

Dewey Decimal Classification News
SLA Annual Conference
Washington, DC
June 14-17, 2009

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. The system will support 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. As part of our move to the new system, we plan to switch our distribution format from the ESS XML format to a MARC XML format beginning in September 2009. The new format is based on the MARC formats for classification and authority data. The last quarterly distribution in the current ESS XML format will be 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 will convert existing translation files supported by Pansoft to the new format, and implement import/export of data in MARC XML 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.

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 in September 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 in the OCLC Office of 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 have recently signed a research agreement with the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission at Ispra, Italy, on the use of Dewey in a common retrieval interface for five collections, heterogeneously indexed by JRC Actions, EUROVOC, or Dewey. The goal is to make them interoperable so that any vocabulary can be used to retrieve documents from all collections. The project group at JRC Ispra will be creating and maintaining partial mappings between Dewey and the other terminologies.

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.

Dewey Translators Meeting

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, August 25, 16:00-18:00, Orange 3, Milano Convention Centre. The tentative 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 Project, and Dewey research activities.

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.

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

Planning is under way for 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.

Italian DDC 22

The Italian translation of DDC 22 was published in December 2008.

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 (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, can be found 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 with abridgment instructions.

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

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. 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).

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 at the end of 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-1.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 sought advice from users on a number of topics discussed at Meeting 130, including language variations (see <http://ddc.typepad.com/025431/2009/01/language-variations-around-the-world.html>), meals (see <http://ddc.typepad.com/025431/2009/03/rethinking-meals.html>), musical styles (see <http://ddc.typepad.com/025431/2009/03/contemporary-styles-of-music.html>), and literary periods for Galician (see <http://ddc.typepad.com/025431/2008/12/literary-periods-for-galician-literature.html>).

EPC held Meeting 131 at OCLC headquarters in Dublin, Ohio, June 10-12, 2009. EPC discussed updates to the Dewey editorial rules for terms with variations in meaning; Table 1 (Standard Subdivisions); Table 2 (Areas, Periods, Persons) provisions for Barents Sea region, Germany, Asia Minor, and Turkey; Table 3 (Subdivisions for the Arts, for Individual Literatures, for Specific Literary Forms); and Table 5 (Ethnic and National Groups) provisions for Chinese people.

In the schedules, EPC approved updates in the following areas: 004-006 Computer science; 200 Religion; 300 Social sciences; 301-307 Sociology and anthropology; 320 Political science; 330 Economics; 340 Law; 370 Education; 400 Language; 610 Medicine and health; 640 Home and family management; 690 Buildings; 710 Civic and landscape art; 720 Architecture; 780 Music; 800 Literature; and 960 History of Africa.

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.

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 team leader of the Dewey Section. 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. 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 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. 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 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	http://www.oclc.org/dewey/
025.431: The Dewey blog	http://ddc.typepad.com
DeweyBrowser	http://www.oclc.org/research/researchworks/ddc/browser.htm
Classify	http://deweyresearch.oclc.org/classify2/
DDC Projects	http://www.slainte.org.uk/edugit/projects.htm
DDC Demonstrators	http://www.slainte.org.uk/edugit/demonstrators.htm
DDC Services	http://www.slainte.org.uk/edugit/services.htm

Dewey Documentation	http://www.oclc.org/support/documentation/dewey/
Dewey FAQ	http://www.oclc.org/support/questions/dewey/
DDC RSS Feeds	http://www.oclc.org/dewey/syndicated/rss.htm
New & Changed Entries	http://www.oclc.org/dewey/updates/new/default.htm
DDC Questions?	dewey@loc.gov (Dewey Editorial Office) dewey@oclc.org (Licensing, group purchases, LIS program)

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