



# Classification and Indexing Section Newsletter

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## A few words from the Chair / Le mot du président

Dear members and colleagues,

The November / December issue is always a wrap up of the past year and of what was accomplished in between IFLA conferences. It is the opportunity to present our annual report (see p. 3) and present a summary report of the work of our Standing Committee during the past IFLA Conference in Seoul (see p. 2).

It also gives me the opportunity to say a "few words" on some of our on-going activities and to personally promote the work of our Standing Committee members. The Committee meets twice during the IFLA annual conference and one of its major tasks is to plan the upcoming conferences (Durban in 2007 and Quebec in

2008). The members have to decide on the theme of the programme, in keeping with each of the conference theme as well as taking in consideration the country / continent in which the conference will be held, the current trends and issues relating to subject access, as well as considering joint programmes with other sections. This is not always an easy task to accomplish (in a tight agenda) considering that consensus decisions need to be achieved by the 21 experts from 15 countries that makes up our Standing Committee. But as you will see in our Call for papers (p. 10), the members again this year came up with what I think should be a very interesting programme in Durban. I also take this opportunity to say that your suggestions would help us in planning for the Quebec Conference in 2008. Not only could your proposal make our life easier, it would give us additional insight on what you would want to hear in our programme. Another "major" task is reviewing and updating our Section's strategic plan. Did the Section accomplish what it set out to do (goals) and what can it do better next year? One of our goals will focus on one of IFLA's Three Pillars, that of Members, to promote further membership in our Section. To reach that goal, we will recruit more members over the next few months as a way for us to reach out to as many different types of libraries across the world to promote subject access tools and standards and to have access to a wider audience of specialists and librarians interested in the field of subject access. Another goal is to seek broader geographic representation on the Standing Committee. The Section will encourage members of the Section to serve on the Standing Committee, and we have a golden opportunity during this election year to get broader geographic representation.

Billie Hackney has produced this newsletter issue. I wish to thank her for a job well done, and I do hope you will enjoy reading this issue.

I thank you again for your support and for being a member of our Section. I hope to hear from you. Your comments and suggestions are important to us.

Patrice Landry

## CLASS Listserv

The Classification and Indexing Section's listserv is once again active. If you would like to join, you may subscribe directly at the site.

<http://infoserv.inist.fr/wwwsympa.fcgi/info/class>

Billie Hackney  
Getty Research Institute



## **Report of the Standing Committee of Classification and Indexing meetings, Seoul, 2006 / Rapport des séances du comité permanent, Classification et Indexation, Seoul, 2006**

by **Patrice Landry**

Chair, Classification and Indexing Section  
Division IV. Bibliographic Control

This report is a summary of the minutes of the two meetings of the Standing Committee held on Saturday, August 19 and Friday, August 25 at the Seoul conference. The meeting Minutes can be consulted on the Section's IFLA page:

[http://www.ifla.org/VII/s29/minutes/s29\\_minute\\_s2006.pdf](http://www.ifla.org/VII/s29/minutes/s29_minute_s2006.pdf)

Patrice Landry, the Chair of the Standing Committee, chaired the two meetings and Barbara Tillett, the Secretary, took the minutes. This report will highlight the main points discussed and the decisions made during these meetings.

Reports were given on the section developments since the Oslo Conference. The section's working groups reported on progress made over the last year. Patrice Landry reported on the work of the Working Group on Multilingual Thesauri. In 2005, the "final draft" of the *Guidelines for Multilingual Thesauri* was posted on IFLANET for review, and many positive comments and suggestions were received. Ia McIlwaine volunteered to prepare the final version during the fall of 2005. There were still some issues that needed to be resolved and it was decided that a small group consisting of original members of the WG would help prepare a final draft. It is still planned that this work will be finished by the end of 2006 and that the

Guidelines will be posted on IFLANET and issued as an IFLA Professional Report in 2006 or early 2007.

David Miller reported on the Working Group on the Virtual Clearinghouse of Subject Access Resources. The aim of the WG was to gather information on tools used by national libraries and information centres and to create a series of linked pages on IFLANET organised by geographical area, nation, language and topic. David Miller reported that the WG had made little progress over the years and there was the significant question on how the WG could create and maintain a large number of records in an ongoing way. The members approved the resolution that the WG be discontinued. All agreed that the intended goal of the WG needed more resources (human and technical) than could be provided by the members of the WG.

