



Dewey Decimal Classification News

JANUARY 2007
ALA MIDWINTER CONFERENCE ISSUE

Dewey at ALA

Please join us for the Dewey Breakfast/Update on Saturday, January 20, 7:00–8:30 a.m., in the Lakefront Room, Pan Pacific Seattle Hotel. The featured speaker is Michael Panzer (University of Applied Sciences, Cologne). Michael will discuss post-translation Dewey activities in Germany, including the expanded use of Dewey in the German national bibliography, use of the DDC by virtual libraries in Germany, and mappings between German subject heading authority records (SWD) and Dewey. The Dewey editors will also present updates on Dewey training and translation activities.



OCLC Booth 2015

Stop by OCLC Booth 2015 to see DDC 22 and Abridged Edition 14 in print and web versions. Other recent Dewey Decimal Classification publications are also on display. Dewey print publications are also on display at the Combined Book Exhibit (Booth 1815).

Special Dewey issue of *Cataloging and Classification Quarterly*

“Moving beyond the Presentation Layer: Content and Context in the Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC) System” has just been published as a special double issue of *Cataloging and Classification Quarterly*, v. 42, nos. 3/4. It will also be available shortly as a monograph. Joan S. Mitchell (Editor in Chief, DDC) and Diane Vizine-Goetz (Consulting Research Scientist, OCLC Office of Research) co-edited the special issue, and invited a group of researchers and practitioners from Canada, Germany, Sweden, Switzerland, Trinidad and Tobago, the United Kingdom and the United States to explore the content and context offered by the DDC from a variety of perspectives. The preface, which is available in full online at www.catalogingandclassificationquarterly.com/ccq42nr3-4pref.html, provides an in-depth overview of the issue.

Dewey training program

We are developing an online set of DDC training materials based on our experiences teaching Dewey to LIS students, librarians new to Dewey and librarians needing a refresher in Dewey application. The materials will include a basic course on the structure and use of the DDC, plus a series of short modules based on special topics (including a general overview). We are planning to make all course materials available on the Dewey web site at no charge for use in instruction. The presentations and exercises assume the availability of WebDewey and a professor, trainer and/or experienced Dewey user for questions/explanations. Other interested parties may access course materials, but may need to consult an expert directly for background information/additional assistance. We are holding a meeting with a panel of LIS professors at ALA Midwinter to review the basic course outline and preliminary instructional materials. We expect to begin mounting the DDC training materials on the Dewey web site sometime in the first quarter of 2007.

Dewey around the world

Arabic In August 2006, OCLC and Bibliotheca Alexandrina (BA) signed an agreement to launch work on an Arabic translation of DDC 22. We will work closely with BA staff on interoperable expansions in Islam, the area table for Middle East/North Africa, history of Middle East/North Africa, Arabic language, Arabic literature and Islamic law. These expansions will also be used to improve the English-language standard edition.

French ASTED published the French translation of Abridged Edition 14 in 2005. Louis Cabral (Executive Director of ASTED) and Raymonde Couture-Lafleur (Editor) visited OCLC on October 18, 2006, for a planning meeting on the new French full edition.

German In July 2006, Julianne Beall participated in a one-day DDC workshop in Vienna held in conjunction with the 10th Conference of the German Chapter of ISKO. Julianne Beall and Joan S. Mitchell also had the opportunity to tour DDC-DACHS: Die Dewey-Dezimalklassifikation und der deutschsprachige Raum (www.oegdi.at/DDC-DACHS/), a traveling exhibition of DDC-related material that has been organized by Dr. Margit Sandner (Universitätsbibliothek Wien). Just prior to IFLA, the Dewey editorial team prepared a paper responding to a host of technical questions and proposals from Deutsche Nationalbibliothek (DNB). Some of our discussions resulted in action items on the agenda for EPC Meeting 126. On November 22, DNB started using Dewey to classify all titles for the main series of the German national bibliography (excluded from Dewey application are fiction, juvenile fiction and textbooks for schools). Now all titles that are part of the legal deposit of DNB (plus Austrian and Swiss

publications, Germanica and translations) will be classified using Dewey. This represents more than 100,000 titles per year.

Italian The Italian translation of Abridged Edition 14 was published in 2006. At IFLA, we met for several hours with Federica Paradisi (Biblioteca nazionale centrale di Firenze) to discuss a host of Italian proposals for changes to the English-language full edition based on proposed additions and expansions in the Italian translation of DDC 22. We were able to accommodate most of the team's proposals.

Spanish Work is underway on a Spanish translation of Abridged Edition 14, to be published in early 2007. Planning is also underway for a new translation of the full edition.

Swedish Kungl. Biblioteket (KB) is considering a mixed Swedish/English translation of the DDC. We met with Magdalena Svanberg (KB) during IFLA 2006 to discuss the technical issues surrounding the proposed mixed Swedish/English translation. KB is still exploring the proposal.

