



Dewey Decimal Classification NEWS



January 2009

ALA Midwinter Meeting

Dewey at ALA

Please join us for the Dewey Breakfast/Update on Saturday, January 24, 7:00–8:20 a.m., in the Vail Room, Sheraton Denver Downtown. The program will feature a research update and a preview of a history-of-concepts prototype Dewey Web service. The editorial team will present proposed new developments for musical traditions, meals and language variations for comment by breakfast attendees. There will also be an open question/answer period.

OCLC Booth 1704

Stop by OCLC Booth 1704 to see Web versions of DDC 22 and Abridged Edition 14. Other recent Dewey Decimal Classification publications are available via the Dewey Web Store at <https://www3.oclc.org/dewey/>. Dewey print publications are also on display at the Combined Book Exhibit (Booth 1314).

New Editorial Support System (ESS)

The fourth-generation Dewey editorial support system (ESS) is currently under development by OCLC staff in Dublin, Ohio, and San Mateo, California. We are currently finalizing the database conversion algorithm and interface design. The DDC 22 and Abridged Edition 14 databases, along with the preliminary update file for Table 1, have been converted from the proprietary format used in the current ESS system to the MARC Classification format; and the Relative Index files associated with the two editions have been converted to the MARC Authorities format. We expect to begin moving to the new system in mid-2009. We are also investigating a successor to WebDewey.

Mappings

On July 25, 2008, we temporarily suspended mapping new Library of Congress Subject Headings to DDC numbers to make room for a project to add DDC numbers to the authority records for BISAC (Book Industry Standards and Communications) subject headings. We plan to resume LCSH-DDC mappings by mid-2009.

DDC Research Partners

We are investigating automatic assignment of Dewey numbers with Classify (<http://deweyresearch.oclc.org/classify2/>), a prototype Web service developed by a team headed by Diane Vizine-Goetz of OCLC Research. Classify recommends

classification metadata based on FRBRization of bibliographic records in WorldCat. Research partners include the University of Tasmania Library and the National Library of Sweden.

In cooperation with Marcia Lei Zeng (Kent State University), we compiled comments in response to the W3C Last Call Working Draft of the SKOS (Simple Knowledge Organization System) specifications and submitted them to the discussion list of the Semantic Web Deployment Working Group. The comments addressed issues in the representation of classification systems with the SKOS data model that arose during the development of an experimental RDF/SKOS version of the DDC to support semantic Web applications.

We are cooperating with Deutsche Nationalbibliothek (DNB) on a project to explore the possibilities of an integrated display of Dewey in several different languages. The client will be based on MelvilClass, the cataloging interface of the German DDC. DNB has already brought up the English-language DDC database under the MelvilClass interface as a proof-of-concept for the project. In the next step, we will be adding the ability to search a combined bilingual index and switch between English and German representations of classes. We are also in the process of finalizing an agreement between OCLC and DNB to support local stewardship and distribution of the German DDC data by DNB within the German cultural heritage community.

The full XML distribution of DDC 22 was delivered to the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission on December 1. JRC will use the data to build a common retrieval interface for five heterogeneously indexed collections, and to create and maintain mappings between Dewey and the other indexing languages.

Michael Panzer met with representatives of the High Level Thesaurus (HILT) project in September to discuss ongoing cooperation during Phase IV of the project. The HILT team at the University of Strathclyde aims to provide a DDC-based interoperability service to support cross-searching of collections. Current work includes experimenting with distributed access to DDC data via an SRW (Search/Retrieve Web) service, as well as creation of high-level mappings between selected JISC (Joint Information Systems Committee) services and the DDC spine.

Dewey around the World

European DDC Users' Group (EDUG)

EDUG will hold its third annual meeting on April 27, 2009, at the Austrian National Library in Vienna. A symposium, "Dewey

goes Europe: On the Use and Development of DDC in European Libraries,” is scheduled for the following day (April 28, 2009), also at the Austrian National Library.

