

Dewey Decimal Classification News

IFLA 2005 Conference Issue

OCLC Stand 301

Stop by OCLC Stand 301 in the Exhibit Hall to see DDC 22 and Abridged Edition 14 in print and web versions, plus recent translations of the DDC. Other OCLC products are also available for demonstration.

Dewey Translators Meeting

On Tuesday, 16 August 2005, OCLC will host a special invitational meeting for DDC translators and representatives of national libraries and bibliographies using the DDC. The meeting will include a DDC update, a discussion of options in 200 Religion, a briefing on Dewey research projects, a demonstration of the German web version of DDC 22 and the underlying translation support system, and reports from other translation projects.

025.431: The Dewey blog

The Dewey editors launched *025.431: The Dewey blog* on 1 July 2005. The Dewey blog covers topics related to the Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC) and knowledge organization. It is edited by Jonathan Furner, assistant editor of the DDC, with contributions from other members of the Dewey editorial team. The blog is available at <http://ddc.typepad.com/>.

DeweyBrowser

On 29 July 2005, the OCLC Office of Research made DeweyBrowser, a prototype Dewey browser, available at <http://ddcresearch.oclc.org/ebooks/fileServer>. The browser provides a visual interface in five languages (English, French, German, Spanish, and Swedish) that facilitates access to any collection of resources that have been assigned DDC numbers. In response to a search term, the system responds with a color-coded display of the ten main DDC classes. “Hot” colors show you where lots of records that match your search are classed. You pick the main class that you want to explore (e.g., 7 Arts & recreation) and the ten divisions of that class are displayed with the same kind of color coding. Click on the division of your choice (e.g., 77 Photography & computer art) and the ten sections of that division are displayed, again color-coded so that you can see at a glance exactly where relevant records are concentrated. In this way, you can browse up and down the top three levels of the DDC hierarchy, using the colors as a guide, before settling on a particular DDC section (e.g., 775 Digital photography) and scanning a list of the records in that section that match your search term. In the prototype version of DeweyBrowser, the collection is a catalog of more than 125,000 electronic books.

Dewey RSS Feeds

If you check the Dewey web site regularly to get the latest information about Dewey updates and new mappings, consider subscribing to one (or more) of our five new RSS feeds. The following RSS feeds have been available on the Dewey site since April 2005: 1) Dewey Mappings—latest DDC mappings to other vocabularies; 2) Dewey News—latest information about discussion papers and other news that will help you stay

up-to-date with Dewey; 3) Dewey Tips—latest tips for classifying with Dewey and using WebDewey and Abridged WebDewey in OCLC Connexion; 4) Dewey Updates—latest DDC mappings to other vocabularies, new and changed entries, and news about Dewey Services enhancements; and 5) Dewey Journal—latest Dewey Decimal Classification news and announcements, DDC mappings, and tips. (The Dewey Journal encompasses items from all four Dewey RSS feeds.) Visit www.oclc.org/dewey/syndicated/rss.htm for details on how to subscribe.

Graphic Novels in the DDC

The Dewey editors are now studying the responses received to the request for comments and suggestions on the draft schedule 741.5 Cartoons, caricatures, comics, graphic novels, fotonovelas. Reaction has been mixed to the proposed subdivision by length of narrative (and to the related idea of subdivision by format). Final comments will be accepted until 19 August 2005. For more information on the draft under consideration, see www.oclc.org/dewey/discussion/papers/GraphicTestNov2004.htm; www.oclc.org/dewey/discussion/papers/741_5supplement.htm; and <http://www.oclc.org/dewey/discussion/papers/MoreOn741.htm>.

Segmentation Marks in Dewey Numbers

The Library of Congress Decimal Classification Division has announced that it will simplify the application of segmentation marks in Dewey numbers. Effective 1 September 2005, LC will only assign one segmentation mark to indicate the end of an abridged number.

The segmentation marks in Dewey numbers currently show the end of an abridged number or the beginning of a standard subdivision. For example:

155.6/6	The slash shows the end of the number for the same topic in the abridged edition, 155.6
809/.89287	The slash shows the end of the number for the same topic in the abridged edition, 809
324.6/23/0973	The first slash shows the end of the abridged number (324.6); the second slash shows the beginning of the standard subdivision (0973)
282/.092/2	The first slash shows the beginning of the standard subdivision (0922); the second slash shows the end of the abridged number (the standard subdivision 0922 is shortened to 092 in the abridged edition)

Under the new policy, each of the above numbers would only include a single segmentation mark that shows the end of the abridged number: 155.6/6, 809/.89287, 324.6/230973, 282.092/2.

