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DDC 22: An Introduction

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Abstract

Dewey Decimal Classification and Relative Index, Edition 22 (DDC 22) will be issued simultaneously in print and web versions in July 2003. The new edition is the first full print update to the Dewey Decimal Classification system in seven years—it includes several significant updates and many new numbers and topics. DDC 22 also features some fundamental structural changes that have been introduced with the goals of promoting classifier efficiency and improving the DDC for use in a variety of applications in the web environment. Most importantly, the content of the new edition has been shaped by the needs and recommendations of Dewey users around the world. The worldwide user community has an important role in shaping the future of the DDC.

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Major Updates

DDC 22 includes major updates throughout the Classification. There is one important difference between DDC 22 and other recent editions: DDC 22 contains no complete or extensive revisions. In other words, several new developments have been added and many classes have been revised and expanded, but no schedule has been changed so fundamentally that a complete reordering has resulted. There are two important reasons for this feature. First, several key schedules have already undergone radical change in recent editions with the goal of modernizing Dewey's structure, e.g., life sciences, music, computer science, public administration. The second reason is more practical—we understand the costs of complete revisions to our users in terms of implementation and interrupted browsing structures. We are therefore reluctant to undertake a complete or extensive revision unless there is no other alternative to improving the current structure in order to provide an up-to-date development.

Computer Science

Perhaps the most visible change in DDC 22 is the name of the first main class—we have changed the caption for class 000 from “Generalities” to “Computer science, information, general works.” The caption “Generalities” did not really capture the breadth of the contents of class 000, and it served as a constant source of confusion for our translators. Also, a key discipline, computer science, was not visible in public displays of the ten main classes or hundred divisions.

Within class 000, we have retained the basic structure of 004–006 Data processing Computer science, but have completely updated the schedule to accommodate new topics that have emerged in the last seven years such as the World Wide Web, virtual reality, and markup languages. We have introduced a new development at 005.5 for general purpose application programs, and have relocated to 005.5 many programs formerly found in 005.3 plus word processing from 652.5. Besides word processing, the new 005.5 development includes provisions for electronic spreadsheets, statistical programs, personal information management systems, and presentation software.

Religion

In DDC 22, we have completed the two-edition plan that was initiated in DDC 21 (Dewey 1996) to reduce Christian bias in the 200 Religion schedule. In DDC 21, we moved comprehensive works on Christianity from 200 to 230, and relocated the standard subdivisions for Christianity from 201–209 to specific numbers in 230–270. We integrated the standard subdivisions of comparative religion with those for religion in general in 200.1–.9. We also revised and expanded the schedules for two major religions, 296 Judaism and 297 Islam.

DDC 22 contains the rest of the relocations and expansions outlined in the two-edition plan. In the new edition, we have moved specific aspects of religion from 291 to the 201–209 span vacated in DDC 21. These numbers are now used for general topics in religion, and as the source for notation to address specific aspects of religions in 292–299. The development at 201–209 has the same top-level structure as 291.1–.9, but we have updated and restructured the development in selected areas. For example, here is the revised development for attitudes of religions toward political affairs:

201.72 Political affairs [*formerly* 291.177]

- 201.721 Theocracy
- 201.723 Civil rights
- 201.727 International affairs [*formerly* 291.1787]
- 201.7273 War and peace
- 201.7275 Nuclear weapons and nuclear war

In DDC 21, the relationship between attitudes of religions toward political affairs and attitudes of religions toward international affairs was reflected in the structural hierarchy but not in the notational hierarchy—there was a see reference from political affairs in 291.177 to international affairs in 291.1787, but the latter topic was in a different notational hierarchy. When we moved these topics to 201.72 in DDC 22, we restored the relationship between these topics in the notational hierarchy.