Mixed translation models: Norwegian and Swedish

An ongoing investigation of mixed translation models for the DDC is under way in collaboration with Ingebjørg Rype (National Library of Norway) and Magdalena Svanberg (National Library of Sweden). A mixed translation uses DDC classes in the vernacular to form the basic framework of the mixed edition; English-language records are ingested directly to complete hierarchies where needed. In schedules where interoperable expansions are available in the vernacular, the basic framework will be at a deeper level than its English-language equivalent. Separate indexes of available terminology in the vernacular and English are provided. Two studies of the mixed Norwegian-English translation have been undertaken to-date, and a third is planned for February 2009. In June 2008, we tested the mixed education schedule with a group of nineteen Norwegian librarians recruited from a variety of library types. Twelve completed the study; nine of the 12 participated in a follow-up online interview. A follow-up study in November 2008 with Norwegian public librarians yielded little results. Additional work is planned for late January/early February 2009, when Joan Mitchell and Magdalena Svanberg will join Ingebjørg Rype at the National Library of Norway for further study of the models. All three will also participate in the second and third days of a workshop to be held at Oslo University College, February 2–4, 2009 (see www.hio.no/content/view/full/75571).

On December 5, 2008, the governing board of the Swedish Library Association discussed the importance of using the same classification system throughout Sweden, and recommended that Swedish libraries in general consider adopting the DDC. Stockholm University Library has become the first library to follow the National Library of Sweden in the decision to switch from SAB to DDC. More discussion among Swedish libraries will take place in early 2009, starting with a seminar on Dewey and the role of classification in a national and international context, to be held February 5, 2009, at the National Library of Sweden (see www.kb.se/aktuellt/kurser-konferenser/konferens-seminarier/Seminarium-om-Dewey-och-andra-framtidsfragor/).

Arabic DDC 22

Joan Mitchell and Julianne Beall met with Bibliotheca Alexandrina’s Arabic translation team during IFLA 2008. We are awaiting a proposal from the team for an expansion of Islam.

French DDC 22 (Web version)

Preliminary planning is under way for a French Web version of the full edition. A teleconference was held in early December under way with Francis Farley-Chevrier (director of ASTED), Dewey editorial staff, and OCLC business and technical staff participating. A follow-up teleconference is scheduled for February 24, 2009.

German DDC 22 (Web version)

We have begun discussions with colleagues at DNB about workflow issues—the transmission of updates from the new editorial support system to local translation systems and vice versa—with an eye toward developing a workflow plan that will serve as a model for interactions with other translations.

Hebrew Abridged 14

The Israeli Center for Libraries published the Hebrew translation of Abridged Edition 14 in late 2008.

Indonesian Abridged 14

On September 17, 2008, Joan Mitchell, Julianne Beall and Libbie Crawford met by teleconference with a team of nine people from the National Library of Indonesia (including Dady Rachmananta, the director) to plan a new Indonesian (Bahasa Indonesia) translation of Abridged Edition 14. The last Indonesian translation was published in 1979, and was based on Abridged Edition 10. We recently updated the developments for geographic areas of Indonesia (see http://ddc.typepad.com/025431/2006/07/provinsi_indone.html), plus peoples, languages and literatures of Indonesia (see www.oclc.org/dewey/updates/new/200808.pdf)—we expect to make additional adjustments to these developments plus other sections of the DDC as we work with the Indonesian translation team.

Italian DDC 22

The Italian translation of DDC 22 has just been published.

Spanish DDC 22

Planning is under way for the Spanish translation of DDC 22. The Spanish translation of Abridged Edition 14 was published in 2008.

Decimal Classification Editorial Policy Committee (EPC)

EPC held Meeting 130 at the Library of Congress November 18–19, 2008. The meeting was chaired by Caroline Kent (British Library); Anne Robertson (Australian Committee on Cataloguing) was re-elected vice-chair for another two-year term.

Prior to Meeting 130, EPC held an electronic pre-meeting, and approved updates to historical periods (see http://ddc.typepad.com/025431/2008/11/and_the_winner-is.html); modernization of the treatment of radio programs, motion pictures and television programs regardless of method of distribution; and updates to 510 Mathematics. All but the last are now available in WebDewey and Abridged WebDewey. EPC also approved, with minor modification, the long-planned updates to groups of people in Table 1 and 305–306 (see <http://ddc.typepad.com/025431/2008/08/since-late-2005.html>)—we plan to release the updates in mid-2009.

EPC discussed two sets of updates to Table 2 (Geographic Areas, Historical Periods, Persons): the conversion of the relocation information and corresponding changes in the reorganization of Scotland, England and Wales presented in DDC 22; and further updates to the area table for Indonesia. Both sets of changes require additional consultation with in-country groups. EPC approved a final round of updates to Table 4 (Subdivisions of Individual Languages and Language Families, for Individual Literatures, for Specific Literary Forms), Table 5 (Ethnic and National Groups) and Table 6 (Languages)—most of the updates will be distributed to users in mid-2009.