Patrice Landry reported on the Working Group on Guidelines for Subject Access by National Bibliographic Agencies (NBA). During the Conference, the WG met and decided on a series of tasks to be done during 2006/2007. On the basis of NBA indexing policies that have been collected, a series of criteria will be established during Fall 2006. These will form the basis of the work that will be done until June 2007. A draft will be produced and discussed at the Durban Conference. The group will work in collaboration with the Bibliography Section WG on Guidelines for Electronic National Bibliographies.

The section is also involved in the work of two other WG's. The section is leading the Bibliographic Control Division's working group on Functional Requirements for Subject Authority Records (FRSAR). The WG will be composed of core members as well as an "advisory group" composed of other interested parties.



Classification and Indexing Standing Committee  
Seoul 2006

## Classification and Indexing Section Annual Report 2005-2006

by **Patrice Landry**  
Swiss National Library  
Chair, Classification and Indexing Section  
Division IV. Bibliographic Control

### Scope Statement

The Classification and Indexing Section focuses on methods of providing subject access in catalogues, bibliographies, and indexes to documents of all kinds, including electronic documents. It serves as a forum for producers and users of classification and subject indexing tools. It works to facilitate an international exchange of information about methods of providing subject access; to promote standardization and uniform application of classification and subject indexing tools; to initiate and promote advice on research in the subject approach to information; and to disseminate research results through open meetings and publications.

Programmes at the 2005 and 2006 IFLA conferences included papers on subject access resources and applications in South America and Asia. The next programme will focus attention on activities in Africa. A Working Group developed Guidelines for the Construction of Multilingual Thesauri and a final version is presently being prepared. Another working group is looking at subject access in national bibliographies. The Section is also participating in other activities of the Division of Bibliographic Control, such as the FRBR model for subject authority records, led by a new Working Group on Functional Requirements for Subject Authority Records (FRSAR). The section continues to co-operate with the Cataloguing, Bibliography, and Knowledge Management Sections, and with UNIMARC and other IFLA activities related to bibliographic control.

### Membership

The section has 112 institutional and individual members from 45 countries.

### Standing Committee and Officers

The Standing Committee had 21 members from 15 countries during 2005-2006. The following nations are represented: Canada, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Germany, Iceland, Italy, Macedonia, Malaysia, Norway, Portugal, Russia, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United States. There were also five corresponding members. Patrice Landry and Barbara Tillett are

The Working Group on a Multilingual Dictionary of Cataloguing Terms and Concepts (MulDiCat) led by the Cataloguing Section WG was to have resumed its work in 2006. Unfortunately, it did not, and it is expected that this group will get going in 2007. Jo-Anne Bélair and Leda Bultrini will represent the section on this WG dedicated to building a multilingual thesaurus of cataloguing and subject indexing terms. Their task will be to contribute subject indexing and controlled vocabulary terminology terms.

The Section's Newsletter was discussed. Starting with the November 2006 issue, Billie Hackney will be the sole editor of the newsletter, as Jo-Anne Bélair will take the position of Information coordinator. Some minor changes will be made, particularly regarding the country reports. It was decided that "News from..." would be more pertinent as it would focus on recent news and developments and would not entail too much work from the members. The question of printing the newsletter was again raised this year. The publishing cost and posting of the newsletter is expensive. The newsletter should be sent to the members of the section as part of the membership fees, but the question is whether it can be sent by email or do any members still require a printed version. In the next posting of the newsletter, Patrice Landry will ask members their views on this issue.

The planning of future programmes proceeded for both the Durban and Quebec conferences. The section's programme for Durban will be entitled, "**Partners for subject access to bring libraries and users together.**" A programme committee has been established to send a call for papers and select papers for the programme. A call for papers will be sent out in November.

The Quebec conference programme was discussed and should focus on the future of controlled vocabularies and classification systems. This topic will be further discussed at the upcoming section meetings in Durban.