Vietnamese The Vietnamese translation of Abridged Edition 14 was published in third quarter 2006. The translation includes expansions for areas of special interest in Vietnam. Julianne Beall represented the Dewey editorial team at the launch of the new edition at the National Library of Vietnam in Hanoi in August 2006. The launch was followed by a seminar on the use of DDC in Vietnamese libraries and the launch of a new Vietnamese DDC web site (www.ddcvietnam.org/).

Dewey translators meeting

At the World Library and Information Congress 2006 (IFLA 2006) in Seoul, OCLC held a special meeting for Dewey translators and representatives of national libraries and bibliographies using the DDC. Twenty-seven librarians, representing Dewey projects in 15 countries, attended the meeting. The key discussion item was the linking of DDC numbers to authority file records. A complete report on the meeting, including links to presentations, is available at http://ddc.typepad.com/025431/2006/08/dewey_in_author.html. (Note: An updated discussion paper on linking Dewey numbers to records in authority files is available at www.oclc.org/dewey/discussion/papers/epc_126-35.doc.)

The group decided that the 2007 meeting in Durban, South Africa, should focus on effective methods of collaboration under the general theme, "How can we all work together?"

CSH-DDC mappings

In consultation with Library and Archives Canada, we have made the decision to terminate the CSH-DDC mapping project. Mappings posted between December 2003 and May 2006 are still available at www.oclc.org/dewey/updates/cshnumbers/

New Dewey Editorial Support System and MARC 21

We are working out the details of data conversion from the current ESS proprietary format to an enhanced version of the MARC 21 Format for Classification Data (and to an enhanced version of the MARC 21 Format for Authority Data for the Relative Index). The format conversion will facilitate improved data representation within the system, and easy distribution of data in XML and other formats. In conjunction with the changes we expect to propose to the MARC classification and authority formats for the handling of DDC classification formats, we also plan to review the treatment of classification data in the MARC bibliographic format in cooperation with Deutsche Nationalbibliothek. It is our intention to prepare a joint discussion paper for review at the MARBI meeting at the ALA Annual Conference in June 2007.

Decimal Classification Editorial Policy Committee (EPC) update

The Decimal Classification Editorial Policy Committee (EPC), the ten-member international advisory board for the DDC, held Meeting 126 at the Library of Congress October 11–13, 2006. A key focus of the meeting was on the long-term plan for 200 Religion. Dr. Ia McIlwaine, chair of the UDC consortium and former editor in chief of the UDC, was an invited guest and addressed UDC-DDC cooperation in religion. Dr. McIlwaine described our efforts to date in exploring the question, “Can we use UDC’s Class 2 (Religion. Theology) as the framework for an alternative view of religion in the DDC and as a model for the future revision of 200 Religion?” EPC endorsed the concept of discontinuing the current optional arrangements listed at 290 Religion (Options A–E) in favor of a single chronological/regional alternative framework based on the top-level UDC arrangement, and recommended exploring the framework as a model for a future revision of 200 Religion. We’d like to prototype a virtual version of the alternative framework, and will be working with our colleagues in OCLC Research on this project.

The committee spent a lot of time reviewing proposals related to groups of people throughout the DDC. EPC heartily endorsed our proposal to transform the caption at T1–08 from “History and description with respect to kinds of persons” simply to “Groups of people.” Now that the top-level plan has been approved in principle, we plan to address the naming conventions for groups of people throughout the DDC. We also plan to change the caption at T1–092 from “Persons treatment” to “Biography” (the category itself will retain its current scope).

EPC approved provisions for Semantic Web, Internet telephony and VOIP, GIS and GPS, political parties of Austria and Switzerland, fountains and cloisters, Sardinian and Corsican languages and literatures, qi gong and sarcoidosis. We have already begun releasing updates to records associated with these topics (and some new numbers) to users. EPC also approved updates and expansions for crimes in 364 and services to prisoners in 365—after some editorial work, we’ll be rolling out these new and changed entries to users.

The committee devoted significant time to changes proposed to geographic areas and Italian history in conjunction with work on the Italian translation. The T2–45 draft includes provisions for several new Italian provinces plus proposed changes in the English-language edition to restore interoperability between the standard edition and the Italian translation. The latter proposed changes are primarily in the form of expansions for major cities—for example, T2–45511 Florence instead of the current DDC 22 entry T2–4551 Florence (Firenze) and Prato provinces (where Florence appears in a class-here note). The T2–37 expansion provides for greater specificity of ancient Italy and surrounding areas. The development for ancient Italy is limited right now in comparison with that of T2–361–362 British Isles, where notation for modern areas of the British Isles can be added directly to the base ancient geographic number to represent the ancient areas. EPC approved the T2–45 and T2–37 proposals, with a few suggestions for additions to T2–37.

