



Dewey Decimal Classification NEWS



January 2010
ALA Midwinter Edition

Dewey at ALA Midwinter

Please join us for the Dewey Breakfast/Update on Saturday, January 16, 7:00–8:20 am, in the Stone Room at the Westin Boston Waterfront Hotel. The program will feature presentations on WebDewey 2.0, Dewey linked data, BISAC-DDC mappings, and proposals for changes to 340 Law and 370 Education. There will also be a general Dewey update plus an open discussion period—bring those burning Dewey questions and suggestions!

OCLC Booth 1654

Stop by OCLC Booth 1654 to see WebDewey and Abridged WebDewey. Dewey print publications are on display at the Combined Book Exhibit (Booth 1338).

WebDewey 2.0

Development is under way for the successor to the current WebDewey and Abridged WebDewey interface. The new systems will 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 connection to OPACs, plus display of comments, history of numbers and hierarchy information. OCLC has contracted with Pansoft, the Karlsruhe-based developer of the translation support software used by several Dewey translations, to develop the new system.

New Editorial Support System (ESS)

The fourth-generation Dewey Editorial Support System (ESS) was introduced recently. 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.

Under an agreement with OCLC, Pansoft has developed the print server for the new ESS. As part of that contract, Pansoft is currently converting the existing translation files supported by Pansoft to the new format, and implementing import/export of data in MARCXML in the translation support system.

Dewey.info

In mid-August, we launched dewey.info (<http://dewey.info>), an experimental Web service to explore the possibilities of applying linked data and Semantic Web principles to DDC data. The DDC Summaries are available in nine languages as the initial data under the Creative Commons BY-NC-ND 3.0 license. This license allows for noncommercial use and redistribution of the unmodified data.

Decimal Classification Editorial Policy Committee (EPC)

EPC held electronic Meeting 131A August 3–28, 2009, during which the committee addressed the use of the term “encompassing” in the DDC, plus minor issues in 400, 710 and 780.

Meeting 132 was held November 16–17, 2009, at the Library of Congress. EPC Chair Caroline Kent (British Library) was re-elected for a second two-year term as chair.

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In Table 1 (Standard Subdivisions), EPC approved a proposal to recast T1—0286 Waste technology as T1—0286 Green technology (Environmental technology). In Table 2 (Geographic Areas, Historical Periods, Persons), EPC gave provisional approval to the revision of Asia Minor and Turkey, and requested additional literary warrant information before approving the expansion for Switzerland.

EPC approved selected updates in the following schedules: 004-006 Computer science; 320 Political science; 361-365 Social problems and services; 390 Customs, etiquette, folklore; 400 Language; 569 Fossil mammals and 599 Mammals; 636 Animal husbandry; 646 Sewing, clothing; 690 Buildings; 720 Architecture; 800 Literature and rhetoric; and various historical periods in 900. EPC also reviewed and approved the full schedules for 670 Manufacturing and 680 Manufacture of products for special uses.

Several discussion papers were considered by the committee. One discussion paper addressed current and proposed practices related to representation and use of standard subdivisions with extended or narrowed meanings, and displaced standard subdivisions. Our investigation of such subdivisions was prompted by two streams of inquiry—a set of questions posed by a group of Dewey Section classifiers preparing training materials (Michael Cantlon, Carolyn Turner and Ruby Woodard), and our ongoing review of practices related to the representation of standard subdivisions in add tables. EPC approved the discussion paper on 281 Eastern churches for external review. We are seeking advice immediately from the Arabic, Greek and Russian translation teams; we will also be seeking advice from other experts in Orthodox Christianity. Yvonne Jahns (Deutsche Nationalbibliothek), chair of the European DDC Users' Group (EDUG) 340 Law Working Group, was a guest attendee at the meeting. She participated in the extensive discussion of various 340 Law discussion papers; the full 340 Law schedule will be considered at Meeting 133. Yvonne also presented “20 years SWD: German subject authority data prepared for the future.” EPC considered another set of discussion papers, including one from the EDUG 370 Education Working Group, focused on the 370 Education schedule. EPC reviewed revised proposals for updates to 372.3-372.8 Elementary education in specific subjects, and updates to levels of education in 372, 373 and 378. The full 370 Education schedule will also be considered at Meeting 133.