The committee agreed that the section should promote itself more. The Listserv for the section will be reactivated. The section will also work on expanding membership and encouraging present members to play an active role in the section work, either by contributing news to the Newsletter or by participating as member of the Standing Committee. The section will also more actively communicate with the Africa Section, Asia/Oceania Section, and the Latin American /Caribbean Section.

serving as the Chair and Secretary for 2005-2007, respectively. Jo-Anne Bélair is the new Information Coordinator (as of August 2006), replacing Maria Witt (2005-2006), and the Newsletter editor is Billie Hackney (as of August 2006, task done jointly by B. Hackney and J-A. Bélair in 2005-2006).

### Seoul Conference, August 2006

The section's programme entitled "**Interoperability of subject access for multilingual and multi-script networked environment, particularly for Asia**" was presented at the 2006 Seoul Conference. The program attracted about 110 people. This year's theme on interoperability was challenging, and our speakers presented various approaches and current research on the topic in a dynamic and informative manner. One of our scheduled speakers, Leena Shah, could not attend the conference due to illness, so Marcia Lei Zeng expanded her presentation on standards for controlled vocabularies. The text of the papers can be found at:

<http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla72/Programme2006.htm#23August> (session 136).

The papers and presenters were:

- 1) **Gertrude Soonja Lee Koh:** Transferring intended messages of subject headings exemplified in the list of Korean subject headings.
- 2) **Kyung-Sun Kim:** Facet analyses of categories used in Web directories: a comparative study.
- 3) **Marcia Lei Zeng:** Standards for controlled vocabularies.



Gertrude Soonja Lee Koh, Kyung-Sun Kim, Marcia Lei Zeng

The Section participated in the Division IV open program, "**Bibliographic Control: current issues and initiatives.**" Marcia Zeng reported on the work of the Section in the Division's FRSAR Working Group.

The Section's Standing Committee met twice during the Seoul conference. The sessions were attended by 17 members and observers (5 and 4). Continuing and new working groups reported their activities. Plans for the 2007 and 2008 programs were discussed, and the Strategic Plan for 2006-2007 was revised. Working groups had

their meetings separately during the conference. The officers participated in the Division's officers' meeting, held in two sessions, during the conference.

### Projects and Working Groups

#### 1. Guidelines for the Construction of Multilingual Thesauri

The Working Group last met in Oslo (2005), after which a final draft version of the Guidelines was posted on IFLANET for a worldwide review. The review provided many comments, and a final version is now in preparation for completion at the end of 2006. The Guidelines will be posted on IFLANET and will be issued as an IFLA Professional Report in 2006 or early 2007.

#### 2. A Virtual Clearinghouse of Available Subject Access Resources

This Working Group has been discontinued. The group had made little progress over the years and there was the significant question on how the WG could create and maintain a large number of records in an ongoing manner. In order to achieve the goal set out, much more human and technical resources would have been needed. The section did not have these resources at its disposal.

#### 3. Guidelines for Subject Access by National Bibliographic Agencies

The Working Group met during the conference and decided on a series of tasks to be done during 2006/2007. On the basis of the national bibliographic agencies indexing policies collected, a series of criteria will be established during Fall 2006. These will form the basis of the work that will be done until June 2007. A draft will be produced and discussed at the Durban Conference. The group will work in collaboration with the Bibliography Section WG on Guidelines for Electronic National Bibliographies.

#### 4. Participation in other working groups

The section is also involved in the work of two other Working Groups. The section is leading the Bibliographic Control Division's working group on Functional Requirements for Subject Authority Records (FRSAR). The WG is composed of core members as well as an "advisory group" composed of other interested parties.

The Working Group on a Multilingual Dictionary of Cataloguing Terms and Concepts (MulDiCat), led by the Cataloguing Section working group, was to have resumed its work in 2006. Unfortunately, it did not, and it is expected that this group will start again in 2007. Jo-Anne Bélair and Leda

Bultrini will represent the section on this WG dedicated to building a multilingual thesaurus of cataloguing and subject indexing terms. Their task will be to contribute subject indexing and controlled vocabulary terminology terms.

## FRSAR Report

Since its establishment in April 2005, the FRSAR Working Group has formed two Subgroups. The first subgroup, led by Athena Salaba, co-chair and secretary of the WG, is charged with the study of user tasks related to subject authority record data. The second group, led by Maja Zumer, co-chair of the WG, is charged with the study of subject authority data entities. Subgroup members from eight countries have had heavy discussions via email.

