



Bibliography Section

NEWSLETTER

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Unni Knutsen;
Oslo University College

Editorial

New times – new requirements

Thinking back, we realize that the world has undergone some incredible changes during the last 10-15 years. This, of course, has deeply affected the library community. As more and more people turn to the Internet as their major source of information, we find ourselves in a situation where the OPAC seems to be loosing ground. Despite all the efforts and resources we put into the production of bibliographic data it seems that people turn to e.g. Google and Amazon instead of searching library OPACs. In this edition of the Newsletter John Byrum (Library of Congress) addresses these questions and suggests directions in which OPACs could move to meet the expectations and needs of users.

National bibliographies will also have to adjust and take new directions. The Bibliography Section clearly sees the need to develop electronic national bibliographies that have the features and the information that their users expect and demand. The Section is also concerned with the question of bibliographic control and inclusion

of electronic resources in the national bibliographies. We will therefore work hard to develop guidelines on the format and contents of the national bibliography.

The article by Magda Heiner-Freiling proves that national libraries are working hard to improve their national bibliographies. By joining forces Germany, Switzerland and Austria have managed to translate the Dewey Decimal Classification system into German. DDC is now being implemented into the German national bibliography. This will not only improve the national bibliographic services of Germany but will also facilitate international exchange of bibliographic records.

It is, of course, not only the Internet that has brought changes to the world we live in. In 1991 the Soviet Union was dissolved. Lithuania became the first former Soviet republic to proclaim its renewed independence. Regina Varniene's article describes how Lithuania as a consequence had to reorganize the national bibliographic services. She also gives an overview of bibliographic control as it is performed today.

Though the political, social and economic conditions may be different from Lithuania, we know that many countries have the need for a fresh start in terms of bibliographic control and national bibliography. This question will have to be addressed so that hopefully we will see improvements in the 10 -15 years to come.....



*John D. Byrum, Jr.;
Library of Congress*

Addressing Informational Needs of Contemporary Users of the Online Catalog

National bibliographies are generally reflective of the content of the online catalogs of the national bibliographic agencies that create them. IFLA's Bibliography Section is currently focusing its energy on the evolving nature of national bibliographies as we move into the digital age. This paper addresses how the counterpart to the national bibliography--the online catalog--is being reshaped by technological innovations.

In assessing the current generation of OPACs, one must acknowledge that overall they do perform an expanded list of tasks quite effectively. Indeed, one of the 20th century's grandest information technology accomplishments was the transformation of the library card catalog into the online public access catalog, the centerpiece of today's Integrated Library Systems (ILS). IFLA's emerging International Cataloguing Code specifies five basic functions for this tool – finding, identifying, selecting, obtaining, and navigating – and, most would agree that the current generation of online catalogs performs these tasks adequately in relation to library holdings at the macro level.

But, increasingly, concerns are being expressed in the literature and elsewhere that our OPACs have reached their maturity, and that, in particular, they are not well suited for retrieval of the ever increasing quantity of digital resources. For example, as electronic journals become an ever expanding component of library collections, OPACs can readily retrieve bibliographic information about the journal titles, but in general they do not enable users to discover directly the individual articles they contain. National Bibliographic Agencies (NBAs) and most libraries can not afford to develop bibliographic descriptions below this level. In addition, OPACs will at most provide access only to a relatively small selection of remotely accessible electronic resources, including citation databases, full-text aggregations, online reference tools, and Web sites, because these resources are typically massive and fraught with

complexity as to defy universal and up-to-date bibliographic control.

Therefore, users increasingly do not depend on libraries and their online catalogs to reach the resources in which they are interested. Rather, the vast majority has readily turned to fast search engines like Google that were developed in response to the proliferation of Web materials. Indeed, it seems indisputable that the vast majority are satisfied with such tools, even though they usually encounter voluminous and imprecise result sets.

However, around the year 2000, new library systems for responding to more granular information requests began to appear, some homegrown and others as commercial off-the-shelf products. These tools include federated search engines (sometimes called metasearch tools, or "portals"), OpenURL resolvers, and electronic resource management (ERM) systems, all aimed at connecting the user with electronic resources, including those available within a library's collection that often are not accessible via the OPAC, as well as resources remotely accessible on the Web. The federated search interface enables the discovery process; the OpenURL resolver enables the delivery of services; and the ERM enables librarians to manage their electronic collections. Together, these new tools seek to provide functionality that enables a single search of a large number of bibliographic databases and full text resources, with the goal of leading users to the best material and providing comprehensive retrieval for a topic or task – and, with the ease of using a search engine such as Google.

Although the initial versions of these tools fell clearly short of the goal, almost every major library has acquired an array, because they offer users ready access to information itself, not simply bibliographic descriptions of materials of likely interest. Indeed, despite their infancy, OpenURL resolvers, federated or metasearching applications, and ERMs have proved so useful, and demand for them is so great, that competition has spurred vendors to invest in efforts to upgrade these tools in order to provide the most sought after improvements.

