

NEWSLETTER

Section on Classification and Indexing

Division of Bibliographic Control IFLA

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**1. A few words from our new Chair,
Pia Leth**

Head, Bibliographic Development and Coordination, Kungliga Biblioteket, Stockholm

To all members of the Section:

Greetings to all members of the committee and to our newcomers.

I am very honoured at having been elected the new chair and I will do my very best to honour this appointment.

It was a great pleasure to see so many of you at the Boston meeting, and especially that so many took the opportunity to participate in the Satellite Meeting: Subject Retrieval in a Networked Environment, at OCLC in Dublin Ohio. Some of you contributed with very interesting papers.

For the Glasgow meeting we will take the opportunity to make some of the papers known to a wider audience.

I have always found the reports from ongoing activities very interesting and I am glad that we can present them in the Newsletter in this way. I believe they can be of great assistance to those countries that have only recently begun constructing systems for subject retrieval.

I am certain the Newsletter is in good hands this time with Max, Martin and Vanda as editors and I feel we should all try to achieve our best in making it known to as wide an audience as possible.

I look forward to seeing you all in Glasgow next year.

My warmest greetings to you all and best wishes for 2002.

Pia

2. Standing Committee Roster of Members, 2001-2003

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| | | |
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3. Strategic plan 2002-2003: mission, goals, action plan

SECTION ON CLASSIFICATION AND INDEXING

Mission

The Section on Classification and Indexing exists:

- to focus on methods of providing subject access in catalogues, bibliographies and indexes to documents of all kinds, including electronic documents
- to serve as a forum for producers and users of classification and indexing tools
- to work to facilitate international exchange of information about methods of providing subject access
- to promote standardization and uniform application of classification and indexing tools by institutions generating or utilizing bibliographic records
- to initiate and give advice about research in the subject approach to information and disseminate the results through open meetings and publications

Goals, 2002-2003

1. To monitor and provide information about trends in the provision of subject access to information resources and to disseminate results of relevant research
(Priorities: *a - supporting role of libraries in society; d - providing unrestricted access to information; f - promoting resource sharing; g - preserving intellectual heritage; h: developing library professionals; i - promoting standards, guidelines and best practices*)
2. To provide information about new developments in classification and subject indexing tools
(Priorities: *a - supporting role of libraries in society; d - providing unrestricted access to information; f - promoting resource sharing; i - promoting standards, guidelines and best practices*)
3. To develop and review needed standards and guidelines related to subject access
(Priority *i - promoting standards, guidelines and best practices*)
4. To monitor, promote and disseminate results of research relating to subject access to electronic resources
(Priorities: *a - supporting role of libraries in society; d - providing unrestricted access to information; f - promoting resource sharing; g - preserving intellectual heritage; h: developing library professionals; i - promoting standards, guidelines and best practices*)
5. To provide information about the work of the Section and Standing Committee
(Priorities: *a - supporting role of libraries in society; d - providing unrestricted access to information; f - promoting resource sharing; g - preserving intellectual heritage; h: developing library professionals; i - promoting standards, guidelines and best practices*)
6. To promote membership of the Section and to seek broader geographic representation in the Standing Committee
(Priorities: *a - supporting role of libraries in society; d - providing unrestricted access to information; f - promoting resource sharing; g - preserving intellectual heritage; h: developing library professionals*)

Action plan 2002-2003

Goal 1: To monitor and provide information about trends in the provision of subject access to information resources and to disseminate results of relevant research

- 1.1 Include papers on appropriate topics relating to classification and indexing during the Section's Open Programme for Glasgow
- 1.2 Include papers on appropriate topics relating to classification and indexing during the Section's Open Programme for Berlin
- 1.3 Include in the Section's *Newsletter* and share at committee meetings information about trends in the provision of subject access
- 1.4 Encourage papers from a broad range

Goal 2: To provide information about new developments in classification and subject indexing tools

- 2.1 Co-sponsor, in conjunction with the Section on Cataloguing a full day workshop on Interoperability between museums, libraries and archives at the Glasgow conference
- 2.2 Sponsor a workshop on the changing rôle of traditional tools for subject access during the Berlin Conference
- 2.3 Include in the Section Newsletter information about new developments in classification and subject indexing tools

Goal 3: To develop and review needed standards and guidelines related to subject access

- 3.1 Complete the work of the Working Group on Guidelines for Multilingual Thesauri
- 3.2 Continue to co-operate with the Section on Cataloguing, the Section on Bibliography, the Section on Information Technology and the IFLA Core Activity on Universal Bibliographic Control and International MARC (UBCIM) on projects of common interest

Goal 4: To monitor, promote and disseminate results of research relating to subject access to electronic resources

- 4.1 Report on trends in provision of subject access to electronic documents at Standing Committee meetings and in the *Newsletter*
- 4.2 Continue the work of the Working Group on the Web and Digital Libraries and extend its remit to incorporate the work of the Working Group on subject access to bibliographic databases in electronic form and alternative subject search methods originating in the Section on Bibliography. This work, with representation from Bibliography to begin under the aegis of that on Web and Digital Libraries, and the situation to be reviewed in 12 months.

Goal 5: To provide information about the work of the Section and standing Committee

- 5.1 To prepare and distribute the Section *Newsletter* twice a year
- 5.2 Report on Section activities during the Open Forum of the Division of Bibliographic Control
- 5.3 Provide information for publication in *ICBC*, in the *IFLA Journal* and on IFLANet

Goal 6: To promote membership of the Section and to seek broader geographic representation in the Standing Committee

- 6.1 Target libraries that may be interested in joining the Section
- 6.2 Seek members and/or corresponding members from Third World countries not currently represented on the Standing Committee

4. Standing Committee Meetings Minutes, Boston 2001

SECTION ON CLASSIFICATION AND INDEXING

Standing Committee - Provisional Meetings Minutes (*) 67th IFLA Council and General Conference - Boston, USA

4.1 First Meeting

Saturday, 2001 August 18, 08:30-11:20

Room 200, Hynes Convention Center

Members Present: Marie Balikova; Vanda Broughton; Leda Bultrini; Lois Mai Chan; Björn Dahla; Friedrich Geißelmann; Martin Kunz; Pia Leth; Ia C. McIlwaine (Chair); Max Naudi; Jesús Jiménez Pelayo; Gerhard J.A. Riesthuis; Edward Swanson (Secretary/ Treasurer); Marie-Martine Tomitch; Júlio Vaz; Maria Witt; Ekaterina Zaitseva; Marcia Lei Zeng.

Regrets: Jon Anjer; Magda Heiner-Freiling; Adriana Király

Members Absent: Marje Aasmets; Michel Fournier; Elisabet Lindkvist Michailaki; Irina Tsvetkova; Pisayada Vidanapathirana

Also in Attendance: Joan S. Mitchell (United States); Nancy Williamson (Canada); Dorothy McGarry (United States); David Miller (United States); Harold Thiele (United States); Erika Banski (Canada); Julianne Beall (United States); Sten Hedberg (Sweden); Sha-Li Zhang (United States); Antonia Fontana (Italy); Giles Martin (United States); Sandy Roe (United States); Susan Snyder (United States); Maxine Sherman (United States); Johan Stapel (Netherlands); Mary Burke (Ireland); Thordia T. Thorarinsdottir (Iceland); Dawn Lawson (United States); Barbara Tillett (United States)

1. Welcome and introductions

The meeting was called to order at 08:37 by the Chair, Ia McIlwaine. Members and guests introduced themselves.