In an effort to develop user tasks based on use by real users, the User Tasks Subgroup conducted two surveys on the use of subject authority data. The first, considered a pilot survey, was conducted at the 2006 Semantic Technology Conference in March, 2006 at San Jose, California. Participants have mostly been involved in developing semantic tools and semantic services at industries. The second web-based survey was conducted among the librarians and information professionals during the months of May through August 2006. The survey received a great response by communities all over the world -- nearly 800 responses from individuals and institutions. Preliminary results of both surveys and a draft list of User Tasks were presented at the 2006 Conference of International Society for Knowledge Organization (ISKO) in Vienna, Austria and at the 72nd IFLA General Conference and Council in Seoul, Korea. The report is available at: <http://www.slis.kent.edu/~mzeng/FRSAR/FRSAR-ifla06.ppt> Future reports will be released which will include a more detailed data analysis of the surveys.

Members of the FRSAR Working Group, User Tasks Subgroup, Subject Entities Subgroup and FRSAR Advisory Group met during ISKO 2006 and the 72<sup>nd</sup> IFLA Conference to discuss User Tasks, Subject Entities and plans for future FRSAR activities. Meetings were led by Marcia Zeng, chair of FRSAR Working Group. The FRSAR website is at: <http://www.ifla.org/VII/s29/wgfrsar.htm>.

## News from BnF

### Indexing

In 2006, the Centre national RAMEAU (Bibliothèque nationale de France) developed ties throughout Europe. Many subject headings regarding Belgian administration and history have been coined, in response to requests from the network of French-speaking libraries in Belgium that use the RAMEAU indexing language.

A convention concerning the transcription of RAMEAU into Romanian (work in progress) was signed between the BnF and the National library of Romania on May 2nd, 2006. A delegation of Romanian librarians was received by the Centre national RAMEAU in 2005. Two members of our staff spent a week in Bucarest in October 2006 in order to train Romanian librarians.

Another convention is soon to be signed (end of 2006) between the BnF and the University library in Warsaw, which runs KABA, the Polish indexing language adapted from RAMEAU in 1991, which is used by the NUKAT libraries network. Due to this old and enriching relationship, the director of the Centre national RAMEAU was invited to take part in a conference on indexing languages which was held in Kazimierz Dolny in September 2006.

For further information, please go to the "Cooperation internationale" thumbnail at: <http://rameau.bnf.fr>.

Michel Mingam  
Bibliothèque nationale de France

### Classification

The translation into French of the 22nd edition of the *Dewey Decimal Classification* was launched through the cooperation of the Canadian association ASTED, the Bibliothèque nationale de France, and another two national libraries: Bibliothèque et Archives Canada et Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec. The French translation will also be available electronically through subscription on the server of the Bibliothèque et Archives du Québec.

Classification quality and coherence are actively sought after in the catalogue (BN-OPALE PLUS) bibliographic records: areas of the Dewey authority file are being retrospectively corrected. This becomes all the more essential as bibliographic records are to be transferred into an OAI repository by the beginning of 2007 and Dewey numbers will help define some sets of records.

Anne-Céline Lambotte  
Bibliothèque nationale de France

## News from Estonia

The Estonian Universal Thesaurus (Eesti üldine märksõnastik, EÜM) is now freely accessible online (URL: <http://eum.nlib.ee>).

The first edition of the Estonian Universal Thesaurus was published in printed form in 1999. Now it is the most widely used subject indexing tool in Estonia. EÜM is maintained by the National Library.

The thesaurus includes more than 32,000 preferred and non-preferred terms in Estonian. Most of them have also equivalents in English. User interface for the electronic version is only in Estonian at the moment but it is possible to search English terms by marking the box "inglise".

The online thesaurus is intended for librarians to facilitate subject indexing as well as for end users to find valuable terms for their search in the library catalogues and databases. From every term in the online thesaurus there are direct links to the union catalogues ESTER Tallinn and ESTER Tartu.

Sirje Nilbe  
National Library of Estonia

## News from Germany

The German subject authority file SWD now contains about 502,450 headings. It is continuously being improved and used for verbal indexing by libraries, archives and museums. Creating uniform rules and formats for an integrated authority file of subjects (SWD), names of persons (PND), and corporations (GKD) is still under discussion.