However, for the most part these new tools remain outside the realm of the OPAC. The Library of Congress (LC) is interested in exploring development of a strategy to achieve better alignment of OPAC functionality with the features of these new tools. As a result, LC is funding a research paper to examine the changing nature of the online catalog, including consideration of a framework for its integration with other discovery tools. This research project, to be undertaken in consultation with numerous experts, is intended to identify what might be done now to move toward such a goal; the recommendations will include practical next steps.

Beyond the task of achieving an improved integration of functionality, the next generation of OPACs will need to offer many additional features if NBA services and catalogs are going to compete successfully with



today's leading resource discovery applications, as represented by commercial search engines and online bookstores. In their study on "The Impact of Web Search Engines on Subject Searching in OPAC," Yu and Young found that "the use of Web search engines is sufficiently ubiquitous to have an impact on users' expectation of a Web-based OPAC."¹ Their research led them to advocate an array of features for the next generation of Web-based OPAC interfaces in order to produce systems for users "who are likely to bring a mental model of Web search engines to the library catalog."

Specific functionality that Yu and Young have recommended includes:

- Menu sequencing to put the most important search options at the top of the display.
- Browsing features, for example clustering related documents based on terms in a thesaurus.
- Results displays that mimic features of result screens produced by Web search engines (e.g. use of icons).
- Relevance rankings that list the most pertinent results at the top of the result screens.
- Provision of helpful hints for continuing when the result set is too large or too small.

As have many others, Yu and Young advocate other features frequently offered by search engines and online bookstores:

- Spelling correction.
- User-popularity tracking.
- Use of single-search boxes, allowing for more advanced options.

With a recognition that keyword searching is replacing "subject" searching, there arises the need for software applications that will link keywords to appropriate subject clusters for users. The Library of Congress recently commissioned a study by Marcia Bates for the purpose of exploring ways to enrich metadata records by focusing on providing additional subject and other access mechanisms (e.g. front-end user thesauri) and increasing granularity of access and display. Bates's resulting report sets out a series of recommendations for increasing user access to library catalog and portal information. Her conceptual approach envisions creation of "a searcher thesaurus system" to function as a front-end to existing bibliographic databases. Other applications like Verity² and Endeca³ are offering similar functionality for Web users, and likely they could be adapted to the environment of the OPAC.

Several of the enhancements to OPACs recommended above could probably be added on to existing catalogs

without performance implications. Clearly, "menu sequencing" on search pages can be changed. Browsing by hierarchical thesaurus would also be an undertaking that could be achieved without severe performance implications. Screen design is clearly an area that can be worked on. Spelling correction, better help, sensible treatment when users enter initial articles and other interventions between query entry and system processing, are also enhancements that are potentially possible as an institutional investment.

Beyond individual efforts to enhance individual online catalogs, libraries are essentially dependent on the vendor community to recognize the need to provide significantly improved OPAC functionality. This leads to the question: Will library management system vendors be willing to invest what resources a significant overall might entail? Roland Dietz, CEO Endeavor, and Carl Grant, President VTLs, addressed this very question in their article on "The Disintegrating World of Library Automation"⁴. And, their answer is "Yes, but".

The "yes" part is presented in their overarching theme:

Automation vendors and librarians must work to ensure that the profession is positioned to take advantage of changing culture and technology to assume a rightful place at the table where rich and diverse information resources will serve global users. To do so, library systems must no longer solely deal with the internal flows of cataloging, circulation, acquisitions, serials, and OPACs but rather must be compatible with other internal systems and, more important, external systems.

The "but" part of their answer has to do with their vision of several major changes in the ways libraries and automation vendors do business – changes that are needed in their view because the "library industry has not been able to address adequately a visionary role for the library of the future." However, the changes they propose are so fundamental that they leave one wondering whether either librarians or system vendors will be able and willing to rise to the challenge. However, in the end, their attitude is quite positive, and their willingness to address the need to "plan for a new generation of library technology" is encouraging.

Our national bibliographies and library catalogs are the result of centuries of intellectual effort and real capital. Considering the major investments made to create and maintain such interfaces to their collections, libraries everywhere should seek opportunities to provide the features needed to entice patrons to continue to use OPACs as rewarding access mechanisms. By exercising leadership, NBAs are better ways to advocate an urgently needed overhaul of OPACs to meet expectations of 21st century users. The time has come for immediate action, lest our users abandon not only the resources we have collected for them but the tools that make them available.

