

297 Islam, Babism, Bahai Faith

We have been working with the Arabic DDC translation team based at Bibliotheca Alexandrina (www.bibalex.org/Home/Default_EN.aspx) on expansions and revisions to 297 for Islam. Most of the changes will not be ready in time for inclusion in the print version of DDC 23, but will be exposed instead in connection with the separate publication of the 200 Religion Class and in WebDewey. One set of changes—the relocation of Hadith from 297.124 to 297.125 with a significant revision and expansion under the latter number, plus the historical periods for Islam as a religion—is slated to be included in the print version of DDC 23.

BISAC (Book Industry Standards and Communications) Subject Headings

BISAC (Book Industry Standards and Communications) Subject Headings is a set of over 3,000 subject headings maintained by the Book Industry Study Group. BISAC subject headings are widely used in the book industry for all kinds of workflows, including subject access and shelving. OCLC Research has built a MARC authority file for BISAC subject headings, and the Dewey editors have worked with colleagues in OCLC Research to add Dewey numbers to BISAC authority records. (The numbers added by the Dewey team are marked with OCoLC-D in \$5; there are also some older vendor mappings in the records.) The authority file is available in a variety of formats through OCLC Research's Terminology Web Services: <http://tspilot.oclc.org/resources/index.html>

New Editorial Support System (ESS)

The fourth-generation Dewey Editorial Support System (ESS) was introduced recently. The new ESS supports the development and maintenance of the DDC, “anytime” export of the DDC in a variety of formats to support a variety of services, publication of print editions, ingestion of mapped data and

eventual ingestion of translation data. The system was developed by OCLC staff in Dublin, Ohio, and San Mateo, California.

Earlier generations of the system used a proprietary format for data representation. The new ESS uses the MARC 21 Format for Classification Data for schedule, table and Manual data; and the MARC 21 Format for Authority Data for the Relative Index and mapped headings. As part of our move to the new system, we have switched our distribution format from the ESS XML format to a MARCXML format.

Pansoft has developed the print server for the new ESS under an agreement with OCLC. As part of that agreement, Pansoft is currently converting the existing translation files supported by Pansoft to the new format.

Dewey.info

In mid-August 2009, OCLC launched dewey.info (<http://dewey.info>), an experimental Web service to explore the possibilities of applying linked data and Semantic Web principles to DDC data. The DDC Summaries are now available in 11 languages as the initial data under the Creative Commons BY-NC-ND 3.0 license. The license allows for noncommercial use and redistribution of the unmodified data. One interesting recent use of the data has been in a prototype mobile service created in partnership with the Paterson (NJ) Public Library: end-of-stack posters with Dewey numbers plus captions in Spanish and English accompanied by QR codes leading mobile devices directly into the library's OPAC. In the near future, we plan to add Table 2 data, linked to geocodes and FAST geographic headings, to dewey.info under the same CC license.

Decimal Classification Editorial Policy Committee (EPC)

Meeting 133 of the Decimal Classification Editorial Policy Committee (EPC) was held 16–18 June at OCLC headquarters in Dublin, Ohio. This was the last face-to-face meeting of EPC during calendar year 2010. EPC scheduled two electronic meetings, 133A and 133B, to be held during the period July–August 2010. Meeting 134, the next face-to-face meeting of the committee, will be held at OCLC in mid-June 2011.

In Table 1 (Standard Subdivisions), EPC approved a proposal to revise the three internal add tables in light of the updated policy on standard subdivisions with extended or narrowed meanings, and displaced

standard subdivisions (the policy itself was discussed at Meeting 132 and approved at Meeting 132A). EPC also reviewed and approved changes arising from application of the aforementioned policy in Table 3 (Subdivisions for the Arts, for Individual Literatures, for Specific Literary Forms); 368 Insurance; and 380 Commerce, Communications, Transportation. EPC discussed updates to the add tables in 398 Folklore and 900 History, geography, and related disciplines but delayed action on them until Meeting 133A (here and elsewhere, postponement of action to Meeting 133A was planned before the meeting).