Dewey around the World

Discussions are underway on a new Arabic translation of DDC 22. In January 2005, Joan S. Mitchell, editor in chief of the DDC, held a planning meeting in Cairo with the project sponsor and members of the proposed editorial and translation teams. One immediate outcome of the meeting is consideration of an additional optional arrangement in the 200 Religion schedule. The proposed option will be discussed during IFLA 2005 at the Dewey Translators Meeting on Tuesday, 16 August.

ASTED recently published the French translation of Abridged Edition 14. Discussions are also underway on print and electronic versions of the full edition in French. Electre recently completed work on *Guide de la Classification décimale de Dewey*. Publication is expected shortly.

The Projekt DDC Deutsch team at Die Deutsche Bibliothek (DDB) has nearly completed work on the first German translation of the DDC. The translation will be published in print and web versions later this year. Julianne Beall, assistant editor of the DDC, participated in a pre-publication workshop at DDB in April 2005.

In December 2004, Dewey editorial staff met with representatives of the Royal Library of Sweden at the Library of Congress to explore introduction of the DDC in Sweden and a possible translation into Swedish. Joan S. Mitchell participated in a Dewey seminar and training workshop in Stockholm in April 2005 at the invitation of Kungl. Biblioteket (the national library of Sweden). Swedish librarians are exploring the possible translation and use of the DDC in Sweden.

Work is underway at the National Library of Vietnam on a translation of Abridged Edition 14 into Vietnamese. The translation is being produced using a modified version of software developed by Pansoft for support of the German translation.

Decimal Classification Editorial Policy Committee (EPC)

The Decimal Classification Editorial Policy Committee (EPC), the ten-member international advisory board for the DDC, met 20-22 October 2004, at the Library of Congress. EPC began to address the issues raised during the March 2004 retreat. It recommended that the Dewey editorial work plan, reflecting the current priorities for updates, be placed on the Dewey web site, with a request for responses. EPC approved updates to Tables 5 and 6, changes to options A and B in 342-349, and expansions to historical periods in Abridged Edition 14. It approved for testing a revised and expanded schedule 741.5 Cartoons, caricatures, comics, graphic novels, fotonovelas. Anne Robertson (Australian Committee on Cataloguing) was elected vice-chair, replacing Lucy Evans (British Library), who left the committee on 31 October 2004. Caroline Kent (British Library) has succeeded Lucy Evans as the UK representative. The committee also bade farewell to Richard Baumgarten (Johnson County Library and Longview Community College), whose term ended in December 2004.

ALA and OCLC, joint sponsors of the Decimal Classification Editorial Policy Committee (EPC), recently approved revised bylaws for the committee. The new bylaws shorten

terms of appointive members from six years to three years, and introduce term limits of four consecutive terms.

EPC held three electronic meetings during the first six months of 2005. The committee will hold its next meeting at the Library of Congress 12-14 October 2005. In early 2005, Welna van Eeden, University of South Africa Library (Pretoria), was appointed to a three-year term on EPC. Ms. van Eeden, who was nominated by the Sabinet Online Standards Committee, is the first South African member of EPC.

Dewey Staff News

Jonathan Furner joined OCLC in April 2005 as assistant editor, DDC. He is based in the Dewey Editorial Office at the Library of Congress. Prior to joining the DDC editorial staff, Dr. Furner was an assistant professor in the Graduate School of Education and Information Studies at the University of California, Los Angeles. His teaching and research interests include classification research, subject cataloging theory, thesaurus construction, and the history and philosophy of knowledge organization. He recently received the UCLA Department of Information Studies' inaugural Distinguished Teaching Award. Dr. Furner is the author of over forty scholarly publications, and has served on the committees of twenty international conferences and workshops, including those of the International Society for Knowledge Organization and the American Society for Information Science and Technology's Special Interest Group on Classification Research. He has an M.A. in Philosophy and Social Sciences from the University of Cambridge, and an M.Sc. in Information Management and a Ph.D. in Information Studies, both from the University of Sheffield.

Joan S. Mitchell, editor in chief of the DDC, is the 2005 recipient of the American Library Association (ALA) Melvil Dewey Medal, which recognizes distinguished service to the profession of librarianship.

DDC 22 and Abridged Edition 14

Dewey Decimal Classification and Relative Index, Edition 22 (DDC 22), was published in November 2003. DDC 22 contains several major updates, many new numbers and topics, and a few structural changes. There is one important difference between DDC 22 and other recent editions: DDC 22 contains no complete or extensive revisions. In other words, several new developments have been added and many classes have been revised and expanded, but no schedule has been changed so fundamentally that a complete reordering has resulted—good news for Dewey libraries!

Abridged Dewey Decimal Classification and Relative Index, Edition 14, was published in early 2004. Abridged Edition 14 incorporates all applicable revisions of DDC 22—the edition it abridges.