Current topics for indexers are:

- revision of cataloguing rules recording to "Resource Description and Access" (RDA);
- cataloguing digital net publications;
- discussing semantic web technologies for authority data;
- discussing of FRBR (a German translation of the main vocabulary is now finished);
- creating crosswalks between thesauri and classifications to improve and simplify retrieval in heterogeneous data-collections

One of these important crosswalks is the mapping between SWD and Dewey numbers. This project, called CrissCross, not only links German subject headings with DDC, but also with their

English and French equivalents in LCSH and RAMEAU.

The first German printed version of *DDC (22)* and a translation of *Dewey Decimal Classification: Principles and Application* were published. The German National Library – which is now called "Deutsche Nationalbibliothek" because of a new law that came into force in June 2006 – started classifying by DDC step by step. Beginning in 2007, nearly all titles of the national bibliography will be searchable by Dewey numbers.

Yvonne Jahns  
Deutsche Nationalbibliothek

## News from Iceland

### Subject Indexing

During the last six years, Icelandic libraries and information centers have been in the process of implementing and adapting a new library automation system (Aleph 500 from ExLibris) that is supposed to serve all libraries and information centers in Iceland. The system is operated by The Icelandic Library Consortium Inc. (Landskerfi bókasafna hf. <http://www.landskerfi.is>), owned by the government and local authorities. In July 2006 the library system switched to version 16, and at the same time hosting was moved to a new provider. This fall the implementation of the system was finished when data from several libraries were migrated to Aleph, completing the third and final phase of the library system implementation, and leaving the number of participating libraries and library branches at approximately 250. The name of the common database, which serves as union catalogue for all Icelandic libraries, is Gagnir (<http://www.gegnir.is>).

Both the Cataloguing and Subject Indexing Committees (Skráningarráð) on the national level are still working on the harmonization and standardization of cataloguing and subject indexing in the database. In January 2004 a sub-committee (Indexing Committee) was established to focus on subject indexing and developing a general policy in indexing in Icelandic libraries and further to develop an Icelandic thesaurus based on the existing work in the field. A solid base for financing the work of the committee has not been found yet, but at this point plans are to be worked out for the future working arrangement of the Indexing Committee.

On February 1-2, 2007, an international conference on cataloguing, **Cataloguing 2007**, will be held in Iceland (see

<http://www.congress.is/cataloguing2007>). The main focus of the conference will be on the new cataloguing rules to be implemented in 2008, their interaction with bibliographic standards, and their effect on bibliographic searches in library systems.

### **Classification**

As reported before, most Icelandic Libraries use the Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC) as their classification scheme, but the City Library in Reykjavik (the largest public library in the country) uses the Danish version of the system because the first city librarian studied librarianship in Denmark. With the increased use of subject headings and computerization of libraries, the tendency is to use broader classification than before, when classification was used as subject analysis as well as for shelving. Medical libraries in Iceland tend to use the National Library of Medicine Classification (NLM) and a few research libraries in the country use the Universal Decimal Classification (UDC). Some specialized libraries use their own classification system.

In Icelandic libraries classification now serves mainly for shelving and locating library material and no effort is made to harmonize classification among the different libraries participating in the Icelandic Union Catalogue.

Thórdís T. Thórarinsdóttir  
Menntaskólinn við Sund Junior College Library,  
Reykjavík

## **News from Italy / Novità dall'Italia**

### **Subject indexing**

The prototype of the new Soggettario created by the Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale di Firenze is in press and will be issued by the end of the year. It is composed of printed guidelines to the new subject indexing language, vocabulary control and string syntax, and a CD-ROM containing the essentials of the guidelines, 60 examples of subject strings and instructions to access and use the prototype of the thesaurus on the web, consisting of, at present, 13,000 terms.

In the database on the web, it is possible to navigate into the semantic structure of the terms, either from each term to the subject string(s) containing it, or from each string to the linked records of the Italian National Bibliography (BNI).