In Table 2 (Geographic Areas, Historical Periods, Persons), EPC approved the developments for Switzerland and Sweden, plus the name change of North-West Frontier Province to Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa in Pakistan. EPC reviewed the updates to Germany and neighboring countries and to Turkey in the ancient and modern world, but delayed final action until Meeting 133A. In Table 5 (Ethnic and National Groups) and Table 6 (Languages), EPC approved updated provisions for Finnic and Saami peoples and languages. The interoperable expansion for Finnic peoples and languages prepared for inclusion in the Norwegian and Swedish translations sparked a lively discussion about the role of the English-language print edition in setting the notational framework for the standard version of the DDC. EPC will explore this topic in depth at Meeting 134.

EPC approved selected updates in the following schedules: 004-006 Computer science; 281 Eastern churches (and changes related to Orthodox Christianity elsewhere in 200 Religion); 364.1 Criminal offenses for terrorism; 640 Home and family management; 796 Athletic and outdoor sports and games; and 900 History, geography, and related disciplines. In the last, EPC approved changes to the history of the ancient world; the history of Sweden; and wars in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Lebanon. EPC also discussed updates to the histories of Indonesia and Africa, and to countries whose historical periods are represented by decades; final action was delayed until Meeting 133A.

EPC discussed the following schedules, but delayed action on them until Meeting 133A: 340 Law; 370 Education; 390 Customs, etiquette, folklore; and 660 Chemical engineering and related technologies. The full versions of Table 2 (Geographic Areas, Historical Periods, Persons); 800 Literature; and 900 History, geography, and related disciplines will be considered at Meeting 133A.

Several discussion papers were considered by the committee. In addition to ones informing the proposed developments in 340 Law and 370 Education, the committee considered a proposed update to historical periods and Hadith in 297 Islam, Babism, Bahai Faith. We plan to introduce a full expansion of Islam in 200 Religion Class later next year after the publication of DDC 23 in print. Because the proposed revision for Hadith uses the revised historical periods and includes a relocation of Hadith from 297.124 to 297.125 with a significant revision and expansion under the latter number, we thought it best to speed review and approval of this portion of the 297 expansion for inclusion in the print version of DDC 23. EPC approved posting of the discussion paper on the Dewey Web site for worldwide review with comments requested by 1 August (see www.oclc.org/us/en/dewey/discussion/papers/297draft.pdf).

Other matters considered by the committee included the placement of relocation and discontinuation notes at the end of class records in DDC 23, and proposed changes to the Introduction and Glossary in DDC 23. EPC received a sneak preview of the final screens for WebDewey 2.0 (slated to be introduced in a few months). The committee also heard progress reports on Dewey research, Dewey linked data and Dewey translations. The meeting featured a presentation on Functional Requirements for Subject Authority Data (FRSAD) (www.ifla.org/files/classification-and-indexing/functional-requirements-for-subject-authority-data/frsad-final-report.pdf) by Prof. Marcia Lei Zeng (Kent State & Chair, IFLA Working Group on FRSAD), followed by a panel discussion on implications of the model for classification systems. EPC member Jonathan Furner (UCLA) and Diane Vizine-Goetz (OCLC Research), both members of the IFLA WG, joined Marcia in the panel discussion.

European DDC Users Group Meeting

The European DDC Users' Group met in Egypt at Bibliotheca Alexandrina (BA) 26–27 April 2010. The first day was devoted to meetings of three working groups (370, 930 and IT), plus the EDUG business meeting. On 27 April, EDUG and BA co-sponsored a full-day seminar, "Bridging the Class(ification) Divide: The New DDC Languages and Retrieval Possibilities." The seminar featured speakers from the Arab region, Europe and the United States. Presentations from the seminar are now available at www.slainte.org.uk/edug/meetings.htm#presentations.

DDC Research Partners

University of Bielefeld

In November 2009, OCLC signed a research agreement with Bielefeld University Library for use of the complete DDC data files in German and English in a DFG-funded project to enrich OAI metadata automatically with Dewey numbers in the BASE search engine (<http://base.ub.uni-bielefeld.de/en/index.php>), and to provide enhanced browsing and retrieval based on the enrichments. The project combines approaches from computational linguistics, information science and computer science.