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The Dewey editorial team also presented the draft of 945 Italy, San Marino, Vatican City, Malta. The draft includes interoperable expansions for historical periods of Italian regions, plus the aforementioned changes in T2–45. Since the committee did not see the new 945 development until Meeting 126, we scheduled a follow-up teleconference on December 5 to address some of the committee's questions and concerns, and worked with the Italian team to provide EPC with a new draft prior to the teleconference. EPC approved all the changes.

EPC also discussed the proposed guidelines for Dewey numbers in authority files. The committee agreed that we need to specify the relationships between topical Relative Index terms and Dewey numbers in Dewey records in which those relationships are not explicitly specified. We are studying the broader question of whether there should be additional specifications of relationships in Dewey records beyond the current equals/approximates the whole and standing room relationships.

Other topics considered by the committee included the Dewey training program (see separate discussion in this newsletter), and relationships with translators. EPC agreed to extend membership in the committee's private listserv to representatives of each translation partner in order to facilitate the immediate transfer of draft proposals, and to encourage direct feedback to EPC. EPC also approved the commissioning of a 340 Law Working Group to make specific recommendations to EPC and the Dewey editorial team on improvements to 340 Law for legal systems rooted in civil law. We also plan to work directly with the Arabic translation team to improve provisions for Islamic law.

Anne Robertson (Australian Committee on Cataloguing) was reelected to a two-year term as vice chair. EPC feted outgoing ALA representative Jessica MacPhail (Racine Public Library), whose committee service ended in December 2006. Jessica joined the committee in January 2001, and has been succeeded as ALA representative by Migell Acosta (County of Los Angeles Public Library), who attended Meeting 126 as a guest.

EPC has scheduled two in-person meetings in 2007. Meeting 127 will be held May 9–11, 2007, at OCLC headquarters in Dublin, Ohio. Meeting 128 is scheduled for November 13–14, 2007, at the Library of Congress in Washington, DC.

Dewey application at the Library of Congress

Decimal Classification Division classifiers assigned Dewey numbers to 101,766 titles during the fiscal year 2006, at a productivity rate (titles classified per hour) of 10.22. Comparable figures for FY 2005 were 114,386 and 9.52. The increase in productivity and the decrease in production may be attributed to the Division's cross-training initiative and the loss of three senior classifiers during the period. The Division's Dewey production was supplemented by a substantial increase in the number of copied Dewey Decimal Classification numbers processed in the cataloging divisions. During FY 2006, Library of Congress cataloging teams processed 22,917 titles with copied Dewey numbers.

Dennis McGovern, Chief of the Decimal Classification Division, began a three-month assignment as Acting Chief of the Special Materials Cataloging Division on January 1, 2007. During Mr. McGovern's absence, Jeffrey Heynen, Chief of the History and Literature Cataloging Division, will serve as Acting Chief of the Decimal Classification Division.

Dewey staff news

Rebecca Green has been appointed Assistant Editor, Dewey Decimal Classification. She will join the Dewey editorial team on January 29, 2007, as an OCLC employee based in the Dewey Editorial Office at the Library of Congress. Most recently, Dr. Green was an associate professor at the University of Maryland, where she had been a member of the faculty of the College of Information Studies since 1989. Her teaching and research interests include knowledge organization, database design, classification theory, knowledge representation and linguistic applications in information retrieval.

Dr. Green has a Ph.D. and an MS in Computer Science, and a Ph.D. and an MLS in Library and Information Services, all from the University of Maryland. She also has an MA in Linguistics from the University of California, Berkeley and an AB, magna cum laude, in Music from Harvard University. Dr. Green has authored over 40 scholarly publications, and is an active member of the Association for Computational Linguistics and the International Society for Knowledge Organization. She also serves on the editorial board of *Knowledge Organization*.

Group subscriptions for Dewey services

If your library is part of a consortium and wishes to subscribe to WebDewey and/or Abridged WebDewey, please contact Libbie Crawford at libbie_crawford@oclc.org or 1-800-848-5878 ext. 6346 to explore group subscription options.

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

Dewey documentation
www.oclc.org/support/documentation/dewey/

Dewey FAQ
www.oclc.org/support/questions/dewey/

DDC RSS feeds
www.oclc.org/dewey/syndicated/rss.htm

DDC review schedule
www.oclc.org/dewey/discussion/reviewschedule.htm

DDC Questions?

Dewey Editorial Office
dewey@loc.gov

Licensing, group purchases,
LIS program
dewey@oclc.org

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/papers/reviewschedule.htm.

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

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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.

We're on the Web!
See us at:
www.oclc.org/dewey/



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