Supplement to Graphic Novels in DDC: Discussion Paper

After discussions during the American Library Association Annual Conference, the Dewey editors have questions about two points raised in the original Graphic Novels in DDC: Discussion Paper.

A. Works in 741.59 subarranged by country of original publication.

Question A relates to the original point 4 Works in 741.59 subarranged by country of artist or writer.

The editors are now considering subarranging by country of original publication, rather than country of artist or writer. For example, a work originally published in England would be classed in 741.5942, a work originally published in Japan in 741.5952, a work originally published in the United States in 741.5973, without regard to the nationalities of the artists and writers involved. The rationale is that artists and writers of different nationalities may collaborate on the same work, and a single artist or writer may contribute to works originally published in different countries, but the artists and writers will aim for the style of the country in which the work is to be published.

If a work is translated into another language and published in another country, the translation would still be classed in the same number as the original, e.g., a work originally published in Japan then translated into English and published in the United States 741.5952 (not 741.5973). Only if a work is changed so much that it should be considered an adaptation rather than a translation would we change to the DDC number for a work originally published in the second country.

Is subarranging by country of original publication a useful strategy?

B. Fotonovelas (photo novels)

Question B relates to the original point 8 Fotonovelas (photo novels).

We have received suggestions that fotonovelas are sufficiently similar to graphic novels that they should be classed in the same numbers as graphic novels, not separated as we originally proposed. We have not, however, spoken with librarians who have large collections of both fotonovelas and graphic novels. We would especially like to hear from librarians experienced with both formats.

Should fotonovelas and graphic novels be classed together in the same numbers, or should they be separated?

We are still hoping to receive advice by August 16, 2004. Please send suggestions and comments to

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