We have expanded the sources of the Bahai Faith at 297.938, and have also revised and expanded the developments in 299.6 for religions originating among Black Africans and people of Black African descent, and in 299.7–8 for religions of American native origin. In 299.6–8, we have reversed the preference order between topic and ethnic group, and have provided a fuller array of topical aspects to be added to the ethnic group numbers. For example, in DDC 21, marriage rites of the Yoruba could only be expressed as 299.64, rites of religions originating among Black Africans and people of Black African descent. In DDC 22, we have reversed the preference order to show ethnic group first, topic second, and have provided for fuller expression of topical aspects. The number for marriage rites of the Yoruba in DDC 22 is 299.683330385:

- 299.68 Religions of specific groups and peoples
- 333 Yoruba (from Table 6 —96333 Yoruba)
- 0385 Marriage rites (from 203.85 Marriage rites)

Social Groups and Cultural Institutions

We identified the treatment of social groups and institutions as a high priority for updating in DDC 22. The existing development for social groups and institutions in 305–306 had several flaws. The listing of social groups was developed in 305 prior to the development of notation 08 in Table 1 (Standard Subdivisions). Some of the notation was mnemonic between the two developments, but 305 did not follow the same pattern as the Table 1 —08 development and featured a different preference order. A second key flaw was the split between groups in 305 (e.g., married persons, lesbians) and institutions in 306 (e.g., marriage, lesbianism). A third flaw was that the schedule itself reflected outdated social viewpoints. Also, the development in 305–306 was slated to be affected by a major structural change in DDC 22, the replacement of Table 7 (Groups of Persons).

After consultation with the Decimal Classification Editorial Policy Committee (EPC)¹ and outside reviewers, we determined that we did not want to make a fundamental change in the basic development of groups in 305; however, we did wish to expand certain provisions and to permit addition of Table 1 —08 notation for the expression of aspects that fall below the preferred aspect in the preference table at 305. For example, in DDC 21 the topic “African-American teenage girls” was classed in 305.235. In DDC 22, we have added a new number for female youth twelve to twenty, 305.2352. Since ethnic and national groups fall below age groups

in the table of preference, the number may be further extended by notation 089 from Table 1 plus notation for specific ethnic and national groups from Table 5 (Ethnic and National Groups). Thus, all aspects of African-American teenage girls may be expressed fully in DDC 22 as 305.235208996073.

When the 301–307 Sociology Expansion (*DDC 1982*) was introduced in 1982, provision was made at a new number, 305.906, to express persons by cultural level, marital status, sexual orientation, and special social status. What appeared initially to be a logical division between “groups” and “institutions” became increasingly unworkable in practical application. In DDC 22, we have relocated persons by marriage status and sexual orientation to the appropriate “institution” numbers in 306. For example, we have relocated the group “divorced persons” (formerly at 305.90653) to 306.89 Separation and divorce, part of the development for alteration of family arrangements.

We have also updated the placement of other social topics and the terminology associated with social topics. Here, we were spurred to action through the European viewpoint offered during our review of the sociology development during EPC Meeting 114. We moved cohabitation from 306.735 under the development for institutions pertaining to relations between the sexes to 306.841, a new number in the development for types of marriage and relationships. We have also updated the terminology for children born outside of a traditional marriage from “children of unwed parents” to “children of unmarried parents.”

In DDC 22, we have made an important change in the treatment of discrimination and racism. Discrimination or racism in relation to a topic is now expressed through use of notation 08 from Table 1 applied to the interdisciplinary number for the topic, e.g., racism in sports 796.089, discrimination against women in education 370.82. Previously, both of these topics would have been classed with the institution in the 306 schedule, e.g., racism in sports 306.483. If the interdisciplinary for the topic falls in the 306 schedule, notation 08 is applied to that number, e.g., discrimination against retired people 306.3808 (the interdisciplinary number for retired persons is 306.38). Interdisciplinary works on discrimination in general and racism in general continue to be classed in 305 and 305.8, respectively.