During the Annual Italian Library Association (AIB) Congress held in Rome in October 2006, the AIB Research Group on Subject Indexing

(GRIS), in cooperation with ISKO Italia, organized a session on information retrieval by subject in library on-line catalogues. Both experts in subject indexing and companies producing OPAC software were invited to share their know how and the points of view of different professional communities involved in building library information services. A report of the session is at

<http://www.iskoi.org/doc/gris06.htm>.

### **Classification**

The 14th edition of the *Abridged Decimal Dewey Classification*, translated by a working group from the Italian National Bibliography, was published in September. Work on the Italian translation of the *DDC22* is ongoing, supported by the software developed for the translation of the *DDC22* into German, and will be finished in 2007.

### **Indicizzazione**

Il prototipo del nuovo Soggettario, realizzato dalla Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale di Firenze, è in fase di stampa e sarà pubblicato prima della fine dell'anno.

Sarà costituito da una Guida normativa, a stampa, contenente l'introduzione al nuovo linguaggio, le norme per il controllo del vocabolario e per la costruzione delle stringhe, e da un CD-ROM con una sintesi dei punti chiave della Guida, una raccolta esemplificativa di 60 stringhe di soggetto, la chiave e le istruzioni per accedere ed utilizzare il servizio web contenente il prototipo del tesaurus, composto, al momento 13.000 termini.

Nella base dati web è possibile navigare all'interno della struttura semantica dei termini, da ciascun termine alle stringhe che lo contengono, da ciascuna stringa ai record della Bibliografica Nazionale Italiana cui essa è collegata, e viceversa.

Nel contesto del congresso annuale dell'Associazione Italiana Biblioteche, tenutosi a Roma nel mese di ottobre 2006, il Gruppo di Ricerca sull'Indicizzazione per Soggetto (GRIS) e ISKO Italia hanno organizzato un seminario sul recupero per soggetto nei cataloghi in rete delle biblioteche. Al seminario sono stati invitati esperti di indicizzazione e società produttrici di software per gli OPAC allo scopo di mettere in comune e a confronto il know how e i punti di vista di due diverse comunità professionali coinvolte nella costruzione dei servizi informativi delle biblioteche (il resoconto del seminario a <http://www.iskoi.org/doc/gris06.htm>).

## Classificazione

È stata pubblicata lo scorso settembre la 14. edizione della Classificazione Decimale Dewey ridotta, tradotta in italiano da un gruppo di lavoro della Bibliografia nazionale italiana. Prosegue l'attività di traduzione della DDC22, con il supporto del software sviluppato per la traduzione in tedesco della DDC22. La conclusione del lavoro è prevista per il 2007.

Leda Bultrini  
Research Group on Subject Indexing  
Italian Library Association

## News from Portugal

Last May, the National Library held the 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Jornadas Porbase on the Theme, Bibliographic Standards (<http://purl.pt/6393/1/>).

For Classification, matters were discussed on specific tools to assist bibliographic processing on the national online Catalogue – PORBASE – namely the UDC Master Reference File on line.

### Courses for the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester 2006:

Professional Association – BAD

- Classification of Music Collections in Public Libraries (November 13-14)
- UDC and Open Access Libraries (November 27-29)

National Library

- Siporbase – Portuguese Indexing System (October 9-13)

Eunice Pinto  
Biblioteca de Arte  
Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian

## News from Russia

### Universal Decimal Classification

VINITI as a member of the UDC Consortium is engaged in preparing a new printed full Russian UDC edition on the basis of the UDC Consortium Master Reference File. In 2006, Class 61 (Vol. 5) and Extensions and Corrections to the Russian edition, Issue 4 were published. The updated abridged Russian UDC edition has been also issued this year.

Association ELNIT is preparing the updated full and abridged versions of Russian Electronic UDC on CD-ROM.

### BBK (Russian Library Bibliographic Classification)

The Medium BBK edition is being prepared for publication by Russian State Library, Russian

National Library and Library of Russian Academy of Science. In 2006 the second volume, *Economics. Economic Science. Politics. Political Science. Law. Military Science* was published.