In the schedules, EPC approved updates in the following areas: 001 Knowledge; 002 The book; 150 Psychology; 330 Economics; 390 Customs, etiquette, folklore; 400 Language

(including the relocation of computational linguistics [see <http://ddc.typepad.com/025431/2008/07/computational-l.html>]; 610 Medicine and health; 640 Home and family management; 650 Management and auxiliary services; 660 Chemical engineering & related technologies; 730 Sculpture and related arts; 740 Graphic arts and decorative arts; 750 Painting and paintings; 760 Printmaking and prints; 770.23 Photography as a profession, occupation, hobby; and 790 Recreational and performing arts. EPC also approved updates to the current historical periods in 947 Russia and 968 South Africa. Updates in many of these areas will be released during 2009. EPC reviewed reports on work under way in 340 Law, and discussion papers on 370 Education and 780 Music. We will be seeking advice from users on a number of topics discussed at Meeting 130, including subjects in primary school curricula, language variations, meals, clothing, musical styles and literary periods for Galician.

EPC reviewed several research initiatives from the OCLC Office of Research and the Dewey editorial team, plus draft guidelines for classifying photographs for the World Digital Library project—we'll blog about these activities separately in the coming weeks.

On November 18, EPC held a special dinner in honor of outgoing EPC member Arlene Taylor and retiring assistant editor Winton Matthews.

EPC is currently holding a follow-up electronic meeting (Meeting 130A, January 9–February 6, 2009), to resolve some minor open issues from Meeting 130. Meeting 131 is scheduled for June 10–12, 2009, at OCLC headquarters in Dublin, Ohio.

Dewey Staff News

Winton E. Matthews, Jr., the longest-serving member of the current Dewey editorial team, retired from the Library of Congress on January 2, 2009. Winton began working at LC in June 1967, and joined the former Decimal Classification Division in August 1968 as a decimal classification specialist. In April 1985, he was promoted to assistant editor of the DDC. During his long relationship with Dewey, Winton made several significant contributions to the development of the DDC. He collaborated with two consultants (Russell Sweeney and John Clews) on the complete revision of 780 Music that was published in draft form in 1980 and in final form as the entirely new 780 Music schedule in DDC 20 in 1989. As the key editor in charge of Table 2 and 900, Winton kept pace with world events and numerous large and small geographic realignments. He also advised DDC translation teams on the development of interoperable expansions, and reviewed numerous draft versions of translations. Among his editorial colleagues, Winton served as the acknowledged expert in Dewey editorial rules and formatting matters, and was a valued reviewer of many draft editorial proposals. Winton witnessed firsthand and played an active role in Dewey's transformation from a print-only to print and electronic tool, and participated in the development and testing of four Editorial Support Systems. Winton also served as the Dewey liaison to two American Library Association committees, Cataloging Needs of Public Libraries and Cataloging of Children's Materials.

On October 14, 2008, **Karl E. Debus-López** joined the Library of Congress as the chief of the new Library of Congress U.S. General Division, to which the Dewey Section now belongs (see below for more information on the Dewey Section). Karl has worked in a broad range of management positions in technical services with a focus on acquisitions and collection development. Karl joined LC from the National Agricultural Library (NAL), where he served as the Head of the Acquisitions and Collection Development Branch and Chief Collection Development Officer for NAL. Prior to working at NAL, Karl served as Associate University Librarian for Collections and Technical Services at Georgetown University. He also served as Acting Associate University Librarian for Special Collections at Georgetown University, and developed a new library for Georgetown's School of Foreign Service in Doha, Qatar. Prior to his most recent positions at NAL and Georgetown, Karl served as Head of the Acquisitions and Serials Department at the University of Wisconsin–Madison, Head of the Technical Services Office at the Executive Office of the President Library, Head of Monographic Acquisitions at NAL and Acquisitions Librarian in the Serial Records Section at the National Library of Medicine.

Dewey Section at the Library of Congress

In October 2008, the Decimal Classification Division was renamed the “Dewey Section” and became part of the U.S. General Division, one of the new divisions formed as part of the reorganization of the Acquisitions and Bibliographic Services Directorate at the Library of Congress. Eve Dickey continues as team leader of the Dewey Section.

Dewey Section classifiers and others assigned Dewey numbers to 62,784 titles during fiscal year 2008 (which ended September 30, 2008). The comparable figure for fiscal year 2007 was 72,518 titles.

Dewey Editorial Office

Please direct questions, comments 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., S.E.
Washington, DC 20540-4292

Fax: 1-202-707-0279

(Note: Mail service may be slow to LC due to heightened security precautions.)

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
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/
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)