She welcomed the new members of the Standing Committee who take office at this conference: Marie Balikova, Czech Republic; Vanda Broughton, United Kingdom; Leda Bultrini, Italy; Björn Dahla, Finland; Martin Kunz, Germany; Marie Witt, France; and Ekaterina Zaitseva, Russian Federation, as well as those members who were elected to a second term this year: Marje Aasmets, Estonia; Lois Mai Chan, United States; Pia Leth, Sweden; Max Naudi, France; Júlio Vaz, Portugal; and, Marcia Lei Zeng, United States.

The Standing Committee voted its thanks to the members who are retiring at this conference: Jon Anjer, Norway; Michel Fournier, Canada; Friedrich Geißelmann, Germany; Magda Heiner-Freiling, Germany; Elisabet Lindkvist Michailaki, Sweden; and Irina Tsvetkova, Russian Federation.

2. Minutes of the meetings at Jerusalem Conference, 2000

The minutes of the meetings at Jerusalem on 2000 August 12 and 18 were approved as distributed.

3. Matters arising not mentioned elsewhere on the agenda

The Chair noted that the members of the three standing committees in Division IV are invited to a social hour on Monday from 13:00 to 14:00 in Room 209.

4. Financial report

Edward Swanson, Secretary/Treasurer, distributed a financial report covering the period 2001 January 1-August 1. At the end of 2000 there was a balance on hand of USD 618.38, all in administrative funds. A distribution of USD 50.90 in administrative funds and one of USD 1,633.95 in project funds were made for 2001. Thus far USD 92.55 in administrative funds has been expended for printing and mailing the *Newsletter* and USD 1,230.10 in project funds has been expended for the Working Group meeting, leaving balances of USD 576.73 in administrative funds and USD 403.85 in project funds.

5. Election of Section Chair and Secretary for 2001-2003

Nominations for Chair included:

Edward Swanson, proposed/seconded by Pia Leth and Adriana Király, and Pia Leth, proposed/seconded by Max Naudi and Martin Kunz. Pia Leth was elected on a written ballot.

Nominations for Secretary included:

Ia C. McIlwaine, proposed/seconded by Pia Leth and Adriana Király. There being no further nominations, Ia C. McIlwaine was declared elected.

The Standing Committee decided to combine the office of Treasurer with that of Chair.

6. Section developments since the last meeting

Ia McIlwaine and Edward Swanson attended the Division IV Coordinating Board meeting in Minneapolis in April.

More than 80 people from 15 countries attended the satellite meeting on the topic, "Subject Access in a Networked Environment", held in Dublin, Ohio, the week preceding the IFLA Conference. Following a keynote address by Clifford Lynch, six general sessions were held, and more than fifteen papers were given on the topic.

The Chair noted the great assistance given by OCLC and its staff members, and especially Joan Mitchell, in making sure that everything was organized so well. It is possible that there will be a profit, which will belong to the Section. If so, the Section might consider donating some of it to the UBCIM Office.

Marcia Zeng agreed to continue as Information Coordinator for the Section. The question was raised about putting the *Newsletter* on IFLANET. It was agreed that this would be a good idea. It is the view of IFLA Headquarters that sections need to continue to publish their newsletters in paper copies even if they are on IFLANET, because they are one of the few tangible benefits that members of the section receive. Max Naudi agreed to take over the duties of editor.

7. Report from Division Coordinating Board

The National Library of Canada has decided to withdraw from hosting IFLANET. It is possible that IFLANET and UDT responsibilities will be split between two institutions.

English-language evaluation forms were distributed in the conference attendees' bags. Forms in the other IFLA languages are available in Room 102 and at the IFLA booth.

A questionnaire has been distributed about the *IFLA Journal* asking for suggestions for future issues. No particular suggestions were put forth by the Standing Committee. Ideas are also being solicited about future monographic issues relating to our Section.

8. Report of Working Group on Subject Access to World Wide Web Resources and Digital Libraries (Agenda item 9)

Marcia Zeng, chair, reported for the Working Group. They have examined about 60 English-language Web sites or projects so far. It would be helpful if Standing Committee members could volunteer to examine Web sites in their languages. The Working Group would like to see more examples, particularly non-English ones.

It is hoped that to have a more complete report at the Glasgow conference. Information also will be printed in the *Newsletter*.

9. Boston Conference program (Agenda item 10)

Two of the speakers scheduled for the Section's Open Programme on Tuesday are unable to attend. The other two papers will be given, followed by a panel discussion on education relating to subject knowledge organization in Canada, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, and the United States.

The Division Open Forum on Monday will include reports from the three Section chairs, the UBCIM Office, and the FRANAR and Multilingual Thesauri Working Groups, as well as a report on the satellite meeting.

The Section will co-sponsor the workshop put on by the Permanent UNIMARC Committee on Thursday.

A proposal for a new working group has been received from the Section on Bibliography. This will be discussed at Friday's meeting.

10. Section's Strategic Plan, 2001-2005, and discussion of future directions/projects (Agenda item 11)

The draft Strategic Plan that was distributed at the meeting will be discussed at Friday's meeting.

11. **Glasgow Conference plans, 2002** (Agenda item 12)

A whole-day workshop is being planned in conjunction with the Section on Cataloguing and the Library Association Cataloguing and Indexing Group. More information will be available after the Division Coordinating Board meeting on Friday. This might include the Italian archive-library project and the German library-museum project (MUSE). One possible speaker is Jan Van der Starre from the Netherlands in relation to teaching the integrated program in that country. The theme "Changing Role of Traditional Tools for Subject Access" was suggested.

(Further discussion took place at the Standing Committee meeting on Friday. It was decided that if there needs to be a choice between holding the workshop on Sunday and holding it on Thursday, the preference would be for Sunday. Edinburgh is being considered as the venue. The incoming Chair will take responsibility for the Section Open Programme and Ia McIlwaine will be the link person for the workshop.)

The theme for the Section's Open Programme will be "Compatibility and Integration in Subject Retrieval". Suggested topics included reports on the MACS Project, Renardus, the HILT Project. There might be an overview of the different mapping projects arising from the satellite meeting, possibly a panel discussion--names suggested, Marcia Zeng, Lois Chan, Inês Cordeira. It was decided that this could be left as a back-up.

12. **Report of Working Group on Guidelines for Multilingual Thesauri** (Agenda item 8)

The Working Group held its first meeting in Jerusalem during the 2000 Conference. It standards for multilingual thesauri. There is the assumption that every descriptor has an equivalent in every language, which the Working Group does not agree with. They are also held a two-day meeting in Frankfurt in January. They discussed the existing discussing what to do in those cases when this is not true. The Working Group will meet again on Sunday.

13. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:08 to reconvene on Friday, August 24.

4.2 **Second Meeting**

Saturday, 2001 August 24, 10:15-12:15

Room 200, Hynes Convention Center

Members Present: Marje Aasmets; Marie Balikova; Vanda Broughton; Leda Bultrini; Lois Mai Chan; Björn Dahla; Friedrich Geißelmann; Martin Kunz; Pia Leth; Ia C. McIlwaine (Chair); Max Naudi; Jesús Jiménez Pelayo; Gerhard J.A. Riesthuis; Edward Swanson (Secretary/ Treasurer); Marie-Martine Tomitch; Júlio Vaz; Maria Witt; Ekaterina Zaitseva; Marcia Lei Zeng.