Peoples, Languages, and Literatures

During the discussion of the changes in 305–306 and the review of Table 5 at EPC Meeting 114, we were fortunate to have as a guest Isabella Kubosch, the editor of the Norwegian translation. In addition to encouraging several changes in 305–306, she questioned the name of Table 5 and the presentation of “basic races” in the table. After consultation with EPC, we changed the name of Table 5 from “Racial, Ethnic, National Groups” to “Ethnic and National Groups” and revised the development for races at the beginning of the table to reflect the de-emphasis on race in current scholarship.

We have greatly expanded provisions for American native peoples in Table 5, and for American native languages in Table 6 (Languages). In Table 6 and 400 Language, we have revised the development for Scandinavian languages, again with the cooperation of our Norwegian translators and colleagues in the national libraries of

Denmark, Iceland, and Sweden. We have made similar changes to the development for Scandinavian literatures in the 800 Literature schedule.

In the 400 Language schedule, we have added a new development for sign languages in 419, including the ability to subdivide geographically, e.g., American Sign Language 419.7, Deutsche Gebärdensprache 419.43. We have also revised provisions for fingerspelling and sign languages in Table 4 (Subdivisions of Individual Languages and Language Families), and have developed an expansion for grammar at notation 5 in Table 4 to parallel the expansion at 415 Grammar in DDC 22.

The 800 Literature schedule includes an important change that extends the use of standard literary period tables for affiliated literatures. This feature, first introduced in 2000 in an interim update to DDC 21, permits the use of the standard literary period table for works in the language outside of the area covered by the standard table. For example, when DDC 21 was published in 1996, use of the literary period table for Spanish literature was limited to Spain and to comprehensive works on Spanish literature; periods for affiliated literatures such as a Chilean author writing in Spanish could only be shown through the use of optional provisions. In DDC 22, one can add the appropriate Spanish literary period to the base number for Spanish fiction (863) for affiliated literatures, e.g., Spanish-language novel by a new Chilean author 863.7 (7 is the period notation for Spanish literature 2000 to the present).

In Table 3C (Notation to Be Added Where Instructed in Table 3B, 700.4, 791.4, 808–809), we have revised notation 3 to provide a better arrangement that more closely parallels the grouping of the topics in the DDC schedules themselves. For example, we have relocated travel from —355 Social themes to —32 Places; moved sports from —355 to —357 Artistic, recreational, literary themes; and limited —356 to technical themes. We have relocated agriculture, scientific themes, and comprehensive works on scientific and technical themes from —356 to —36 Physical and natural phenomena. We have also added a new number, —377 Magic and witchcraft.

Law

One of the ongoing criticisms of the DDC is that the law schedule does not provide an adequate arrangement for legal systems based on civil law. We are taking an incremental approach to addressing the shortcomings in the 340 Law schedule, and are seeking ongoing advice from our translators and national library partners. In DDC 22, we have introduced several improvements to 340 Law related to the law of nations, human rights, and intergovernmental organizations. We have also assessed the schedule to make sure that most topics in civil law are accommodated in the schedule, even if the presentation is still primarily from a common law viewpoint.

Most of the improvements to 340 Law in DDC 22 are centered on the 341 schedule. We have changed the caption at 341 from “International law” to “Law of nations” to reflect more accurately the contents of the class. Within 341, we have replaced the term “international government organizations” with “intergovernmental organizations.” We have relocated selected topics from 341.4 and 341.7 to the corresponding domestic law provision in 342–347.

We have also introduced a new development at 349.2 for the law of regional intergovernmental organizations, and have provided similar numbers throughout the law schedule at 342.2, 343.2, 344.2, 345.2, 346.2, 347.2, and 348.2. Geographic notation for specific regional intergovernmental organizations can be added directly to these numbers. For example, we can now represent European Union law on a variety of topics through use of these numbers plus notation 4 from Table 2:

349.24	Laws of the European Union
346.24	Private law in the European Union
346.240482	Copyright law of the European Union

We have received invaluable advice from colleagues throughout the world on these initial steps to improve the 340 Law schedule. At the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) 2001 Conference in Boston, representatives of several translations, national libraries, and classification schemes from France, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, United Kingdom, and United States gathered to discuss DDC 22 changes and future developments in 340 Law. We are especially grateful to our Library of Congress colleague Jolande Goldberg for her advice on developments in international law, law of nations, comparative law, and intergovernmental law. We plan to continue our dialogue with key partners to address structural issues related to civil law systems in the 340 Law schedule.