EPC also heard progress reports on Dewey linked data, mixed translation models and ongoing efforts

to use machine assistance in the development of the abridged edition.

EPC scheduled a follow-up electronic Meeting 132A (to be held February 1–26, 2010), during which the committee will review the Editorial Rules for standard subdivisions and corporate-body names with atypical punctuation; updates to T1—0284 Apparatus, equipment, materials and T1—0288 Maintenance and repair; updates to the Table 2 provisions for Asia Minor, Turkey and Switzerland; minor updates to clothing and fashion design; the updated history periods for Africa based on comments from outside reviewers; minor updates to animal husbandry and sports proposed by the Swedish translation team; and further work on the machine-assisted abridged model. If necessary, we will split the meeting into two parts and schedule another electronic meeting, Meeting 132B, at a later date.

Meeting 133, the last meeting to approve content for inclusion in the next print edition of the DDC (DDC 23), will be held at OCLC headquarters in Dublin, Ohio, June 16–18, 2010. DDC 23 is scheduled to be published in early 2011; Abridged Edition 15 will be published in mid-2011.

Dewey Around the World

Dewey Translators Meeting

OCLC hosted the annual Dewey Translators Meeting in conjunction with the World Library and Information Congress (75th IFLA General Conference and Assembly) in Milan on August 25, 2009. The agenda included 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. See a report on the meeting at: <http://ddc.typepad.com/025431/2009/09/forty-five-librarians-from-seventeen-countries-attended-the-dewey-translators-meeting-at-the-world-library-and-information-co-1.html>.

Arabic Full Edition

Dr. Sohair Wastawy (Bibliotheca Alexandrina) visited the Dewey Editorial Office at LC December 15, 2009, for discussions on the Arabic translation of the full DDC. We reviewed the translation timetable, plus the latest version of the proposed expansion for Islam.

Norwegian Full Edition

The National Library of Norway has decided to proceed with a Norwegian translation of the full edition of the DDC, to be published in a Web-only version. Previous Norwegian editions have been customized abridgments of the DDC.

Spanish Full Edition

Work has resumed on the new translation of the full edition of the DDC into Spanish.

Swedish Mixed Full Edition

Ann Tobin, a member of the translation team at the National Library of Sweden, paid a working visit to the Dewey Editorial Office at LC November 30–December 4, 2009. The Swedish translation will be a mixed one. The Introduction, Glossary and Tables 1–6 will be translated into Swedish. The top levels of the schedules plus the full hierarchy of classes down to and including classes with a defined level of literary warrant will be translated into Swedish; the rest of the classes will be ingested directly into the translation as English-language records. Manual records will be translated if associated with classes in Swedish; otherwise, they will be included in English. The translation will be accompanied by separate indexes in Swedish and English. During Ann’s visit, we reviewed the translation of the Introduction, Glossary and Tables 1, 4 and 6. We also discussed proposals and issues related to geographic areas, education, animal husbandry, sports, literature and historical periods. Additional topics of discussion included training, translation workflows and WebDewey 2.0.

DDC Research Partners

In November 2009, OCLC signed a research agreement with Bielefeld University Library for use of the complete DDC data files in German and English in a DFG-funded project to enrich OAI metadata automatically with Dewey numbers in the BASE search engine (<http://base.ub.uni-bielefeld.de/en/index.php>), and to provide enhanced browsing and retrieval based on the enrichments. The project combines approaches from computational linguistics, information science and computer science.

OCLC and Deutsche Nationalbibliothek (DNB) signed an agreement in December 2009 to facilitate DNB’s local stewardship of German DDC data (parts of which will be available under a Creative Commons BY-NC-ND 3.0 license) for display and redistribution.

Cataloging Correctly for Kids

Cataloging Correctly for Kids, 5th edition, is scheduled for publication by ALA Editions in summer 2010. It will contain a new chapter, “Dewey Decimal Classification,” by Julianne Beall, assistant editor of the DDC.

Dewey Section at the Library of Congress

Dewey Section classifiers and others assigned Dewey numbers to 62,784 titles during the period October 2008 through September 2009. The comparable figure for the same period last year was 65,386 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/
Dewey.info	http://dewey.info
World Digital Library	www.wdl.org/en/
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)