1. Yu, Holly and Young, Margo, "The Impact of Web Search Engines on Subject Searching in OPAC," *Information Technology and Libraries*, (Dec. 2004), pp. 168-180.
2. <http://www.verity.com/products/index.html> [Sept. 2005].
3. <http://endeca.com/> [Sept. 2005].
4. Dietz, Roland and Grant, Carl, "The Disintegrating World of Library Automation," *Library Journal*, (June 15, 2005), pp. 38-40.



Regina Varniene;
National Librarian of
Lithuania

Bibliographic Control within Lithuanian Integrated Library Information System

Summary

After the declaration of Lithuanian independence the bibliographic control of Lithuanian documents was immediately initiated and this function was assigned to Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania in 1992 under the Resolution of the Lithuanian Government.

This article discusses the reorganisation of bibliographic control in accordance with the recommendations of international organizations for the national bibliographic agencies and the outlook on the organisation of bibliographic control within the Lithuanian Integrated Library Information System (LIBIS).

History review

The Soviet Union was a country with the original economical, cultural, political and social system dissimilar to many other countries of the world. The main distinctive features included the isolation of the Soviet Union from the rest of the world and an inordinately large internal centralisation that made a great impact on all spheres of social life of the country.

The main object of the present article, the bibliographic control, was not an exception within the general context of public life in the Soviet Union. Unlike many other countries of the world the Soviet Union established a special system of cultural institutions for the regulation of the bibliographic control called the All-Union Book Chamber in Moscow and book chambers in all union republics, including the Baltic States as well. On 29 March 1945 the Council of People's Commissars of the Lithuanian SSR passed two resolutions "Dėl Lietuvos teritorijoje išėinančių spaudinių privalomųjų egzempliorių pristatymo ir paskirstymo" (*On the Delivery and Distribution of Legal Deposit of Printings Published in Lithuania*) and "Dėl Lietuvos TSR knygų rūmų

įsteigimo" (*On the Establishment of the Book Chamber of the Lithuanian SSR*). The Book Chamber started operating in 1946. The first regulations of the Book Chamber approved in 1947 covered the main functions of the national bibliographic agency – to obtain the legal deposit of national printings and control their delivery; to perform the registration of the national bibliography and statistical control of national printings; to prepare and publish the indexes of the current national bibliography, the national retrospective bibliography and the cumulative bibliography; to perform a centralised cataloguing; to collect and preserve the Lithuanian press published anywhere in the world, printings published in Lithuania in other languages and Lituonica, i.e. the publications issued abroad in other languages but related to Lithuania in their content and authorship; to give any bibliographic information and perform a methodical work. The legal deposit of printings as the basis for existence of the national bibliography has been received since the middle of 1945.

From 1947 the Book Chamber performed the preparation and publishing of the current, cumulative and retrospective publications of the national bibliography. After the declaration of independence in 1991, Lithuania had to initiate the preparation of bibliographic records of state documents in a computer-readable form immediately in order to participate in the UBC and consequently in the UBCIM programs more actively. As a result the Government of Lithuania made a decision in 1992 to pass the performance of this function to Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania (hereinafter the NLL), which, being the national library, was responsible for the long-term preservation and bibliographic control of state documents.

The organisation of bibliographic control within the LIBIS structure

In 1993 the Concept of Creation of National Bibliographic Data Bank (author R. Varnienė) reflecting the organization of bibliographic control of Lithuanian documents was introduced. This concept was later developed and applied for the creation of LIBIS National Bibliographic Data Bank (NBDB).

The NBDB was created for the collection, storage and distribution of bibliographic and factographic information about the national and Lithuania related press.

All types of documents including the bibliographic records of electronic resources and component parts of documents are collected in the NBDB. Records of both current and national retrospective bibliographies are stored here. Apart from the bibliographic information NBDB include the data of ISSN, ISBN and ISMN agencies and statistical data about the Lithuanian press and publishers. The NBDB is the unique resource of comprehensive information about the Lithuanian press.

The Russian rules on a bibliographic description consistent with the main statements of the ISBD were applied



in Lithuania until 1992. The Lithuanian Book Chamber did not, however, possess the original ISBD, the international documents regulating the introduction of a heading. Therefore, a difficult question had arisen regarding the application of the international cataloguing principles without prejudice to the traditions and a national mentality.

NLL specialists and the Consortium of Lithuanian Research Libraries chose ISBD for the selection of a bibliographic description, the documents prepared by the IFLA working groups for the introduction of a heading, the NLL List of Subject Headings formed on the basis of the LC Subject Headings for the subject cataloguing, MESH, and the UDC for indexing. The UNIMARC format characterised by flexibility and universality was chosen as the inner format for bibliographic and authority records.

The translation of the ISBD was initiated; the ISBD(G), ISBD(A), ISBD(CM), ISBD(M), ISBD(NBM), ISBD(PM) and *Guidelines for the Application of the ISBDs to the Description of Component Parts* have all been translated as well as the *UNIMARC Manual* and all guidelines related to the application of UNIMARC.