Mathematics

DDC 22 includes a substantial update to 510 Mathematics. Initially, we had feared that a major revision might be required in this area; however, upon careful study and consultation with experts, we determined that targeted revisions and expansions, plus a new development at 518, would suffice to provide a useful and up-to-date general organization scheme for mathematics literature.

The most visible change in the 510 schedule is the use of 518—a number that had not been in standard use in Dewey since the 1950s—for a new development for numerical analysis drawn from different parts of 510. An outline of the new schedule follows:

518	Numerical analysis [<i>formerly</i> 515]
518.1	Algorithms [<i>formerly</i> 511.8]
518.2	Specific numerical methods
518.4	Numerical methods in algebra, arithmetic, number theory
518.5	Numerical approximation
518.6	Numerical methods in analysis

The relocations from 515 and 511.8 are visible at the top level; however, throughout the schedule, topics related to numerical methods formerly found elsewhere in 510 have been relocated to the new development, e.g., numerical methods in algebra from 512 to 518.42, applied numerical analysis from 519.4 to 518.

Chemistry

In 540 Chemistry, we have introduced a completely new development for specific topics in analytical chemistry (including both inorganic and organic analysis) in 543.1–.8, formerly vacant subdivisions of 543. The new development in 543.1–.8

brings together material that was developed elsewhere in 543, and in 544 Qualitative analysis, 545 Quantitative analysis, and 547.3 Analytical organic chemistry. We have vacated 544 and 545 entirely in DDC 22 and have moved both topics to 543.1 General topics in analytical chemistry to reflect the decreasing importance of these topics. We have also vacated 547.3 entirely; comprehensive works on analytical organic chemistry are now in 543.17, and specific techniques are classed with the technique, e.g., spectroscopy in organic chemistry 543.5.

Medicine and Health

In medicine, we have focused on updating and expanding the schedule with minor changes to the structure itself. Class 610 itself features a new caption: we changed the dual heading of “Medical sciences Medicine” to “Medicine and health.” Key new developments in medicine and health include:

- Revision of 610.73 Nursing and services of allied health personnel, with specific kinds of nursing relocated to the specific branch of medicine, e.g., pediatric nursing 618.9200231 (610.7362 in DDC 21)
- A new development for experimental medicine at 616.027 (relocated and updated from its former location at 619, which is now vacant)
- A revised and expanded development for virus diseases at 616.91 (relocated from 616.925)
- A new development for gram-positive bacterial infections at 616.929
- New numbers for emerging diseases and medical problems throughout the schedule, e.g., 616.775 Sjogren’s syndrome, 616.84913 Cluster headache

We have also improved the indexing in DDC 22 for medical topics. We consulted Medical Subject Headings (MeSH), Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH), and WorldCat for guidance on up-to-date medical terminology. The electronic version of the 610 schedule in WebDewey includes selected mappings of vocabulary from LCSH and MeSH, including a MeSH mapping at 616.2 Diseases of respiratory system for Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome.

History and Geographic Areas

Our closest cooperation with our translators and national library partners has occurred in the development of historical periods and geographic areas. The papers by Beall (2003), Heiner-Freiling (2003), and Knutsen (2003) describe some of these efforts. We have introduced new historical periods and adjusted selected earlier periods throughout 930–990 to reflect modern scholarship and a global perspective. For example, in consultation with the National Library of Malta we have added new numbers for the historical periods of that country. On the advice of our Norwegian translators, we have adjusted the end date of the Viking period in 948.022 from 1066 to 1050 to reflect current Scandinavian scholarship.