Deutsche Nationalbibliothek

OCLC and Deutsche Nationalbibliothek (DNB) signed an agreement in December 2009 to facilitate DNB's local stewardship of German DDC data (parts of which will be available under a Creative Commons BY-NC-ND 3.0 license) for display and redistribution. DNB has expanded the display of Dewey data in MelvilSearch to include all parts of the DDC that are now freely available under Creative Commons BY-NC-ND 3.0. What does this mean specifically? The German version of the DDC in MelvilSearch can now be used freely for noncommercial purposes under the following conditions: OCLC is given attribution as the rights owner, and the data is not altered or adapted in any way. For example, it will be possible for the first time to display Dewey numbers and captions together in Web applications. Making MelvilSearch data more freely available is only one part of a larger agreement that will allow DNB to make electronic versions of the translated DDC available online to a wider group of users than in the past.

Translations

Arabic: A new Arabic translation of the full DDC is under way at Bibliotheca Alexandrina. Julianne Beall and Joan Mitchell met with the Arabic DDC translation team directly following the EDUG meeting in April to discuss the expanded development for Islam, plus issues related to languages and historical periods. One important outcome of the meeting was to fast track the relocation and new development for Hadith for immediate worldwide review and inclusion in the print version of DDC 23.

Indonesian: An agreement for the Indonesian translation of Abridged Edition 14 has recently been signed with the National Library of Indonesia.

Norwegian: The National Library of Norway will commence work third quarter 2010 on a new translation of the full DDC in a Web-only version—the previous five Norwegian translations were customized abridged editions.

Swedish: A mixed Swedish-English translation of the full DDC is under way at the National Library of Sweden. Like the Norwegian translation, it is planned to be published in a Web-only version. In late August, Assistant DDC Editor Rebecca Green will travel to Stockholm to present a week-long DDC training course to Swedish librarians.

Vietnamese: Discussions are under way with the National Library of Vietnam for a translation of the full edition of the DDC. A Vietnamese translation of Abridged Edition 14 was published in 2006.

Dewey Section at the Library of Congress

Dewey Section classifiers and others at the Library of Congress assigned Dewey numbers to 33,741 titles

during the period January–June 2010.

This summer at the Library of Congress, the U.S. General and U.S. Publisher and Liaison Divisions (USGEN and USPL) will begin the process of reorganizing into two new divisions. One of the new divisions, tentatively named the U.S. National Imprint Programs and Law Division, will focus principally on supporting the national and international programs previously managed by USGEN and USPL. The Cataloging in Publication (CIP), International Standard Serial Number (ISSN), Children’s Literature, and Dewey programs will be brought together to allow the Acquisitions and Bibliographic Services Directorate (ABA) to better explore the relationships among these areas. Additionally, the Division will include the Law Section, providing support for the Law Library, one of ABA’s most important internal customers. Eve Dickey, currently head of the Dewey Section in USGEN, will be the Program Manager for the new Dewey Program. Karl Debus-López, who is chief of USGEN and has been acting chief of USPL, will be the chief of the new division.

Useful Dewey Links

Dewey Web site	www.oclc.org/dewey/
025.431: The Dewey blog	http://ddc.typepad.com
DeweyBrowser	www.oclc.org/research/researchworks/ddc/browser.htm
Classify	http://deweyresearch.oclc.org/classify2/
DDC Projects	www.slainte.org.uk/edugit/projects.htm
DDC Demonstrators	www.slainte.org.uk/edugit/demonstrators.htm
DDC Services	www.slainte.org.uk/edugit/services.htm
Dewey Documentation	www.oclc.org/support/documentation/dewey/
Dewey FAQ	www.oclc.org/support/questions/dewey/
Dewey.info	http://dewey.info
Terminology Web Services	http://tspilot.oclc.org/resources/index.html
World Digital Library	www.wdl.org/en/
DDC RSS Feeds	www.oclc.org/dewey/syndicated/rss.htm
New & Changed Entries	www.oclc.org/dewey/updates/new/
DDC Questions?	dewey@loc.gov (Dewey Editorial Office) dewey@oclc.org (licensing, group purchases, LIS program)

Please direct questions, comment, or requests for information on the Dewey Decimal Classification to dewey@loc.gov, or:

Dewey Editorial Office, Library of Congress, Dewey Section, 101 Independence Ave., SE, Washington, DC 20540-4292
Fax: 1-202-707-0279. (Note: Mail service may be slow to LC due to heightened security precautions.)

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