Regrets: Jon Anjer; Magda Heiner-Freiling; Adriana Király

Members Absent: Michel Fournier; Elisabet Lindkvist Michailaki; Irina Tsvetkova; Pisayada Vidanapathirana

Also in Attendance: Joan S. Mitchell (United States); Nancy Williamson (Canada); Dorothy McGarry (United States); David Miller (United States); Julianne Beall (United States); Sten Hedberg (Sweden); Giles Martin (United States); Susan Snyder (United States); Maxine Sherman (United States); Dawn Lawson (United States); John Hostage (United States); Bruce Trumble (United States); Edna M. San Buenaventura (?); Bonnie Dede (United States); Christal Hengel (Germany)

14. **Reconvening**

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Ia McIlwaine, at 10:19.

15. **Section's Strategic Plan, 2001-2005, and discussion of future directions/projects** (Agenda item 11, continued)

The Standing Committee reviewed the draft Strategic Plan that had been distributed and made changes to it. The Chair will prepare a clean copy for distribution.

16. **Berlin Conference plans, 2003** (Agenda item 13)

Preliminary discussion was held on possible programs in Berlin in 2003. One possibility suggested was holding a workshop with the Section on Bibliography.

17. **Discussion of Boston Conference** (Agenda item 15)

Over 150 attended the Workshop on Thursday. The Chair thanked the Standing Committee members who had been there. It was agreed that the room was much too big for a workshop.

There were over 100 at the Section's Open Programme. The consensus was that it had gone very well, especially the panel discussion.

It was felt that too much was tried to be squeezed into the allotted time at the Division Open Forum. Perhaps there should be only one report per Section.

The question of what to do with any profit from the Satellite Meeting was raised. It was not clear if we can keep it or if it needs to go back to IFLA. If it needs to go back, the Standing Committee wants it to go to the UBCIM Programme.

In terms of the Conference as a whole, it was felt that the technical proficiency was low. The rooms in many cases were too big. Speakers need to be reminded to be sure to speak into the mikes and to speak slowly and clearly (chairs should remind them of this). The consensus was that the printed booklets should be reinstated, as well as the small program book. Both were missed.

18. International developments in classification and indexing

Standing Committee members reported on classification and indexing activities in the following countries: Germany, Netherlands, Spain, Finland, Italy, Russian Federation, France, Estonia, Portugal, United Kingdom, Czech Republic, United States, and Sweden. These reports, and ones from the absent members, will be printed in the *Newsletter*.

19. IFLA matters (Agenda item 16)

There was no additional business.

20. Unfinished business from the first meeting (Agenda item 17)

The Standing Committee discussed the proposal from the Section on Bibliography to form a working group on subject gateways. The Standing Committee agreed to establish such a working group with participation from the Section on Bibliography.

21. New business (Agenda item 18)

The Chair thanked the members of the Standing Committee for their support during her four years as Chair. She also thanked Edward Swanson for his four years as Secretary.

She then turned the meeting over to the new Chair, Pia Leth, who thanked the Standing Committee for electing her.

She announced that Martin Kunz, Vanda Broughton, and Max Naudi will constitute an editorial board for the *Newsletter*. She mentioned the idea of trying to get the national reports earlier in order to have a chance to look at them and perhaps derive issues for discussion at the Standing Committee meetings. It was decided to post them to the Web by the end of June next year. The consensus is that the *Newsletter* should be posted to IFLANET. The idea of an electronic list for the Section was raised and will be pursued. It would be good to have a venue for online discussion.

The idea of a Section luncheon or dinner was raised. It was felt this is a good idea, and that it could be in addition to the Division social hour.

22. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:14.

Edward Swanson
Secretary/Treasurer

(*) **NB.** These minutes are provisional since they have not been yet formally approved. Their official approval will take place during the next IFLA Conference (Glasgow, August 2002).

5. International Developments in Classification and Indexing, 2000-2001

NATIONAL REPORTS FROM...

5.1 CZECHIA - Indexing and classification in Czechia

The mission of libraries and information centres is to make information available to end-users. The availability of a whole variety of documents - traditional (printed), electronic resources (textual, digital objects) presents a great challenge to information experts (library and information professionals) in current online environment.

Since nineties it is well known that traditional library practice - to assign one or two subject headings and to use one notation number per book - is inadequate for user's requirements. The users are obliged to search for general subjects; the more specific information has been unavailable for them. More detailed subject access to documents - to get a piece of information - has become the vital need in the online environment where the best solution seems to be combination of keywords (full text searching) with a controlled vocabulary. The integration of the controlled vocabulary and a thesauri apparatus in indexing and a retrieval process in a more efficient manner supposes to solve such tasks as harmonisation of several information languages, creation of integrated tools (subject authority file), etc.

Functionality of a real or virtual Union Catalogue (from end user's point of view) depends on well established and provided subject access to documents. Merging many external documents into the base of Union Catalogue gives rise to discrepancies between index terms (lexical units), application syntax and hierarchical structure of original indexing systems.

In Czechia we still lack guidelines for subject indexing and classification and common subject authority list for general use. Hopefully we will be successful in presenting both of them this autumn. This report presents some notes about activities dealing with subject access in Czechia.

Map of libraries

There is still quite a dense network of libraries on the territory of Czechia. Generally, each town or larger village of several hundreds of population run a library, even if only some 12 percent of the total of more than 6 thousand libraries can be defined as professional libraries, i.e. those managed by a librarian and opened for at least 15 hours a week. The total of library holdings is ca 60 Mio volumes, some 70 Mio loans were realised in 1999 to ca 1,5 Mio registered readers (= 15 % of Czech population) (1).

Union catalogues

CASLIN - the National Union Catalogue of the Czech Republic is the centralised union catalogue, which is open to all libraries, and information related bodies that are able and willing to follow the agreed standards

- UNIMARC: is the primary exchange format
- ISBD(G): is the basic standard for descriptive cataloguing
- AACR2: are the binding rules for descriptive cataloguing
- UDC format (only Top Level) is obligatory for subject processing
- Number of participating libraries - 42, Number of records - 686 000
- Search strategy - searching (no browsing), Boolean operators, right truncation (2).

Indexing languages and classification scheme

Survey of indexing languages and classification schemes used in Czechia conducted in 1997 by National Library of the Czech Republic showed that 64.3 % of libraries used the UDC Classification system, 14.5 % of libraries thesauri terms, 79.1 % of libraries free keywords (uncontrolled or semi-controlled terms), 24.4 % of libraries were able to create subject headings strings as variant access to their holdings: card catalogues were still in use in their institutions.

Search strategy

Most of retrieval systems used in Czech libraries offer browsing and searching capabilities; they support Boolean operators, right truncation, field searching, advanced search, some of them proximity operators, left truncation, phrase searching.