Ekaterina Zaytseva  
Russian National Public Library for Science and  
Technology, Association ELNIT

## News from the United States

Compiled by **David Miller**, Curry College

### 1. Library of Congress, Cataloging Policy and Support Office (CPSO)

#### Library of Congress Classification

Development of law schedules *KIA-KIX, Law of the Indigenous Peoples of the Americas*, gained momentum. The law classification specialist collaborated with staff at libraries where the materials are held, both at their home institutions and at the annual conference of the American Association of Law Libraries. Newly revised by CPSO and published by CDS were *G (Cartographic Materials) Geographic Cutter Numbers* (Tables G1548-G9804), *J (Political Science)*, and the *P-PZ (Language and Literature) Tables*. While the schedules continue to be available in paper copy, LCC online, the subscription product Classification Web, is the official version.

#### Automating the LC Classification/Weekly List System

In mid-November 2006, CPSO will be implementing a Minaret-based system for submitting classification proposals that was custom-designed by the Minaret Corporation under a contract funded by CDS. The system is designed with a user-friendly interface that will greatly simplify the process of creating the vast majority of classification proposals. It will be used both by LC catalogers and by Program for Cooperative Cataloging Subject Authority Cooperative Program (SACO) institutions who contribute classification proposals. LC catalogers will have access to the system via their personal Minaret accounts; SACO contributors will have access via their Classification Web accounts. The new system addresses concerns that catalogers have expressed over a period of many years about how difficult and complicated it is to create classification proposals. Over the past summer, it was tested by a group of 17 LC catalogers and 4 SACO contributors, all of whom responded enthusiastically to it. The system will also introduce a more streamlined and efficient workflow for managing classification proposals and creating weekly lists that is expected to



result in significant savings of staff time and greatly increased productivity on the Classification Editorial team.

### **Subject Cataloging Survey**

CPSO conducted a survey in August, 2006 to gain a better understanding of the ideas and views of LC subject cataloging staff on Library of Congress Subject Headings, Library of Congress Classification, and related training issues. The data collected from the staff who responded will be the basis for making feasible improvements in various areas of subject cataloging, such as making subject cataloging an easier, more efficient process, and achieving a higher level of quality and greater productivity.

The LC catalogers surveyed, who were selected by Acquisitions and Bibliographic Access (ABA) Directorate and custodial division team leaders, consisted of those with subject cataloging responsibilities. The 288 names identified for the survey team were from the ABA Directorate divisions and from the Geography & Map, Prints & Photographs, and the Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Divisions, and the American Folklife Center. There was a high overall response rate of 50%.

The survey was divided into two main areas: training and cataloging. Training issues were addressed from the trainee perspective and from the perspective of those who served as trainers. The second portion focused on catalogers' ideas and comments on several topics: (1) areas of subject cataloging that present the most problems; (2) level of difficulty or ease of making subject and classification proposals; (3) level of difficulty or ease of using the rules for assigning subject headings and classification; (4) current overall state of subject cataloging in terms of quality; and (5) suggestions for improving the quality of subject cataloging.

A detailed report of survey results is being finalized for analysis by CPSO subject specialists and LC management.

### **Changes to "God" subject headings**

Recognizing the increased diversity in religious backgrounds of Americans and other populations that use LCSH, CPSO revised the headings for *God* to provide a distinction in access between general and comparative works (under the unqualified heading *God*) and works from a Christian perspective (under the heading *God (Christianity)*). These revisions provide a uniform treatment for the concept in all religions, since

the headings for other religions were already established as *God (Islam)*; *God (Judaism)*; etc.

### **Database Improvement**

By the end of September 2006, CPSO's database improvement unit had corrected over 830,000 bibliographic and authority records. CPSO adopted a new rule interpretation that enables the addition of death dates to personal name headings with open dates. CPSO launched the policy February 1, 2006 with a group of 378 names that had been identified as having a large number of authority and bibliographic records that would require maintenance. In response to a request from LC, OCLC agreed to provide an RSS feed to serve as an alert service for authority records to which death dates have been added.

### **Free PDF files**

The following publications, which include some written in CPSO, will be available from the Cataloging Distribution Service (CDS) as free PDF files beginning with the first issue of the 2006 subscription year:

- *Cataloging Service Bulletin (CPSO)*
- *Updates to Library of Congress Rule Interpretations (CPSO)*
- *Updates to Subject Cataloging Manual: Subject Headings (CPSO)*
- *Updates to CONSER Editing Guide*
- *Updates to CONSER Cataloging Manual*
- *Updates to MARC 21 format documentation*

The hard copy versions will still be available for sale from CDS.

