

Transgendered People: A Discussion Paper
June 14, 2007

The Dewey editorial team has been studying approaches to providing for groups by gender and associated topics in Table 1. We have recently proposed adding provisions for gender identity, gender role, and sex role (topics parallel to those given in the class-here note under the current version of 305.3 Men and women) in Table 1. The Decimal Classification Editorial Policy Committee (EPC) has approved these changes in principle, but has recommended that we seek outside comments on the new provisions for transgendered people.

We also wish to provide for transgendered people (a group by gender) separate from groups of people by sexual orientation. We have considered two approaches: a new subdivision for transgendered people at T1—0812 under the development at T1—081 People by gender or sex, or a new subdivision at T1—0867 under T1—086 People by miscellaneous social attributes. The first approach has the advantage of providing for the current range of people by gender or sex in one location. The second approach ensures that transgendered people are given preference over other groups in T1—081–T1—086 by the class-with-the-last instruction under T1—081–T1—088. It also locates transgendered people closer to T1—0866 People by sexual orientation, a group with whom transgendered people are often allied in struggles against discrimination. The T1—0867 development has the disadvantage of removing the group notationally from other people by gender or sex. We have tentatively proposed the second approach, and added a see reference at T1—081 (“*for transgendered people, see T1—0867*”) to acknowledge the notational displacement of the group in the structural hierarchy.

After the relocation of transsexuals to T1—0867 Transgendered people, the remaining topic in the including note under T1—0866 is “people with no sexual orientation.” This group also appears in the current class-here note under 306.762 Asexuality, along with “neutral sexual orientation.” “Neutral sexual orientation” is indexed to 306.762 along with “Asexuality”; neither is indexed in Table 1. There appears to be little literary or terminological warrant for the topics. In WorldCat, there are only six records associated with 306.762, five of which represent works about eunuchs. The term “asexuals” isn’t found anywhere in Dewey (except in the context of asexual reproduction in biology), and “Asexuals” and “Asexuality” do not appear in LCSH as headings or references. We are not sure the provisions for these topics are warranted in Table 1 or 306.

We have introduced parallel changes to those proposed for Table 1 in 305.3 and 306.7. A summary of the changed records are attached to this paper. Changes to table and schedule numbers are indicated by underlining. Other changes are underlined, and deletions are marked by strikethroughs.

Questions

We pose the following questions to reviewers:

- Is the development for transgendered people at T1—0867 a satisfactory placement?
- Is there any need for provisions for “asexuality and asexuals,” “people with no sexual orientation,” or “neutral sexual orientation”?

Request for Advice

We welcome your advice on the overall proposed approach and the specific issues raised above. Please reply directly to the *025.431: The Dewey blog* entry on this topic by August 24, 2007. If you prefer, you may also send comments and suggestions directly by the same date to dewey@loc.gov.

Table 1

—081 ~~Men~~ People by gender or sex

Class here ~~males~~ gender role, gender identity, gender role, sex role

Subdivisions are added for either or both topics in heading

For women, see —082; for transgendered people, see —0867

*See Manual at T1—081 ~~and~~ T1—082, T1—08351,
T1—08352, T1—08421, T1—08422*

[Note: A new subdivision has been provided under —081 for men, —0811 Men]

—0866 ~~Persons~~ People by sexual orientation

Including ~~persons~~ people with no sexual orientation, ~~transsexuals~~

Transsexuals relocated to —0867

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—0867 Transgendered people

Class here transsexuals [*formerly* —0866], cross-dressers,
intersexed people, transgenderists

305.3 ~~Men and women~~ People by gender or sex

Class here interdisciplinary works on ~~the~~ sex role, gender role, gender identity, the sexes; adult men and women

Class sex psychology, ~~and~~ psychology of people by gender or sex, by sexual orientation ~~the sexes~~ in 155.3; class sexual division of labor in 306.3615; class the relations between the sexes and within the sexes in 306.7–306.8. Class the relation of a specific gender or sex to a specific subject with the subject, plus notation 081–082 from Table 1, e.g., women in U.S. history 973.082

For young and middle-aged men and women, see 305.24; for men and women in late adulthood, see 305.26; for women, see 305.4; for transgendered people, see 306.768. For a specific aspect of sex role and gender identity, see the aspect, e.g., psychology of gender identity 155.33

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306.76 Sexual orientation; transgenderism

Standard subdivisions are added for sexual orientation and transgenderism together; for sexual orientation alone

Including asexuality, people with no sexual orientation

Class here ~~persons~~ people by sexual orientation

Class practices associated with specific orientations in 306.77

306[.762] Asexuality

~~Class here neutral sexual orientation, persons with no sexual orientation~~

Number discontinued; class in 306.76

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306.768 ~~Transsexuality~~ Transgenderism

Class here transsexuality; transgendered people (cross-dressers, intersexed people, transgenderists, transsexuals)

Class practices associated with transgenderism in 306.77