



Dewey Decimal Classification NEWS



August 2009
IFLA 2009, Milan, Italy

Dewey at IFLA

OCLC will host the annual Dewey Translators Meeting in conjunction with the World Library and Information Congress (75th IFLA General Conference and Assembly) on Tuesday, 25 August, 16.00 – 18.00, Orange 3 Meeting Room, Milano Convention Centre. The agenda includes presentations on the UDC/DDC crosswalk developed by the Czech National Library for the purpose of collection assessment, the classification of photographs in the World Digital Library, Dewey research activities, and changes in the formats for the representation and distribution of the DDC. Preregistration is requested; please contact Joan Mitchell (Editor-in-Chief, DDC) at mitchelj@oclc.org if you are interested in attending, or leave a message for her at the OCLC stand in the exhibition hall (Stand 300).

OCLC Exhibit, Stand 300

Stop by OCLC exhibit (Stand 300) to see DDC 22 and Abridged 14 in print and Web versions, plus several current translations of the DDC.

New Editorial Support System (ESS)

The fourth-generation Dewey Editorial Support System (ESS) is now in use by the Dewey editorial team. The new ESS supports the development and maintenance of the DDC, “anytime” export of the DDC in a variety of formats to support a variety of services, publication of print editions, ingestion of mapped data, and eventual ingestion of translation data. The system was developed by OCLC staff in Dublin, Ohio, and San Mateo, California.

Earlier generations of the system used a proprietary format for data representation. The new ESS uses the MARC 21 Format for Classification Data for schedule, table and Manual data; and the MARC 21 Format for Authority Data for the Relative Index and mapped headings. As part of our move to the new system, we have switched our distribution format from the

ESS XML format to a MARCXML format beginning September 2009. The last quarterly distribution in the current ESS XML format was delivered to translators and other DDC licensees in July 2009.

OCLC has contracted with Pansoft, the Karlsruhe-based developer of the translation support software used by several Dewey translations, to develop the print server for the new ESS. As part of that contract, Pansoft is converting existing translation files supported by Pansoft to the new format, and implementing import/export of data in MARCXML in the translation support system.

WebDewey 2.0

Initial planning is under way for the successor to the current WebDewey. Design goals include a modern, simple user interface; support for search, browse, number building and personalization; a generic user interface script to support access to Dewey data in different languages, and access to different terminology sets; and local control over display of personalization, history of numbers, hierarchy information and connection to OPACs.

Updates to DDC Representation in the MARC Formats

Several updates to the representation of the DDC in MARC formats published by LC in Update 9 (October 2008) will be implemented by OCLC in August 2009. Of special note are updates to three fields in the MARC Format for Bibliographic Data: 082 Dewey Decimal Classification Format (two new subfields: www.loc.gov/marc/bibliographic/bd082.html); 083 Additional Dewey Decimal Classification Number (new field: www.loc.gov/marc/bibliographic/bd083.html); and 085 Synthesized Classification Number Components (new field: www.loc.gov/marc/bibliographic/bd085.html).

Dewey around the World

European DDC Users' Group (EDUG)

EDUG held its third annual meeting on April 27, 2009, at the Austrian National Library in Vienna. EDUG working groups on law, education, archaeology and technical issues met during the EDUG meeting. A symposium, "Dewey goes Europe: On the Use and Development of DDC in European Libraries," was held the following day, also at the Austrian National Library.

Arabic DDC 22

Dr. Sohair Wastawy and Manal Amin of Bibliotheca Alexandrina visited the Dewey Editorial Office at LC May 18–19. We discussed general plans for the translation, plus the proposed expansion for Islam.

French DDC 22 (Web version)

Preliminary planning is under way for a French Web version of the full edition.

Mixed translation models: Norwegian and Swedish

In late January/early February 2009, Joan Mitchell spent several days at the National Library of Norway working with Karen Nisja Domaas, Ingebjørg Rype and Magdalena Svanberg on the mixed translation project (see a detailed account of the trip, including links to seminars in Norway and Sweden and a report on the visit to the National Library of Sweden, at <http://ddc.typepad.com/025431/2009/02/my-excellent-scandinavian-adventure.html>). In April 2009, the Norwegian Classification Committee (NKKI) recommended to the National Library of Norway that Norwegian librarians' needs would best be met by a full translation of the DDC accompanied by abridgment instructions. The National Library of Norway agreed in principle with NKKI's recommendation, but has postponed a final decision until a full review of the costs associated with a full translation can be completed.

Work has begun on the Swedish mixed translation project. All ten major university libraries in Sweden have announced their intention to adopt the DDC.

Decimal Classification Editorial Policy Committee (EPC)

EPC held Meeting 130 at the Library of Congress 18–19 November 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. A report on Meeting 130 is available at <http://ddc.typepad.com/025431/2008/11/epc-meeting-130.html>.

Jonathan Furner, professor at UCLA and former assistant editor of the DDC, has been appointed to EPC to succeed Arlene Taylor (professor emerita, University of Pittsburgh). Jonathan was nominated for EPC membership by the American Library Association; he is also a member of the IFLA Section on Classification & Indexing.

EPC held Meeting 131 at OCLC headquarters in Dublin, Ohio, 10–12 June 2009. Caroline Kent was unable to attend the meeting; Anne Robertson chaired the meeting in her absence. A report on Meeting 131 is available at <http://ddc.typepad.com/025431/2009/06/it-seems-like-forever-since-i-written-something-here-and-im-suppressing-the-urge-to-report-chronologically-on-my-act.html>.

Electronic Meeting 131A, a follow-up meeting on minor items arising from Meeting 131, is currently under way 3–28 August 2009. Meeting 132 will be held 16–17 November 2009 at the Library of Congress. The last meeting to approve content for inclusion in the next print edition of the DDC (DDC 23) will be held in late May/early June 2010. DDC 23 is scheduled to be published in early 2011.

Linked DDC Data

Dewey.info, a space for linked DDC data, is set to be launched in August with an initial data set of the DDC Summaries as linked data in nine languages under a Creative Commons by-nc-nd license. For more information, please "Dewey Summaries as Multilingual Linked Data" at <http://www.oclc.org/dewey/news/conferences/>.

Dewey Organization and Staff News

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 section head of the Dewey Section. On 14 October 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. 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.

Winton E. Matthews, Jr., assistant editor of the DDC, retired from the Library of Congress on 2 January 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. Winton recently rejoined the Dewey editorial team as a part-time consultant.

On March 9, 2009, **Michael Panzer** was appointed assistant editor of the DDC. Michael, who from 2002 to 2005 headed the technical team that translated Dewey into German, is the first member of a Dewey translation team to be appointed assistant editor. From May 2007 until his appointment as assistant editor, Michael served as global product manager of taxonomy services at OCLC. Prior to joining OCLC, Michael worked at Cologne University of Applied Sciences, where he was team leader of CrissCross, a research project funded by the German Research Foundation focused on mapping SWD, DDC, RAMEAU and LCSH. Michael has an MA from Heinrich Heine University (Düsseldorf) in German literature with a minor in information science. He also attended the University of California, Davis, on a four-month research scholarship.

Dewey Section at the Library of Congress

Dewey Section classifiers and others assigned Dewey numbers to 48,727 titles during the period October 2008 through June 2009. The comparable figure for the same period last year was 31,098 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.)

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)