Other changes in class 900 include the relocation of interdisciplinary and descriptive works on facilities for travelers from 647.94 to 910.46 and to specific area numbers in 913–919, and an important new expansion for the Holocaust at 940.5318. The top-level outline of the new Holocaust schedule follows; additional subdivisions are provided for many of the categories in the full development:

940.5318 Holocaust

940.53181	General topics of Holocaust
940.531811	Causes
940.531813	Economic history
940.531814	Consequences
940.531818	Holocaust denial
940.53183	Resistance movements and rescue operations
940.53184	Specific events
940.53185	Ghettos and extermination camps maintained by Axis Powers
940.53186	Commemorations and memorials
940.53187	Welfare services to Holocaust victims

There are numerous changes throughout Table 2 (Geographic Areas, Historical Periods, Persons). For example, soon after the publication of DDC 21, we undertook a substantial revision and expansion of South Africa with the National Library of South Africa, and a revision and expansion of England, Scotland, and Wales with the British Library. Right after we completed those two expansions, we worked with colleagues at Bibliothèque nationale de France to revise and expand the area table for France. Our review of the Italian translation of DDC 21 prompted us to make corresponding updates to the provinces of Italy in the English-language standard edition. We worked with colleagues at the National Library of Canada to revise and expand the geographic table for Quebec and the Northern Territories. We have revised and expanded the area table for Iran on the advice of the National Library of the Islamic Republic of Iran. We have revised the area tables for the Czech Republic, Poland, and Slovakia, and accommodated the 2003 country name change from “Yugoslavia” to “Serbia and Montenegro.” On the advice of the Spanish translation team, we have revised and expanded the area table for Colombia.

Other Updates

In addition to the new provisions for discrimination and racism in Table 1 (Standard Subdivisions), we have introduced an important change to notation 029 in Table 1. We discontinued the subdivisions of —029 Commercial miscellany because the distinctions among the various categories (e.g., buyers’ guides and consumer reports, evaluation and purchasing manuals) seemed less useful than originally envisioned, and electronic publications of commercial miscellany often combined several of the categories. We have immediately reused the subdivisions of —029 to provide for geographic treatment, e.g., buyers’ guides from Austria —029436.

Throughout the new edition, there are many new numbers for a wide variety of topics. Examples include 302.231 Digital media, 381.177 Online auctions, 394.2612 Kwanzaa, 523.24 Extrasolar systems, 617.057 Endoscopic surgery, 621.38807 Digital television, 641.8236 Chili, 651.792 Intranets, and 658.3123 Telecommuting. DDC 22 also includes a new number for digital photography at 775, and a new number and subdivisions for computer art at 776.

Structural Changes

Two structural changes in DDC 22, the removal of Table 7 and the streamlining of the Manual, were motivated by a desire to promote classifier efficiency. We have also updated the captions for the main classes, divisions, and selected sections in order to make the DDC more understandable when used in browsing applications beyond the notation itself.

Table 7

In DDC 22, we have removed Table 7 (Groups of Persons) and replaced it with direct use of notation already available in the schedules and in notation 08 from Table 1. Table 7 was introduced in DDC 18 (Dewey 1971); unfortunately, it did not always parallel developments for similar topics in notation 081–087 in Table 1 (first introduced in DDC 20 [Dewey 1989]) or elsewhere in the schedules. We decided that our users would be better served by direct use of notation derived from 001–999 and notation 08 from Table 1. For example, the following entry illustrates the use of notation from 001–999 to replace the use of notation from Table 7:

- 174.9 [Ethics of] Other professions and occupations
Add to base number 174.9 notation 001–999, e.g., bioethics
174.957; however, for ethics of public administration and public
office, see 172.2
Notation 001–999 replaces notation 09–99 from Table 7 with
the result that many numbers have been reused with new
meanings

Manual

Improving the Manual was a major project in the development of DDC 22. We have reviewed each Manual entry with an eye toward classifier efficiency. Information easily accommodated in notes in the tables and schedules has been transferred from the Manual, and redundant information already in the schedules and tables has been eliminated from the Manual. We have converted the Library of Congress Decimal Classification Division application policies previously described in the Manual into standard DDC practice. We have moved basic instructions on the use of the Dewey Decimal Classification to the Introduction, and background information to *Dewey Decimal Classification: Principles and Application* (Chan and Mitchell 2003). We have revised the remaining Manual entries in a consistent style to promote quick understanding and efficient use. The Manual can be found in a new location in DDC 22—in volume one, directly preceding the tables. Volume four is now devoted solely to the Relative Index.