Types of subject access in Czech libraries

- **subject access based on titles, subtitles and series titles**
 - search results are inadequate and incomplete because the words used in titles are often figurative and do not express the subject of documents (especially in Czech), most important topics are not mentioned in titles, subtitles, a variant spelling is used and synonyms and homographs control does not exist. Combination with a controlled approach is the best solution
 - this combined subject access is offered e.g. in regional general research libraries, university libraries and the Parliamentary Library

- **subject access based on indexing terms**
 - **free headings, free keywords** (uncontrolled, semi-controlled terms)
 - assigned by cataloguers; search results are inadequate and incomplete because all documents on a given subject are not entered under one uniform and standardised subject term; variant spelling could be used; synonyms and homographs control does not exist.
 - combination with a controlled approach is a good solution but it is expensive, the best solution is to accept one controlled system
 - this subject access is offered in some district, municipal, local libraries

 - **controlled subject terms**
 - **subject headings lists**
 - systems designed for a general collection covering all subjects based on precoordination; representation of topics of documents is based on subjects more than on concepts: two or three subject headings usually cover the content of document; subject heading (lexical units, indexing formulas of the system): main heading may be subdivided by subdivisions, which are used to bring out aspects of the main heading; relationships between terms (equivalence, hierarchy and association) are expressed by cross references
 - advantage of this system: the information value of subject headings strings, index of this indexing formulas provides information in the effective way; disadvantage of this system: complexity of syntax, complexity of application rules (well trained staff is required), large authority files
 - this subject access is offered at this moment in National Library of the CR and in some regional libraries (we try to change this situation shifting our system towards a postcoordinated one, which we find more effective in the online environment)

 - **thesauri**
 - systems designed above all for a specific collection; are based on postcoordination; representation of the topic of documents is based on the concept: the content of document is

covered by a set of descriptors (preferred terms); relationship between terms (equivalence, hierarchy and association) are expressed by cross references

- advantage of this system: postcoordination, more convenient in on-line environment; disadvantage: limitation on specialised fields (areas), an universal thesaurus covering whole knowledge does not exist

- this kind of subject access is offered in specialised libraries such as the National Library of Medicine in Prague (MeSH), the Central Agricultural and Forestry Library (AGROVOC), the Parliamentary Library (EUROVOC), the State Pedagogical Library in Prague, the State Technical Library in Prague and others

- **subject authority file**

- an integrated indexing and retrieval tool, in which the verbal terms of a thesaurus (controlled vocabulary) are combined with equivalent notations of a classification scheme (e.g. UDC); it enables subject access to documents either via verbal terms (searching) or through the classification notation (browsing)

- application of this integrated tool in on-line (web) environment may support automatic indexing and classification of web resources; in this case would be very useful to apply such verbal expressions and UDC notations that are reflecting real situations

Subject indexing and classification developments in National Library of the Czech Republic

Indexing

Bringing the National Library of the Czech Republic into the arena of international library co-operation in nineties included introducing radical changes to existing working procedures. Our intention was to interpret and implement the most widely used international standards and rules in a way that suited our national needs.

We accepted and translated international standards and recommendations, which were clearly defined: ISBD, AACR2 and UNIMARC bibliographic and UNIMARC Authority format, UDC Classification scheme (UDC MRF).

Since subject access depends on national languages (subject headings, preferred terms, descriptors are expressed in national languages), it was difficult to find and apply any "international" recipe. After much debate, LCSH system has been finally chosen.

However, it was considered useful at that time to meet local needs and requirements as well, so some modifications of the LCSH scheme were formulated:

- direct form of geographical subdivisions in subject headings of the NLSH was preferred: i.e., geographic names immediately follow the main heading or main heading/topical subdivision combination
- form subdivisions have been taken out of subject heading strings and assigned to a specific field (608 in the UNIMARC format)
- generic headings representing classes of persons or types of corporate bodies were used more often in our system in order to
 - add more access points to bibliographic records
 - allow links by named entities (persons; corporate bodies) between subject headings and the corresponding UDC notations
 - take out of name subject heading strings any additional thematic, geographic, or chronological information and to put them in a "class of person and types of corporate bodies" subject heading string or as additional main entry (to shorten the subject heading strings and support easier automatic subject authority control and maintenance of named entities)

- add a set of subject headings to a document by using terms based on concepts in order to make the “broad“ subject headings narrower; this makes it easier to establish links between subject headings and descriptors (thesaurus or controlled subject language)

These changes (due to the differences between LCSH and NLSH) mean a shift of our system towards a post-coordinated system, which we find more effective in the online environment.

Since 1997 English equivalents (LSCH) have been assigned to records of Czech publishing output downloaded to OCLC database.

More detailed subject access to individual literary works has been developed. According to current policy (to meet the need of local libraries) we assigned a set of subject headings, e.g.: Czech fiction; Detective and mystery stories; Juvenile literature.

Classification

Publication of UDC MRF

- 1996: Czech version of UDC MRF on CD-ROM (published)
- 1997: the bilingual edition of UDC MRF (published)
- 2000: the upgrade of bilingual English-Czech UDC MRF (published)

Using the UDC classification system, it has been decided to:

- improve multidimensional searching for OPAC users by linking topical subject headings, main headings/topical subdivision combinations, and genre/form headings in the subject authority files to the appropriate UDC notations
- observe the IFLA recommendation, ”to consider possible relationships between subject authority records and classification” (Guidelines for Subject Authority and Reference Entries)
- improve the quality of subject data to minimize individualistic approaches to the subject matter of a document
- use the middle terms of UDC notations, since the UDC (top level) selected points currently used in our libraries do not entirely identify topics
- use only those UDC notations that identify the subject and genre/form, and express other components (e.g., geographic, chronological) by codes or verbal expressions

Future development

Indexing

We find out that it would be useful to provide some improvements in assigning subject headings. In order to make subject analysis process more efficient, easier and faster in current online environment it is necessary

- to prefer post coordinate procedure: postcoordinated language can provide the same precision as the precoordinated language when including equivalent notation of a classification scheme into the retrieval process to avoid “false drops”. A notation of classification scheme gives a context to the verbal search term.
- to simplify application syntax, it means to reduce number of subdivisions entered in a single subject heading (specificity may be achieved assigning additional headings to bring out specific aspects of a topic).

When entering most of thematic subdivisions as an additional main entry we are able to: simplify citation order in subject heading string; improve online display of assigned subject heading strings; facilitate automatic validation of subject heading and automatic maintenance

of subject authority file; reduce the size of authority file; support conceptual compatibility of indexing formulas/preferred terms used in various indexing languages; support harmonisation between various indexing languages (multilingualism issue); support mapping between verbal terms (indexing formulas) and equivalent notations of classification scheme; improve hierarchical structure of subject authority file; make the assignment of controlled terms more efficient; enhance and encourage co-operative cataloguing efforts; improve subject access for OPACS and for Web resources

Classification

Further development regarding UDC classification system in online environment (OPACS, Internet)

- it seems to be useful to standardise the citation order in creating compound UDC number on the national and international level to insure the consistency of citation order if this system has to be applied on international level, e.g. for the interchange of information, as switching language or as a base for automatic classification; in this case certain degree of limitation of flexibility of this system would be acceptable
- structured format has to be applied to make machine-readable each semantically distinct element which may occur within a UDC number, to improve maintenance and to carry out retrieval of each element

Advantages of universal classification system in online environment

- covers all subjects
- is able to create collections of related resources in a hierarchical structure quickly and easily
- improves subject access to large databases using sophisticated methods
- provides context to the search terms
- enables multilingual access to collections
- language independent notations can be linked to search terms of various verbal languages
- it is possible to search in more than one language at the same time
- other languages can join later without the need to classify the resources again
- it is necessary only to translate the classification schedules
- could serve as reference or switching language which enables
- convertibility between all information languages
- the same level of specificity in all participating languages
- language independent coding

Subject authority file

Creating our subject authority file we take in account that:

- a subject authority file like a thesaurus is defined as a tool which has equivalence relationships, supports hierarchical relationships and provides navigation assistance by means of scope notes and other aids
- thesauri and similar vocabulary tools can complement full-text access in on-line environment by aiding users in focusing their searches
- the unitary terms (isolated lexical units) provide much greater flexibility in searching than subject headings strings with its complexities of subdivisions and inversions
- most databases today are indexed with thesaurus type terms than complex subject headings
- the quality of an indexing and retrieval system depends on the terms used in indexing process and on its capability to express semantic relationships among them
- an integrated retrieval tool of verbal expressions based on a classification scheme seems to be the best solution

- the classification scheme supports: browsing and retrieval capability of system; creation of hierarchical structure; easier identification of concepts; display of subject relationships between terms; switching language in multilingual environment
- verbal controlled scheme supports above all: synonyms and homographs control; usage of current and expressive captions

Our intention is to create such an indexing and retrieval tool, which could serve in OPACs and as a base for subject categorisation and classification of web resources.