WebDewey and Abridged WebDewey

WebDewey is the most up-to-date, authoritative source for DDC content. WebDewey contains the latest version of the schedules, tables, Manual, and Relative Index entries from the enhanced DDC 22 database. The latest release of WebDewey also includes

additional content only available in the electronic version. WebDewey features thousands of Relative Index terms and built numbers not available in the DDC print version; Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH) that have been statistically mapped to Dewey numbers from records in WorldCat (the OCLC Online Union Catalog) and intellectually mapped by DDC editors; selected mappings from Medical Subject Headings (MeSH); links from mapped LCSH to the LCSH authority records; and quarterly database updates incorporating the latest changes to the DDC, plus new LCSH mappings, index terms, and built numbers.

Abridged WebDewey is a web-based version of the updated and enhanced Abridged 14 database. Abridged WebDewey features LCSH that have been intellectually mapped to Dewey numbers by DDC editors, including mappings to Abridged Edition 13 numbers from the OCLC publication *Subject Headings for Children*; links from mapped LCSH to the LCSH authority records; mappings between abridged Dewey numbers and subject headings from the updated 18th edition of H.W. Wilson's *Sears List of Subject Headings*; and quarterly database updates incorporating the latest changes to the abridged DDC, plus new LCSH mappings, index terms, and built numbers.

In addition to the regular updates listed above, the 21 August 2005 release of WebDewey includes updated mappings from *People, Places & Things* (PPT) headings and DDC 22 numbers in religion. The August release of WebDewey and Abridged WebDewey includes an important new interface update—the ability to send a DDC number from WebDewey to a target OPAC. More information about WebDewey and Abridged WebDewey is available at www.oclc.org/dewey/versions/default.htm. Details about recent enhancements are available at www.oclc.org/dewey/updates/enhancements. To order WebDewey or Abridged WebDewey, visit the Dewey web store at <https://www3.oclc.org/dewey>.

Dewey Decimal Classification: Principles and Application

Dewey Decimal Classification: Principles and Application, 3rd. ed., by Lois Mai Chan and Joan S. Mitchell, is available from the Dewey web store at <https://www3.oclc.org/dewey>. This new edition has been completely updated to reflect the changes in DDC 22. Earlier editions were published under the title *Dewey Decimal Classification: A Practical Guide*.

Dewey Decimal Classification: Principles and Application offers in-depth advice on how to apply the DDC and how to build class numbers. The text contains background information on the DDC, some of which was previously located in the Manual section of the DDC. *Dewey Decimal Classification: Principles and Application* also includes exercises and answers designed to reinforce, through practice, the examples and explanations given in the text.

200 Religion

The new edition of *200 Religion Class*, an updated reprint from DDC 22, is available from the Dewey web store at <https://www3.oclc.org/dewey>. This publication is a convenient source of detailed classification numbers for religion. It includes the 200

Religion schedule, the Manual notes for 200 Religion, an extended index to 200 Religion, and 170 Ethics schedule. *200 Religion Class* is intended to be used by libraries with in-depth religious collections and small general collections.

WebDewey Tutorial

Using WebDewey: An OCLC Tutorial is available on the Dewey web site at www.oclc.org/dewey/resources/tutorial. This tutorial introduces you to searching and browsing, teaches you how to create user notes, and shows you how to build numbers accurately and efficiently with WebDewey.

Dewey Cutter Program

Library staff may download Dewey Cutter Program from the Dewey web site at www.oclc.org/dewey/support/program. This software automatically provides cutter numbers from the OCLC Four-Figure Cutter Tables upon input of text. The OCLC Four-Figure Cutter Tables are revised and expanded versions of the Cutter Three-Figure Author Table and the Cutter-Sanborn Three-Figure Author Table and are compatible with the existing two-figure or three-figure schemes. The software works with Windows Millennium, 2000, and XP. (Note: If your library uses Windows 95, 98, or NT, the Dewey Cutter Program should also work on your system; however, these versions of Windows are no longer supported by OCLC.)

Dewey Application at the Library of Congress

Decimal Classification Division classifiers at the Library of Congress assigned Dewey Decimal Classification numbers to 107,911 titles at a productivity rate of 9.1 titles per hour during fiscal year 2004. Comparable rates for fiscal year 2003 were 96,906 and 10.11.

Dewey Editorial Office

The Dewey editors are constantly updating the system. In addition, they have targeted each part of the DDC for review. The Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC) Review Schedule is available at www.oclc.org/dewey/discussion/reviewschedule.htm. Questions, comments, or requests for information on the Dewey Decimal Classification may be directed to dewey@loc.gov, or:

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Decimal Classification Division
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Washington, DC 20540-4330
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(Note: Mail service may be slow to the Library of Congress due to heightened security precautions.)

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