Captions

One of the major trends in the use of the DDC since the publication of the last print edition seven years ago is the use of the system beyond the notation itself in a variety of applications. In conjunction with the introduction of WebDewey, we undertook a project to update the captions associated with the top two levels of the DDC. Our goal was to make the captions more understandable to end users, and more representative of the contents of each class when displayed outside the full apparatus of the DDC schedules and index terms. We have extended this project to the captions for the sections that appear in the DDC Summaries at the beginning of volume two in DDC 22, and on the Dewey web site (www.oclc.org/dewey). We have also updated some of the captions associated with the corresponding classes in DDC 22. Examples (in addition to the aforementioned changes at 000, 341, 610, and Table 5) include 613 Personal health and safety (formerly “Promotion of health”) and 640 Home and family management (formerly “Home economics and family living”). The improvement of captions remains an ongoing editorial effort.

Influence of Worldwide Users

The Dewey Decimal Classification is used by 200,000 libraries in 135 countries, and by 62 national bibliographies. Translations of the most recent editions are completed, underway, or planned in Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Greek, Hebrew, Icelandic, Italian, Korean, Norwegian, Russian, Spanish, and Vietnamese. A team headed by Die Deutsche Bibliothek has already begun work on the first translation of DDC 22. The German translation will be the first Dewey translation to appear simultaneously in web and print versions. DDC 22 has benefited from the ongoing advice of national libraries and translation teams. These groups, along with EPC, provide a diverse outlook that is reflected in improvements to terminology throughout DDC 22, and in updated developments, particularly in geographic areas, law, political parties, language, literature, and historical periods.

In preparation for DDC 22, we commissioned a survey of Dewey users. Our users also played a key part in reviewing drafts of several major updates, and participated in testing new developments. Committees appointed by the American Library Association (ALA) Subject Analysis Committee reviewed the following schedules: 004–006 Data processing Computer science; 300–307 Social sciences, sociology, and anthropology; 340 Law; and 510 Mathematics. The Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP) appointed a review committee for 510 Mathematics. We also solicited reviewers and testers via our web site, and received comments from subject experts and librarians in Australia, Hong Kong, Italy, United Kingdom, and United States.

Dewey Web Services

Our view of the print edition is evolving from an end in itself to a snapshot of the DDC at a point in time. Since we operate under a policy of continuous revision, some of the changes appearing first in print in DDC 22 have in fact already appeared in interim updates that have been issued since the publication of DDC 21. We use the electronic versions and supplemental web postings as our chief vehicles for delivering updates to our users. From 1996 through 2001, Dewey for Windows (1996–2000) was issued annually. Since 2000, WebDewey (2000–) has been the main source for updates, and a fully updated version is released quarterly. On the Dewey web site (www.oclc.org/dewey), we distribute selected new numbers and changes to the DDC on a monthly basis, and mappings between selected new LCSH and Dewey numbers on a biweekly basis. All of these updates have been incorporated into DDC 22.

The July 2003 release of WebDewey includes all the contents of the print version of DDC 22, plus additional built numbers and index terms that only appear in the electronic edition. The database also includes mapped terminology from LCSH (and links to the corresponding LCSH authority record) and a more limited set of mappings from MeSH. The revised captions described earlier appear in the top two levels of the hierarchical display that accompanies each number.

We will continue to update the system, provide additional built numbers and index terms, and associate new vocabulary with DDC numbers in each quarterly release of WebDewey. All of these additions, plus the intuitive user interface, support efficient and effective use of the most up-to-date version of the DDC.