Marie Balikova
National Library of the Czech Republic

(1) General research libraries:

- National Library of the Czech Republic with twofold mission of both national and general research library, with the origins dating back to 14th century is the biggest and one of the oldest Czech libraries. The National Library collection of almost 6 million items contents three main parts: 1) National conservation archive of Bohemica, included those from abroad, and Slovaca up to 1992; 2) General research collection, the most voluminous of the NL holdings, containing both Czech and foreign material focused on humanities, social and natural sciences; 3) special collections (Slavica, musicalia, library and information science).
- Moravian Library in Brno with the origins dating back to 18th century, since 1958 comprising three libraries: University Library, Technical Library and Pedagogical Library.
- Thirteen regional libraries (České Budějovice, Havlíčkův Brod, Hradec Králové, Karlovy Vary, Kladno, Liberec, Olomouc, Ostrava, Pardubice, Plzeň, Prague - City Library, Ústí nad Labem, Zlín); they play co-ordinating role for district, municipal and local libraries within the administrative region (i.e. extensive territory comprising several districts). On the other hand their mission is to address their library services to more special audience as well as academic staff of the region.
- District, municipal, local libraries; the district libraries financed by district administration (= Ministry of Interior) and operating on the district territory have been step by step being taken over by the municipalities; since prevailing tendency of many municipalities is not to support broader than locally focused library activities, the former district libraries, in consequence, act - in fact - as municipal libraries, so many of them lost the possibility to organise larger library co-operative systems, effective formerly within some regions for years; in addition, the number of municipal or local libraries themselves has been steadily slightly decreasing for last years; the Ministry of Culture has no administrative competence towards district and municipal libraries any longer, thus it makes efforts to control their development by only ministerial recommendations at least, addressed to local authorities
- General research libraries as organisational part of institutions, e.g.:
 - Main Library of the Academy of Sciences, being itself important general research library with very long tradition (dating back to 18th century), co-ordinates library activities, namely acquisitions of about 60 scientific and research institutions spread both in Prague and around the whole country.
 - Library of the National Museum, existing from the early 19th century, comprises large historical both Bohemical and foreign collection, and is charged with care of library holdings of more than 200 castles and chateaux
- Special research libraries both financed in direct line by various ministries, and being part of institutions, such as:
 - National Library of Medicine in Prague - principal information and library centre in the field of medical sciences and public health in the Czech Republic, dating back from 1840, funded by the Ministry of Health
 - State Technical Library in Prague with its origins in the early 18th century - central library of universities for technical and natural sciences and public science-technical library, funded by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Physical Education
 - Central Agricultural and Forestry Library as part of the Institute of Agricultural and Food Information, funded by the Ministry of Agriculture
 - State Pedagogical Library in Prague as part of the Institute of Information for Education, funded by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Physical Education

- University and faculty/departmental libraries; only some of these university libraries have a real capacity and size of a traditional university library, while others perform rather co-ordinating role, in some cases even only on virtual basis. The Universities often depend with their information needs on either their faculty/departmental libraries, or State Research Libraries, as they exist in respective town or region

(2) Union Catalogues

Union catalogue of CTU (Czech Technical University)

- Standards: UNIMARC format, AACR2 for descriptive cataloguing, UDC format and Polythematic structured vocabulary for subject processing
- Number of participating libraries - 8, Number of records – 106 000
- Search strategy - searching (no browsing), Boolean operators, right truncation

Union Catalogue of CU (Charles University)

- Standards: UNIMARC format, AACR2 for descriptive cataloguing, home grown lists of controlled and uncontrolled terms for subject processing
- Number of participating libraries - 19, Number of records – 473 000
- Search strategy - searching, browsing, Boolean operators, right truncation

Union Catalogue PU (Palacky University)

- Standards: UNIMARC format, AACR2 for descriptive cataloguing, UDC format and and home grown lists of terms for subject processing
- Number of participating libraries - 7, Number of records – 128 000
- Search strategy - searching, browsing, Boolean operators, right truncation

Union Catalogue UJEP (University of J.E. Purkyne)

- Standards: UNIMARC format, AACR2 for descriptive cataloguing, UDC format and home grown lists of terms for subject processing
- Number of participating libraries - 3, Number of records – 27 000
- Search strategy - searching, browsing, Boolean operators, right truncation

Union Catalogue KAKS (of Moravian Library)

- Standards: UNIMARC format, AACR2 for descriptive cataloguing, UDC format (Top Level) and and home grown lists of terms for subject processing
- Number of participating libraries - 8, Number of records – 126 000
- Search strategy - searching, browsing, Boolean operators

Union Catalogue LAS (of the Library of Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic Library)

- Number of participating libraries - 29, Number of records – 140 000
- Search strategy - searching, Boolean operators

Union Catalogue SKAT (of district and municipal libraries that use LANius library system)

- Standards: UNIMARC format, AACR2 for descriptive cataloguing, UDC format and home grown lists of terms for subject processing
- Number of participating libraries - 127, Number of records – 161 000
- Search strategy - searching, browsing, Boolean operators, right truncation

Union Catalogue Bruntal (of district and municipal libraries)

- Standards: UNIMARC format, AACR2 for descriptive cataloguing, UDC format and home grown lists of terms for subject processing
- Number of participating libraries - 5, Number of records – 60 000
- Search strategy - searching, right truncation

Union Catalogue Vsetin (of district and municipal libraries)

- Standards: UNIMARC format, AACR2 for descriptive cataloguing, UDC format and home grown lists of terms for subject processing
- Number of participating libraries - 13, Number of records – 57 000
- Search strategy: searching, right truncation

Union Catalogue of Institute of Agriculture in Kromeriz

- Number of participating libraries - 4, Number of records –9 000
- Search strategy: searching, right truncation.

5.2 ESTONIA - Classification and Subject indexing in Estonia: New developments in 2000-2001

Classification

In the field of classification our activities have been directed to the methodical problems connected with the UDC.

This work is going in two directions:

- a) informing libraries/librarians about the new numbers and solutions of the UDC ("Extensions and Corrections to the UDC")
- b) analyzing and discussing everyday classifying problems, offering solutions to them.

Members of our **Working Group** (WG) are regularly visiting libraries. E. g. recently we got acquainted with the practice of libraries where the work had been reorganized due to removing in new buildings (the Estonian Academy of Music, the Estonian Academy of Arts).

In February the last volume of "**Extensions**" (No 22, 2000) was under discussion in the WG. The structure of new classes and corrections were introduced by M. Aasmets and A. Kirsnel.

It was decided to remain for the time being to the Estonian UDC tables and not to use completely, newly structured classes (2, 364/369). It was also decided to use more widely the new common auxiliaries of properties. The **tables of -02** have been exactly translated into Estonian and will be distributed among the libraries in Autumn.

One of the decisions was to use numbers to several (complicated) themes equally in our libraries, e. g. : information society 316.32 : 004, politology 32.01, geopolitics 327 :91 etc.