"Kompiuterinių bibliografinių ir autorizuotų įrašų sudarymo metodika"(1998) (*Guidelines for Computer-readable Bibliographic and Authority Records*) accumulates the national cataloguing practice, normative documents of bibliographic and authority records and formats of bibliographic and authority records as a whole, namely, the knowledge bases of UNIMARC/B and UNIMARC/A, the basis of the LIBIS software. Guidelines have been used by both cataloguers and programmers involved in further development of the LIBIS software for a long time. Also "Senųjų monografinių leidinių katalogavimo taisyklės" (2002) (*The Rules for the Cataloguing of Old Monographic Publications*) were published, and the constantly updated "Kompiuterinių bibliografinių ir autoritetinių įrašų sudarymo pagrindai" (2004) (*The Principles of the Creation of Computer-readable Bibliographic and Authority Records*) may be found on the Internet (<http://www.lnb.lt>).

The LIBIS software had to support UNICODE due to the fact that Lithuania had always catalogued printings in their original language and script, especially in Cyrillic, Yiddish, Hebrew and other languages and scripts. Therefore, the LIBIS software has been implementing this requirement since 1998.

Since the LIBIS software is based on the entity-relationship it has splendid prospects for further development applying the FRBR, which is going to be installed in 2006.

While the co-ordination of cataloguing rules continues on the international level, Lithuania has been further developing and refreshing "Kompiuterinių bibliografinių ir autoritetinių įrašų sudarymo metodika" (*Guide-*

lines for the Creation of Computer-readable Bibliographic and Authority Records) including the updates of UNIMARC and the ISBD.

The preparation of current national bibliography

The Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania of 22 November 1996 "Dėl spaudinių ir kitų dokumentų privalomųjų egzempliorių siuntimo bibliotekoms tvarkos" (*On the Order of Delivery of Legal Deposit Copies of Printings and Other Documents to Libraries*) and the Resolution of 10 April 1997 "Dėl Lietuvos Respublikos Vyriausybės 1996 m. lapkričio 22 d. nutarimo "Dėl spaudinių ir kitų dokumentų privalomųjų egzempliorių siuntimo bibliotekoms tvarkos" dalinio pakeitimo" (*On the Partial Amendment to the Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania of 22 November 1996 "On the Order of Delivery of Legal Deposit Copies of Printings and Other Documents to Libraries"*) are currently in force. In accordance with the above mentioned resolutions legal deposit covers books, periodicals, printed music, microforms, audio-visual, cartographic, pictorial and electronic publications as well as means published in Braille.

The CDNL, CENL and IFLA Bibliographic Division and the National Libraries Section have encouraged the national libraries of the world to revise the legal deposit legislation due to the e-resources and the necessity of their archiving.

Most of the European countries have already started the development of the legal basis. Therefore, Lithuania also considers the idea of immediate preparation of the project of Legal Deposit Law based on the UNESCO recommendations and practices of the EU countries. The demand for the Legal Deposit Law occurred after the initiation of harvesting and archiving of e-resources according to the Act of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania passed in 1996. The Legal Deposit Law should: a) cover new information media (the acquisition of which lacks an exhaustive explanation); b) form the national strategy of legal deposit as the main acquisition source of the national archive of published documents and the basis for the bibliographic control of state document; c) cover and specify the types of legal deposit documents; d) reduce the quantity of legal deposit copy; e) set the document delivery procedure, terms and responsible individuals; f) validate the delivery of documents; and g) guarantee the protection of copyright and access to archived documents.

The necessity for the separate Legal Deposit Law is apparent; it should better reflect the relation of memory institutions to other products of intellectual property and their owners and could cover the principles of the legal protection of state Legal Deposit. The rules and regulations of the Legal Deposit Law would determine the legal issues of the copyright protection and access of legal deposit copies received by any library more clearly.



The Legal Deposit Law should greatly reduce the number of free legal deposit copies that should not exceed the number indicated in the UNESCO recommendations and should coincide with the practices prevailing in the EU countries. The acquisition issues encountered by the Lithuanian libraries should not be tackled on the basis of legal deposit in contravention of publishers' rights.

In order to make the publications of the Lithuanian current national bibliography consistent with the international requirements the structure of "Bibliografijos žinios" was reorganised in 1996. Since then it was published in separate parts as "Knygos" (*Books*), "Serialiniai leidiniai" (*Serials*), "Straipsniai" (*Articles*), "Lituanika" (*Lituanica*). The aim of "Bibliografijos žinios" reorganisation was to consider the IFLA requirements.

The new part of "Bibliografijos žinios", "Garso dokumentai" (*The Sound Recording Documents*) has been prepared since 1997 where audio documents, video records and e-resources have been registered (in CD-ROM).