The Future

I will close with a practical set of suggestions on how librarians around the world can continue to shape the future of the DDC. Every librarian can help shape the future of Dewey at a fundamental level by assigning standard numbers and sharing those numbers through bibliographic utilities such as WorldCat. Each time a librarian synthesizes a built number using the current edition of the DDC, others can reuse that number for works on the same topic. Assigning standard numbers ensures interoperability between numbers, regardless of the language of cataloging or the work being cataloged.

We are exploring with our translators how best to capture and redistribute built numbers and the accompanying index terms that are included in translations. For example, 808.04 is the DDC class for rhetoric in specific languages. WebDewey contains several built numbers and index terms for topics related to rhetoric in English at 808.042 and its subdivisions. There are also entries in WebDewey for German language—rhetoric (808.0431), French language—rhetoric (808.0441), Spanish language—rhetoric (808.0461), and Chinese language—rhetoric (808.0451). In the Norwegian translation of the DDC published in 2002 (Dewey 2002), there is an index entry for Norsk språk—Litterær komposisjon (808.043982). It would be useful to add the built number with its Norwegian index term to the underlying DDC database and distribute it immediately to other translations. The number would then be available as a candidate for inclusion in each edition (including the English-language standard edition) and a new index term could be assigned that would be appropriate in the index structure of that edition (e.g., “Norwegian language—rhetoric” in the English-language standard edition).

We need flexible ways of displaying the DDC to meet a variety of applications inside and outside of libraries while still preserving the underlying interchangeability of meaning that the system offers. In a sense, the abridged edition and translations of the DDC are alternative representations of the DDC in a traditional sense—they address special needs such as size of the collection (abridged edition) or language of the users (translations) (Mitchell 2001, 222). In both cases, however, the end user representation is based primarily on the notation itself. A variety of organizations and research projects have licensed the DDC from OCLC to develop alternative representations to meet searching and browsing needs beyond a strict notational presentation. For example, Pollitt (1998) is studying a faceted version of the DDC as an enhancement to searching in online catalogs. The Renardus project (Koch, Neuroth, and Day 2003) has experimented with mapping different vocabularies to the DDC, and with a multilingual browser and a unique visual representation of the DDC hierarchy. Suite101.com (2003) uses the DDC for its Best-of-Web Directory, a collection of edited pages on a variety of topics. Suite 101.com displays the ten main classes and representative topics under each main class on the home page of the Best-of-Web Directory. One can drill down each main class to see a full display of the numbers and captions for the top three levels of the DDC and the topic pages associated with each class (the topic pages themselves are classed with multiple DDC numbers at the appropriate level of specificity to facilitate inclusion under several hierarchies). The HILT Project (Nicholson 2002) is exploring the use of the DDC as the underlying structure for a high-level thesaurus. Vizine-Goetz (2003) describes other current research on new uses and presentations of the DDC.

In a world where information flows freely in all formats across national and linguistic boundaries, it is important to have a standard knowledge organization system that can represent concepts in a language-independent fashion. Dewey, with its worldwide users, meaningful notation, well-defined categories, well-developed hierarchies, and rich network of relationships, is such a system. DDC 22 has greatly benefited from the willingness of users to propose new topics and developments, and to offer new viewpoints for consideration. These proposals have come from individual librarians, members of review and testing committees, translation teams, national library partners, and EPC. The ability of the DDC to meet ongoing knowledge organization challenges will depend on the continuous updating and development of the system by the editorial team in partnership with the worldwide community of Dewey users.

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Notes

¹ The Decimal Classification Editorial Policy Committee (EPC) is a ten-member international advisory board whose main function is to advise the editors and OCLC on matters relating to changes, innovations, and the general development of the Classification. EPC represents the interests of DDC users; its members come from national, public, special, and academic libraries, and from library schools. Current members hail from Australia, Canada, United Kingdom, and United States.

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