The question is raised time and again in the WG: there are no explicit indications how to compose UDC numbers which contain concepts like e. g. modelling or projecting (they were denoted in the common auxiliary .001 but are not included in -02).

For practical librarians it is also the problem that in the UDC there are missing essential themes which are frequently treated in the scientific literature, e. g.: chaos, exitons, fractals, fuzzy logics, gene technology, nanotechnology, wavelets etc.

In May a short questionnaire about the problems of using the Estonian UDC tables was sent to 38 libraries. The questions were mainly connected with the themes/concepts to which there has no been founded a suitable number in the UDC. We got answers from 20 libraries. Our primary task now is to collect and analyze the themes which are urgent for library practice and which could be switched into the UDC without structural changes.

Subject indexing

The Estonian Universal Subject Headings List (SHL) is continuously being updated by the National Library. The additions and corrections to the form and fictional genres' subdivisions had been sent to libraries this year. (The first supplement to the SHL is not published yet.) The conformation of the subject headings of Tartu University Library with the SHL is fastly in process.

Two articles about the history of subject indexing in Estonia – in 1918-1940 and in the Soviet period have been published by M. Aasmets (in the yearbooks of the Estonian Academic Library).

Marje Aasmets
Estonian Academic Library

5.3 FINLAND - Indexing in Finland: Recent developments

Yleinen suomalainen asiasanasto (YSA)

The YSA is a general thesaurus in Finnish and it covers all fields of research. It contains ca 12 000 main entry descriptors and ca 3000 UF-terms (USE FOR -references) The Thesaurus has an alphabetical and systematic section, user guidance, and supplements, for example lists of names of countries, sports, and animals. The alphabetical section is constructed as a standard thesaurus with descriptors and references to the broader terms (LT), narrower terms (ST), and related terms (RT). The Thesaurus is also available as an authority file within the FENNICA database.

The Thesaurus is maintained by the National Bibliographic Services.

Allmän Tesaurus på Svenska (Allärs)

The Allärs is a general thesaurus in Swedish and it is a translation of the YSA. The Swedish index term is accompanied by the Finnish equivalent. The Thesaurus has a Finnish-Swedish index. The Thesaurus contains ca 11400 descriptors and ca 2800 UF-terms (USE FOR -references). It is constructed as the YSA. Allärs is maintained by Åbo Academy University Library in co-operation with Helsinki University Library.

Besides these two general thesaurus we have several special thesaurus which are off-shots from these. I would like to mention Musa, the music thesaurus. The Music thesaurus is a special enlarged section of the YSA. It is constructed as the YSA and the main entry descriptors are also in the YSA. This printed thesaurus contains totally 751 descriptors and 155 UF-terms (USE FOR-references). The Thesaurus is also available as an authority file within the VIOLA database. The Music thesaurus is maintained by the LUUMU group consisting of representatives for the music libraries.

At the Donner Institute where I work as an indexer we have since 1985 been using the ATLA Thesaurus, maintained by the American Theological Library Association. We have found it extremely usefull for our special needs, Comparative religion.

UDC is still used in Finland although there is an on-going discussion about its user-friendliness. The Åbo Academy Library stopped using UDC a few years ago.

With this as a background I would like mention a few **recent developments** in the Finnish University Library world.

- Both YSA and Allärs have been on-line since September 2000. Before they were on-line they were distributed on CD-Rom. They are both freely available on Internet.
- They are available at the address: <http://vesa.lib.helsinki.fi/index.html>
- From this site you can do searches both in YSA, Allärs and Musa. This site also gives you the option to search all 3 simultaneously.

The on-line versions of these Thesaurus are maintained by Helsinki University Library and Åbo Academy Library. The development of these Thesaurus is mainly the work of individual indexers, who can suggest new entries. These suggestions are reviewed by a panel and accepted suggestion are included in YSA and Allärs within a few months.

An other important development is the migration of Finnish Univeristy Libraries from VTLS to Voyager (Endeavor). After the migration the fields for indexing in Marc-21 have been reduced to one field, 650. In VTLS you could use several fields, 652 for Ysa, 656 for Allärs and 680 for ATLA. In order to inform the user from which Thesauru's the entry has been taken, you include its name as the last entry in field 650.

As an example: Buddhism \$z China \$2 atla.

There is also a discussion going on about how to construct the entries. One of the suggestions is to use singular words an other suggestion is to use strings. I will give as an example:

If you index a book about Buddhism in China you could do it as:

650 Buddhism

650 China

or

650 Buddhism \$z China

I find the second alternative more useful for the library user.

Björn Dahla
Donner Institute, Åbo

5.4 FRANCE - Indexing and Classification in France, New developments 2000-2001

As a general outline, it is first necessary to remind that Dewey decimal Classification is certainly the most used classification scheme (for ex. in the National Library), but that subject access in France is much more based on alphabetical indexing languages, and especially on our national Subject Heading Language RAMEAU.

Classification

About DDC, we are involved since the last IFLA meeting (Jerusalem) in the revision process of Class 340 (Law), initiated by the Dewey editorial staff.

A national working group has been set up and has submitted to the editors of Dewey a first general proposal that we think more logical and more suitable for all legal systems and not only for the US law. This work is carried out with our German colleagues, and has been discussed for the first time in Boston during a special meeting with the Dewey Editorial Policy Committee. It is of course a long-term work.

Also about classification, we are classifying our RAMEAU subject headings in about sixty broad subject fields, named "RAMEAU Domains", which are more or less arranged on the basis of Dewey Decimal Classification numbers.

This work is partly done thanks to an automatic mapping between call numbers and subject indexing and would be finished at the end of next year. It will allow to propose thematic views of RAMEAU and to provide consistent files of headings for our multilingual subject access project MACS.

Subject Indexing

It is useful to underline (probably once again) that RAMEAU is not the subject authority file of the Bibliothèque nationale de France, but the common French indexing language. According to a national agreement signed in the beginning of 2000 (Convention RAMEAU), it is developed and maintained by a specific team in the BnF, but it involves all

libraries of the country, research libraries as well as local and municipal ones, along with some foreign libraries in French-speaking countries.

RAMEAU is used notably as a standard within the *Système universitaire de documentation* (Sudoc: <http://www.sudoc.abes.fr>), union catalogue and cataloguing system of French university libraries, operational since the beginning of the year and integrating more and more partners libraries.

RAMEAU network on the Web

Created on February 2000 in order to keep RAMEAU open and cooperative, a Web site is devoted to the users of the SHL, members of the network. This is a large set of Web pages hosted on the site of the Bibliothèque nationale de France which is from now available at: <http://www.bnf.fr/web-bnf/infopro/rameau>.

This Web site, which will have very soon its proper address (<http://rameau.bnf.fr>), contains informations and data about RAMEAU, and is regularly updated with continuous development of important tools:

- Fichier National des Propositions RAMEAU (June 2000, new version planned on April 2002): this national proposals file is the core of the network, allowing users to fully collaborate in the evolution of the SHL.
- Vocational training (December 2001): organisation of the continuing education of users, with a national directory of RAMEAU trainers, and availability of teaching materials, tutorials, etc. on the Web site.
- Authority File (March 2002): on the beginning of next year, the complete RAMEAU Authority File will be available online for free, with many searching possibilities.