The creation of the NBDB was initiated after the creation and installation of the LIBIS software in 1998. The bibliographic records of all types of documents published in Lithuania and documents related to Lithuania in their content and authorship (Lituanika), as well as the bibliographic records of the component parts of such documents are stored in the NBDB. The NBDB also serves as the basis for the preparation and publication of some national bibliography editions, and an e-catalogue "Lietuvos leidėjai" (*The Lithuanian Publishers*). Other libraries have a possibility to make copies of bibliographic records from the NBDB and use them for their library purposes. The electronic editions are published on the Internet, (<http://www.lnb.lt>).

The structure of the NBDB is under a constant development in order to integrate all procedures of preparation of bibliographic records for e-recourses.

The implementation of the LIBIS Subsystem of the Analytical Bibliography was initiated in 2003 and enabled merging the efforts of 66 Lithuanian libraries in the preparation of analytical records from Lithuanian serials and majority of monographs and their download to NBDB.

With reference to the UNESCO recommendations regarding the terms and conditions of the distribution of national bibliography (M. Lenart. *Models for the Provision of National Bibliographic Services in Europe*. 1996) the Lithuanian National Bibliography may be subscribed for the nominal price via Web, (<http://www.lnb.lt>), or via the Union Catalogue and is available to the libraries participating in its creation directly and free of charge. However, only a part of all information stored in the NBDB is reflected in the Union Catalogue.

The preparation and retro conversion of the national retrospective bibliography

The reorganisation of preparation procedures of the national retrospective bibliography carried on slowly due to the variety of implemented activities, the staff fluctuation and dearth, and the lack of technologies.

In order to undertake the recommendation of the ICBNS regarding the retrospective coverage of bibliography and thus join the HPB (Hand Press Book) Database creation project, the retro conversion of the national retrospective bibliography was initiated. It was estimated that the retro conversion process would guarantee the download of bibliographic records of the national bibliography indexes published in 1969, 1985 and 1988 into the NBDB and thus would perform its principal function, i.e. would guarantee a convenient access to the information about the documents published in Lithuania beginning with the first book and to the present.

The retro conversion was carried out by a manual cataloguing in accordance with "Senujų monografinių leidinių katalogavimo taisyklės" (2002) (*The Rules for Cataloguing of Old Monographic Publications*). In conformity with the bilateral agreement concluded between Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania and CERL 2,442 records covering the Lithuanian books from 1547 to 1830, the Lithuanian Polish books of the 18th century and the Lithuanian Hebrew books from 1799 to 1830 have been already sent to the HPB.

Apart from the national bibliographic records the bibliographic records of books published in the Western Europe have been also sent to the HPB.

The successfully completed retro conversion of the publication "Lietuvos TSR bibliografija. Serija A. Knygos lietuvių kalba, 1547-1861" (*The Bibliography of the Lithuanian SSR. Series A. Books in Lithuanian, 1547-1861*) guaranteed the more efficient access to the national retrospective bibliography and a larger audience of users.

New functions of national bibliography within Lithuanian Information System

In parallel with the reorganisation of the current national and retrospective bibliographies stipulated by the concept of the NBDB other reforms within the Centre of Bibliography and Book Science as the national bibliographic agency have been carried out.

One of the principal objectives of the reorganisation of the Lithuanian national bibliography has been the creation of the efficient system, "Publisher-National Bibliography Agency-Book Trade-Library". The creation of the above mentioned system is based on the creation of a single bibliographic record for a document and its multifunctional use.

Such system enables to save the financial, human and

technical resources; to standardise a bibliographic record prepared by the Cataloguing in Publication Agency (CIP) and printed in a book; and to identify the documents in the whole world according to the international standard numbers assigned to them. In order to activate the cataloguing in publication activity the Cataloguing in Publication Agency was established in 1998.

The NLL became a single institution of the country having the reliable data about publishers and the Lithuanian publishing in its disposition. The NLL initiated the implementation of several functions not performed earlier, such as the preparation of an e-catalogue "Lietuvos leidėjai" (*The Lithuanian Publishers*) as well as an e-bulletin "Numatomos leisti knygos" (*The List of Forthcoming Books*). "Parduodamų Lietuvos knygų katalogas" (*The Catalogue of Lithuanian Books in Sale*) was also published but soon its publishing was terminated due to the passivity shown by the book traders.

The Lithuanian ISBN Agency involved in the assignment of the International Standard Book Number (ISBN) was established in 1992. The factographic data about publishers stored at the agency are transferred to the International ISBN Agency located in Berlin using the LIBIS software. Approximately 1,700 publishers with annual output of more than 4,000 books are currently registered in the Lithuanian ISBN Agency. The Agency carries out the ISBN control as well.