Thompson A. Yee  
CPSO

## **2. ALA Association for Library Collections and Technical Services, Subject Analysis Committee (SAC)**

Since the ALA Annual Conference in June 2006, the SAC Subcommittee on FAST has continued evaluating the work to date of the OCLC FAST project (Faceted Application of Subject Terminology), with the goal of providing feedback to project members. Subcommittee members have been assigning FAST headings for the concepts of 80 complex search terms, derived from a transaction log of 3,397 keyword searches of the catalog of the library at Winthrop University, Rock Hill, South Carolina. The experiment is based on the idea that these keyword searches represent actual bibliographic resources. Lynn El-Hoshy and Pat Kuhr are assigning LCSH for them for these same hypothetical resources. The subcommittee

members will then compare the differences between the FAST and LCSH results. Arlene Taylor is responsible for the project.

The SAC Form/Genre Subcommittee was established at ALA Annual 2006. The subcommittee chair was appointed in July 2007. The charge of the subcommittee is to organize a program at ALA Annual 2007, to identify all of the thesauri that might have a role in the discussion of issues concerning form/genre headings.

The SAC SWOT Subcommittee was established at ALA Annual 2006. The subcommittee will identify "strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats" regarding the LCSH system.

The SAC Task Force on LC Classification Training has continued its work, reviewing drafts of component sections of the two-day training workshop now under development.

Qiang Jin  
SAC Chair

## Durban Conference: Call for Papers

World Library and Information Congress  
73rd IFLA General Conference and Council  
19-23 August 2007, Durban, South Africa  
Classification and Indexing Section  
Division for Bibliographic Control

### **"Libraries for the Future: Progress, Development and Partnership"**

The Classification and Indexing Section will be hosting a two-hour session that will consist of the presentation of four papers.

Programme Theme: Partners for subject access to bring libraries and users together

The scope of the programme includes: minority language subject access; bringing user vocabularies into controlled vocabularies and getting users involved with folksonomies and user tagging; providing library instruction to help users with subject access; and cooperative initiatives in Africa.

The IFLA Classification and Indexing Section invites librarians, academics and others involved in research and projects devoted to cooperating with users in designing subject access tools, and to facilitating and extending subject access to library resources to submit proposals for papers on this theme. Papers from African countries would be especially appreciated.

If you are interested in contributing, please send an abstract of 200-300 words in English and relevant biographical information of the author(s) by December 15, 2006 to:

Mrs Leda Bultrini  
Coordinator of the Selection Committee  
E-mail: ledabul@katamail.com  
Fax: +39 06 48 054 226

The submissions will be reviewed by a selection committee of the Classification and Indexing Section Standing Committee. The selection will be based on the abstracts and the authors will be contacted by January 31, 2007. The full papers are due on April 15 2007 to allow time for review of papers and preparation of translations. The papers must be original submissions not published elsewhere, and must be no longer than 15 pages double spaced. Papers should be in one of the IFLA languages with a version in English to allow for translation in other IFLA languages. Twenty minutes will be allowed for a summary delivery of each paper at the Classification and Indexing Section's programme.

Please note that the expenses of attending the Durban conference will be the responsibility of the author(s) / presenter(s) of accepted papers.

For information on the IFLA Classification and Indexing Section, please see <http://www.ifla.org/VII/s29/index.htm>. For additional information on this call for papers, you may contact Leda Bultrini by e-mail.

## UDC Seminar

### **Information Access for the Global Community: An International Seminar on the Universal Decimal Classification**

**Date:** 4-5 June 2007

**Venue:** Koninklijke Bibliotheek/National Library of the Netherlands, Prins Willem-Alexanderhof 5, Den Haag

A two day International Seminar on the UDC will be held at the UDC Headquarters in The Hague, exploring latest developments and applications of the Universal Decimal Classification. There will be an international panel of speakers and presentations by members of the UDC Consortium.

**Provisional programme:** will be soon available at <http://www.udcc.org/>. For further information and early notification of interest, please contact [udc@kb.nl](mailto:udc@kb.nl).

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Editor of the Newsletter: Billie Hackney