International developments with RAMEAU

In addition to several cooperation or contacts with specific countries (Belgium, Canada, Poland, Sweden), three important international projects are under development:

- With French-speaking arab countries, where important libraries have joined the network (e.g. National Library of Tunisia), we are working in cooperation for adapting the SHL to local needs and to find, in the next years, a SHL in Arabic compatible with RAMEAU. An international meeting about indexing in French and in Arabic has been held in Beyrouth at the end of September with all concerned countries and libraries.
- About MACS (Multilingual Access to Subject), see the paper presented during the Pre-Conference meeting in Dublin ("MACS: Subject access across languages and networks"). We can underline 2 points: the validation of the prototype and the decision to develop an operational system, and the opening of a public access to this prototype (June 2001); it is now possible to any interested party to directly test this multilingual access.
- At last, we participate on Renardus (see paper presented in Dublin "Cross-browsing European gateways via a common classification system"), European project coordinated by the KB of The Hague and devoted to subject gateways on the Web. It is now focused on the mapping of classifications, but subject access and multilingualism remain core issues. One of the results of this project has been subject indexing of the BnF subject gateway "Les Signets de la Bibliothèque nationale de France", allowing new developments for RAMEAU in the prospect of future Authority Metadata.

Max Naudi
Bibliothèque nationale de France

5.5 GERMANY - Report on Indexing and Classification 2000/2001 in Germany

Indexing

In all German speaking countries the same indexing rules (RSWK = Regeln für den Schlagwortkatalog) are applied and the same documentation language (SWD = Schlagwortnormdatei) is used. The adaptation of the rules to the changing environment of information and the amelioration of the SWD is a permanent work.

Recent projects (CARMEN = Content Analysis, Retrieval and MetaData: Effective Networking) investigate techniques and methods to merge special thesauri and the universal thesaurus SWD.

Not all documents can be indexed intellectually. To improve the restricted possibilities of the keyword-search to these documents Die Deutsche Bibliothek continues the development of the automatic indexing system MILOS (Maschinelle Indexierung zur erweiterten Literaturschließung in Online-Systemen) which was elaborated by the Düsseldorf University Library. MILOS is a dictionary based system with linguistic and statistical components.

German edition of DDC

A consortium "DDC Deutsch" was founded in 2000 to organize the development of a German edition of DDC.

Members of this consortium are: Die Deutsche Bibliothek, Frankfurt, the State Library at Berlin, 3 (of 6) German union catalog systems (members are most German scientific libraries and a lot of public libraries), the Goethe-Institut, the Library School at Cologne, the Swiss National Library at Berne and the Austrian union catalog system. Die Deutsche Bibliothek (Magda Heiner-Freiling) is chair of the group.

The intention of the German editions is to translate the classification and to adapt it to the needs of German libraries. This doesn't mean changes which would be used only in the German edition, but expansions which can be used in the English edition as well and interpretations in the scope notes and the index.

Martin Kunz
Die Deutsche Bibliothek

5.6 ITALY - Subject indexing and classification developments in Italy, 2000-2001

With regard to **classification**, the principal event of the year 2000 was the publication of the Italian translation of DDC 21. The translation was carried out by a working group of the BNI (Bibliografia Nazionale Italiana), with the advice of Luigi Crocetti, who translated the DDC 20, together with Daniele Danesi.

In November 2000 a national seminar was held in Rome by the AIB (Associazione Italiana Biblioteche) to present the translation. The proceedings of the seminar were published by the AIB.

In 2001 the **GRIS** – Gruppo di Ricerca sull'Indicizzazione per Soggetto (Working Group on Subject Indexing) of the AIB reprinted with corrections the *Guida all'indicizzazione per soggetto* (*Guidelines to Subject Indexing*).

The Working Group began its activity in 1990. Its general purposes are:

- reviewing traditional indexing tools considering the most recent trends in subject analysis theory and in adherence with ISO 2788 and ISO 5963
- standardisation of the indexing language through the development of a systematic guide to subject indexing containing the procedures for the conceptual analysis of documents, the construction of subject strings, and the vocabulary control
- identifying a “common level” (the “deep structure “ of the indexing language) and an “optional level” (the “dialect variants” of the indexing language)
- defining an indexing method which can be widely used by different kinds of libraries or information centres on different levels of application

The Working Group's objectives are, in particular:

- revision of the general principles of subject indexing, first of all the principle of specificity
- logical distinction, on a methodological level, between the criteria of syntactical control and vocabulary control (the two components of an indexing language)
- with regard to the syntactical control, establishment of logical criteria and consistent methods for the construction of strings (analysis of roles) and definition of a uniform word order within the string
- with regard to the vocabulary control, application of the categorial analysis and adoption of the thesaurus relationships structure.

The *Guide to Subject Indexing* was first published in 1996 and reprinted with corrections and with a subject index in 1997. It consists of a group of systematized rules for document analysis, vocabulary control and subject headings construction.

The method the *Guide* states is characterised by the following requirements:

- analysis of documents and identification of the concepts which exactly define the subject
- representation of the concepts in one linear statement (subject string)
- organisation of the concepts in the string according to a words order based on their different logical functions (roles) within the subject statement
- possibility to provide access to subject strings through every single meaningful term
- control of every indexing term by means of a range of semantic relationships

The main feature of the *Guide* are the following:

- Principles
 - Application of the principles of consistency and uniformity/unambiguousness not only to single terms but also to strings
 - Revision of the principles of "specific entry" in relation to : specificity of concepts; co-extension of strings; exhaustivity of analysis
 - Definition of the requirements of : coherence; predictability
- Conceptual analysis
 - Reference to ISO 5963
 - Definition of the subject of a document as basic theme
 - Reference to a model of summarisation based on the procedures of *cancellation, generalisation, and construction*
 - Adoption of a model of representation of knowledge based on “roles”

- Syntax
 - Adoption of a scheme of roles identifying the different logical functions of every single concept within the subject statement
 - Adoption of a standardised words order based on the following principles : principle of the one-to-one relationship; principle of the passive construction; principle of the context-dependency
 - Analysis of roles : definition, examples, comments on their interpretation and application within subject strings
- Vocabulary Control
 - Distinction between semantic and syntactic relationships
 - Application of the category analysis to vocabulary control
 - Principle of “typical definition” as a criterion to establish the category of a concept
 - Recommendations concerning the way to indicate individual entities
 - Adoption of “the three-relationships model” typical of thesauruses for the construction of the vocabulary structure

More information about GRIS’ activity and the text of the *Guida* are available at:

<http://www.aib.it/aib/commiss/gris/gris.htm>

Concerning **subject indexing**, the major event of the last two years is a project of the Biblioteca nazionale centrale di Firenze. In 2000 the Biblioteca nazionale centrale charged a workgroup of a private company, Ifnet srl., of a *Feasibility Study on the Revision of the Soggettario (Subject Heading List)*. The Workgroup is comprised of the following members: Luigi Crocetti (coordinator), Alberto Cheti, Daniele Danesi, Carlo Revelli, Massimo Rolle, and Stefano Tartaglia.

The *Soggettario per i cataloghi delle biblioteche italiane* (Subject Heading List for Catalogues of Italian Libraries) edited by the Biblioteca nazionale centrale di Firenze (Florence, Il Cenacolo, 1956), is the tool officially used for the redaction of the *Bibliografia nazionale italiana* (BNI). It’s also used as indexing tool by most of Italian libraries. It is a tool with a twofold function, i.e. it lists controlled terms for the composition of strings and displays a number of syntactic models. To that end, it has a main heading – subdivisions structure, with syntactic links between the terms displayed by way of example. Syntactic models represented and theoretical foundations underlying them are not exhaustively stated and explained. As a matter of fact, its *Note introduttive* (Introductory Notes) section only hints at such aspect. The cataloguing practice of *Bibliografia Nazionale Italiana* (BNI) has subsequently used the structure presented herein, by interpreting and applying it from time to time according to different methods.