In 1994 a contract was concluded with the International ISMN Agency in Berlin, and subsequently the Lithuanian ISMN Agency was established as the subdivision of the Lithuanian ISBN Agency, although the activities of these two institutions bear some particular differences. 84 publishers of music editions are registered in the Lithuanian ISMN Agency. The data about publishers is transferred to the International agency in Berlin.

The factographic data of serials' publishers has been introduced into the Lithuanian publishers' database since 2002. 905 publishers are currently registered there. With reference to the main aim of LIBIS, namely, the elimination of process repetition, the LIBIS software was developed and the program of conversion from UNIMARC to ISSN format was created; thereby, a record once created by the national bibliography, supplemented with the bibliographic and subject information and converted into the ISSN format is exported into the ISSN Register (ISSN Online). Around 3,000 ISSN numbers have been assigned and records have been created for the Lithuanian serials since the establishment of the agency (since 1994).

Since the end of 2005, after the International ISSN Centre has installed a new information system, the Lithuanian ISSN Agency (like other national centres) is able to send bibliographic records in the UNIMARC format.

With the establishment of Cataloguing in Publication

Agency the creation of the system "Publisher-National Bibliography Agency-Library" was completed. The currently operating databases may offer some sufficiently reliable data about the documents prepared for publishing, may help to standardise a bibliographic record in books, may assign international standard numbers to publications (ISSN, ISBN, ISMN), may help to prepare bibliographic and authority records of already published document and issue publications for various purposes. A specific Publishing Subsystem has been formed within the structure for the publishing purposes.

Multipurpose publications are prepared on the basis of other collected databases. One of them is an e-catalogue "Lietuvos leidėjai" for Lithuanian and foreign users. It includes the names, addresses, and telephone number of publishers of books, printed music and serials.



Magda Heiner-Freiling;
Die Deutsche Bibliothek

The use of the Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC) in the German National Bibliography

Die Deutsche Bibliothek (DDB) decided to use a new scheme based on DDC for the Deutsche Nationalbibliografie (DNB) beginning with the bibliographic year 2004.

The national bibliography of Germany Deutsche Nationalbibliografie (DNB) is available in printed form as well as in machine-readable form and html versions. The main series DNB, Reihe A is a weekly list for all documents from the publishing houses and assembled about 106.000 titles in 2004, other smaller series consist of titles from institutions and companies and grey literature (series B, issued also weekly), of university publications (series H, issued monthly) and maps (series C, issued quarterly) and of two series for printed (series M) and recorded (series T) music, both issued monthly.

Two main reasons were responsible for DDB's decision to turn to Dewey for the organisation of the national bibliography. The first and most important was an initiative of German academic and universal libraries to translate DDC and integrate DDC services in German bibliographic and online activities, following a feasibility study on Dewey in German libraries published in



2000. DDB took over the responsibility for the following foundation of a Consortium DDC German, the raising of funds for the translation and the negotiations with OCLC and the German publisher, the K.G. Saur GmbH. So it seemed to be natural that DDC should also be part of DDB's activities in the field of classification as soon as possible. And this of course led to the second reason for turning to Dewey in the national bibliography: Before 2004 the three German-language countries had used three different systems for organising their national bibliographies, a rather unbecoming status for the exchange of data and for every user of the bibliographies. Growing international acceptance of Dewey for national bibliographic services and the varieties of DDC applications in national bibliographies convinced DDB that a change to Dewey would improve the national bibliographic services and facilitate cooperation with foreign national libraries.

The Swiss and Austrian scheme of 24 subject categories in the national bibliography had already been given up in the Federal Republic of Germany since 1982. The increase in book production in Germany and the development of new disciplines and users' and librarians' needs for precise access in the weekly lists made it necessary to establish a more specific arrangement of titles in 65 subject categories following roughly the arrangement of disciplines in the Universal Decimal Classification, but without using UDC notations. Newly established was for instance the separation between the different language families such as English, German, the Romanic, Classical and Slavic languages, new subjects such as environmental sciences, social and economic history and a more detailed organisation of technology with the different branches of engineering sciences. Due to literary warrant and academic libraries' wish to exclude less "serious" publications in esoterics, occultism and parapsychology as well as comics and cartoons from more serious subjects like psychology and the arts, two new extra subject categories for esoterics and for comics, cartoons were added in 1993.

DDB tried to copy the scheme used by the Swiss National Library since 2001 for the Schweizer Buch without giving up some of the advantages the arrangement of 1982/1993 had brought for a more specific access to titles and for selection routines in the workflow of libraries. This was easy to manage where the second Summary of Dewey was identical with the former subject categories (as in all fields of science) or even more specific, especially in fields where literary warrant was already high and a selection was welcomed. Typical examples are the separation between language and literature in the language families (in UDC in one class), especially in German linguistics and literature with a huge number of publications in Germany, and the splitting of economics in the more general and academic class 330 and the more practical class 650 Management (mainly covering the so-called Betriebswirtschaft in German) with its importance in nowadays book production, but limited relevance for book selec-

tion in academic libraries. Some reductions of formerly achieved specificity had to be accepted when the 100 classes become the general guideline. The most regrettable was the melting of all branches of engineering sciences into one general class 620; a step towards the more specific third Summary of Dewey would not have solved the problem, as the rather outdated arrangement on this level does not correspond with modern disciplines that had been separate subject categories in the DNB until 2004 such as electrical engineering and electronics, mechanical engineering or environmental technology. Another serious loss was the specific class for Slavic languages and literature which disappeared in the more general categories 490 and 890, but have a high relevance in university and state libraries of Austria, Southern and Eastern Germany.

Modifications of the Second Summary in the DNB

A questionnaire was sent out to the customers of the DNB in spring 2003 in order to inform them of the planned change to Dewey and ask if the disadvantages mentioned above were acceptable and which other wishes for special arrangements – not necessarily part of the Second Summary and the Swiss scheme - should be followed. Out of 450 customers nearly 200 answered, and one general vote was for exclusion of school textbooks and juvenile literature from the Dewey arrangement. The DDC practice of classing all kind of educational material with the subject and fiction for children with the language-based literature seemed to be of little use for librarians and book trade where these titles are regarded as one special group of publications to which access by an international classification is less necessary than by verbal subject headings and assembling of all titles of this category in one group seems to be more useful. Another proposal favoured by most clients' answers was the division between literary history and criticism on the one hand, and fiction on the other hand. In a rough arrangement with 100 subject categories the precision Dewey offers in the 800 by using Tables 3A and 3B cannot be mirrored, and above all the subject categories for American, English and German literature would easily hide the few (but important) titles of secondary literature among masses of fiction titles, most of them of little or no interest for academic libraries and users of the bibliography. The introduction of a letter B (for Belletristik = fiction) makes it possible to separate between 830 (Literary history and criticism of German literature) and 830:B (German fiction), and of course all other literatures within main class 800 are organised in the same way.

Another modification that was made due to clients' needs and literary warrant is the flexible application of the general scheme "Second Summary" where it seems either too general or too specific. A typical case is main class 790 "Sports, games & entertainment" which includes topics like film, broadcasting, theatre, dance with considerable literary warrant and specific importance for academic and special libraries, for archives of



broadcasting companies, film archives etc. Therefore DDB decided to use here an organisation based on the 1.000 classes and separate between categories such as 791 (Film, broadcasting, public performances), 792 (Stage performances), but afterwards combine 793-795 in 793 Games and 796-799 in 796 (Sports). The number of publications in DNB, Series A 2004 proved the necessity of this arrangement: 507 titles in 791, 220 in 792, 230 in 793 and 1.153 in 796; had these titles been melted into one category only, it would have meant considerable extra work when specific titles should be selected by interested customers.

The combination of classes following each other in the Dewey sequence, but belonging to one discipline was also practised in a complete different situation: when Dewey on the second Summary level seemed to be too precise. This problem is mainly caused by one bibliographic service of the DNB, the New Release Service, formerly part of the DNB and connected with CIP. This means that autopsy is not possible and bibliographic information and especially information about the content of a publication is rather poor. DDB usually does not receive a table of contents or an abstract by the publisher in advance. So it is nearly impossible to decide which of the classes in philosophy and in religion on the Second Summary level should be assigned, titles in these fields tend to be unspecific, fanciful or catchy very often. After consulting the Dewey editor on these modifications an arrangement was made which combines all philosophical classes from 100-120, the 140, and again 160-190 in one general class 100 (Philosophy in the First Summary) and thus avoids also the separation of this subject by two different others, class 130 (Parapsychology & occultism) and class 150 (Psychology). Religion proved to be a similar case because it is not easy to subdivide the 230-280 classes by knowing only the titles of publications; so a one general class for religion 200 (including 210) and the categories 220 (for the Bible), 230 (including all classes up to 280) for Christian religion and theology and 290 for the other religions make a useful subdivision for German librarians who anyhow find the Dewey arrangement in the 240, 250, 260 and 280 classes rather inappropriate for German theological traditions.

A special arrangement in all three German-language bibliographies was introduced for history and geography. A German bibliography needs special subject categories for geography of Germany (914.3) and German history (943) instead of analogous structures for Switzerland in the Schweizer Buch. The Austrian national bibliography introduced the parallel development for geography (914.36) and history (943.6) of Austria.

Problems with Dewey principles and Dewey's view on certain subjects

Subject groups according to the Second Summary can, of course, not offer the precise access which is guaranteed by application of full Dewey numbers. This is

planned for the DNB in a two-stage process during two years, beginning with the bibliographic year 2006 when the German print edition of DDC 22 will be published and an online service called Melvil will be available. Melvil comprises the classification tool MelvilClass, a German version of WebDewey, and a retrieval tool MelvilSearch which offers German language access to classified documents in German libraries by browsing in Dewey categories as well as by precise search with all German index entries of DDC 22. So some of the problems described here might be reduced when Dewey numbers at full length can be used for retrieval purposes, but it is obvious that Dewey organisation of subjects sometimes does not allow the view on titles belonging to one discipline in cases where new developments since the end of the 19th century changed or added objects of research in a discipline as for instance in archaeology or gave way to completely new branches of research such as environmental studies.

A special problem in the DNB is caused by Dewey's origin as a shelving system with one – and only one – position for a document. This proved to be too restrictive and sometimes really unsatisfying, especially when subjects were classed at places where German users would not expect them because of different academic traditions or points of view. So-called Nebensachgruppen, consisting only of a short entry author/title and the identification number of the title in the main subject category lead to the complete bibliographical description including subject heading strings under main category (Hauptsachgruppe). In certain cases this possibility of one or two additional entries for a title was maintained, and a manual for classifiers as well as for clients describes the position of all subjects and the content of the classes in the Dewey arrangement of the DNB, and also topics and situations where Nebensachgruppen are allowed or useful. The manual includes an index with about 3.500 entries which, however, do not represent something like an abridged form of the Relative Index, but a list of search terms for topics, kinds of documents and genres which had been proved to be necessary for the classifying of German-language publications in 100 Dewey subject categories. The Hauptsachgruppe will always correspond with the full Dewey number which will be used for classification from 2006 on and with the international DDC practice. In a few cases German application of the DDC will also allow to classify with a second or third notation in such cases, but as classification is a more time-consuming process than the pure grouping of titles in subject categories this will only be done if it seems to be absolutely necessary from the classifier's point of view and knowledge of German users' expectations.



Chair:

Ms Unni Knutsen
Lecturer
Oslo University College, Faculty of Journalism,
Library and Inf. Science
P.O. Box 4, St. Olavs plass
NO-0130 OSLO
Norway
Tel. +(47)22452656
Fax +(47)22452605
E-mail: unni.knutsen@jbi.hio.no

Secretary/Treasurer:

Beacher J. Wiggins
Director for Acquisitions and Bibliographic
Access
Library of Congress
101 Independence Ave., S.E.
WASHINGTON D.C. 20540
United States
Tel. +(1)(202)7075325
Fax +(1)(202)7076269
E-mail: bwig@loc.gov

Information Coordinator/Editor of Newsletter:

Ms Claudia Werner
Head of National Bibliographic Services
Die Deutsche Bibliothek
Adickesallee 1
D-60322 FRANKFURT
Germany
Tel. +(49)(69)15251630
Fax +(49)(69)15251636
E-mail: werner@dbf.ddb.de

Standing Committee Members

Natasa Bundovska,
The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
E-mail: bundovska@yahoo.com

D. Whitney Coe, United States
E-mail: coesu@earthlink.net

Randi Diget Hansen, Denmark
E-mail: rdh@dbc.dk

Alexander A. Dzhigo, Russian Federation
E-mail: chamber@aha.ru

Ms Tuula Haapamäki, Finland
E-mail: tuula.haapamaki@helsinki.fi

Jong Yup Han, Republic of Korea
E-mail: jyhan@kordi.re.kr

Ms Agneta Holmenmark, Sweden
E-mail: agneta.holmenmark@kb.se

Talbott Huey, United States
E-mail: huey@msu.edu

Christian Lupovici, France
E-mail: christian.lupovici@bnf.fr

Ms Sophie Mazens, France
E-mail: sophie.mazens@bnf.fr

Ms Francisca Movilla López, Spain
E-mail: movillafml@bne.es

Alberto Petrucciani, Italy
E-mail: petrucciani@aib.it

Ms Alexandra Teplitskaya, Russian Federation
E-mail: tepliskaya@rsl.ru

Ms Regina Varniene, Lithuania
E-mail: varniene@lnb.lt

Yukio Yokoyama, Japan
E-mail: yokoyama@ndl.go.jp

Ms Yelena D. Zhabko, Russian Federation
E-mail: e.zhabko@nlr.ru

Ms Maja Zumer, Slovenia
E-mail: maja.zumer@nuk.uni-lj.si

Corresponding Members:

Ms Elmaré Broodryk, South Africa
E-mail: elmare.broodryk@nlsa.ac.za

Ms Elmaré Broodryk, South Africa
E-mail: elmare.broodryk@nlsa.ac.za

Ms Araceli G. Carranza-Bassetti, Cuba
E-mail: araceli@bnjm.cu

Cheng Huanwen, China

Ms C. Mills, Fiji

Bibliography Section:

<http://www.ifla.org/VII/s12/index.htm>