In terms of semantic relations between the terms listed, the Soggettario envisages a number of *main headings* linked to each other by a two-relationship structure: synonymy relationship (“see” *references*) on the one hand and “see also” and “refer from”- “**” (double asterisk) *references* on the other, which usually have a mutual relationship with each other. “See also” and “refer from” *references* link terms that can be linked by a hierarchical or associative relationship on a semantic level.

Although the Soggettario does not state the theoretical principles on which it is based, a few basic guidelines are inferable from its structure. In some cases, such principles coincide with those of current international standards on indexing (cf. ISO Standards), namely:

- *specificity* of the subject representing the conceptual content of the document

- *uniformity* and *unambiguousness* of subject formulation, whereby a given subject must always be represented by the same string.

Cataloguing through the Soggettario is not always conducive to the implementation of a further two principles deemed crucial in accordance with ISO standards, i.e. *coextensivity* and *exhaustiveness* of the subject string.

The Soggettario Introductory Notes make no mention of subject analysis. In the practice of indexing, the method used is similar to that specified by the ISO standard no. 5963 of 1989.

The result of document analysis basically consists in the listing of identified concepts. Logical and syntactic relationships between concepts are not necessarily identified, since language does not require so.

Normally, the following operations are performed:

- a) identification of fundamental concepts to define a *key concept*;
- b) identification of terms expressing such concepts (starting from the *key concept*) in the Soggettario (and its Updates). The librarian attempts to express – with main heading-subdivision sequences exemplified by the Soggettario – syntactic relationships that best represent the document content. Sometimes relationships explicitly displayed in the list of *main headings* followed by their respective *subdivisions* suffice. More often, the type of relationship is inferred from the model of the *first entry/subdivisions* sequence, as featured under other semantically close terms (by discipline scope, category, etc.). Subdivisions traceable under such terms are then analysed – based on the principle of analogy – with those chosen to express the subject.

Where syntactic relationships authorised by the Soggettario are not sufficient to express the document content in full, BNI resorts to another string or multiple strings, which can suitably represent such document content only if they are jointly read. As a result, in such cases, subjects individually found or found in indexes of BNI or in the SBN (Servizio Bibliotecario Nazionale, the main national network) online catalogue provide no information on the full subject content of the document.

In regards of terminology, the Introductory Notes to the Soggettario only hint to a number of criteria used for the choice, form and types of relationship of terms reported. Such criteria are largely implicit.

From a vocabulary control perspective, the Soggettario does not organise its terms on the basis of a rigorous categorial analysis (as subsequently specified by the ISO standard) and indications pertaining to the strictly semantic sphere intertwine with indications related to the syntactic sphere.

The entries introduced by BNI from 1958 to 1985 are contained in the *Liste di aggiornamento* (Update Lists), deprived of a syndetic structure; only a few *cross-references* are to be found.

The next updates (i.e. *Voci di soggetto. Aggiornamento 1986-1998*) are inspired by the principles of ISO 2788 and consequently have a simplified yet innovative structure of relationships between terms as opposed to the Soggettario model. As a matter of fact, the same graphic symbols as those of Soggettario are used, although with an unequivocal meaning:

- equivalence relationship continues to be represented by “v.” and a specular asterisk sign “*”;
 - the sign “**” (double asterisk) on the other hand is only used to correlate a term to another semantically superordinate term already featured in the Soggettario or previous updates.
- Finally, the “v.a.” symbol is used to express an associative relationship and is only reported when no superordinate was found among the repertoire entries.

Before compiling its proposals on the **revision of Soggettario**, the workgroup in charge of the feasibility study has worked as follows:

- a) *Definition of the theoretical and methodological frame of reference* defining main themes of a modern approach to subject indexing, i.e. search for common principles of various indexing techniques; use of contributions from other disciplines, specifically linguistics and psychology; evaluation of search methods in current online catalogues; indexing system requirements; pre-coordination forms; developments in the notion of "subject" and the principle of "specificity"; a distinction between syntactic and semantic relationships; citation order regulation models; vocabulary control and structuring models.
- b) *Analysis of indexing systems* resulting in the generation of informative sheets on the following systems, thesauri and rules based on a common "grid": LCSH (Library of Congress Subject Headings), SIPORbase (Sistema de indexação em português), RAMEAU (Répertoire d'autorité-matière encyclopédique et alphabétique unifié), RSWK (Regeln für den Schlagwortkalalog), MACS (Multilingual Access to Subjects), AAT (Art and Architecture thesaurus), UNESCO Thesaurus, Root Thesaurus, TRT (Thesaurus Regionale Toscano), PRECIS and GRIS.
- c) *Soggettario analysis* focussing on three aspects, i.e. methods of assignment of subject strings to the document (single coextensive string or multiple strings), syntactic structure, and semantic structure.

The theoretical and methodological frame of reference helped the workgroup identify and focus on basic choices providing guidance for the drafting of proposals instrumental in *Soggettario* revision: e.g., language accuracy through an indexing policy based on a single coextensive string and term specificity; a synthetic pre-coordination form; the need for a standard citation order; a "thesaurus" to be applied to the context of pre-coordinated language. The analysis of systems showed similarities and differences, current trends, methods for implementing principles, tools, rules and procedures used, ways for managing an authority file of subjects. This analysis – based on the consultation of manuals and catalogues and the study of literature – was also inspired by the recent IFLA document titled *Principles underlying subject heading languages* (edited by Maria Ines Lopes and Julianne Beall. München, Saur, 1999).

Such preparatory work culminated in the drafting of a number of proposals covering the fundamental aspects of subject indexing language and activity: subject analysis and indexing policy (proposal no. 1), language structural elements (proposal no. 2), control of syntactic relationships and citation order (Proposals nos. 3 and 4), morphology of terms and control of semantic relationships (Proposals nos. 5 and 6), vocabulary entry structure (proposal no. 7). The background to purpose and contents of each proposal were discussed, together with current status, necessary changes and implications for a project of *Soggettario* revision.

The proposal on citation order rules identifies a precise model for syntactic analysis and citation order regulation, but confines itself to general criteria without establishing precise rules; the proposal on the control of term morphology is a draft set of new rules on number, factoring and disambiguation of terms. The last proposal presents the structuring of a vocabulary entry and consequently foreruns a final form of processing. Proposals outline a coherent and homogeneous language compliant to the general principles of uniformity, unambiguousness and predictability, in order to precisely express the document subjects, based on explicit and organic rules, with a synthetic pre-coordination form in which the two components of syntax and vocabulary integrate without mingling.

Useful help came from the suggestions of the GRIS (Subject Indexing Research Group) and the methodological approach of the *Guida all'indicizzazione per soggetto* (Guide to Subject Indexing): however, it seemed clear from the outset that the ultimate aim of the workgroup was the full revision of the *Soggettario*, which implied the compilation of an executive project for a new subject indexing tool based on the old one, yet reviving and

renewing it in a radically changed theoretical, methodological, technological and "political" context. The proposals were presented in an international Seminar (Florence, 5-6 April 2001) for collective comparison and assessment, which provided a springboard towards the second work phase, which will focus on the working out of the actual project and its implementation methods. A second International Seminar will be held in Autumn to validate both project and methods.

Leda Bultrini
Università Roma Tre, Roma

5.7 PORTUGAL - Developments in Portugal regarding Classification and Indexing (2000/2001)

Indexing

Siporbase

In what concerns **Siporbase** (the pre-coordinated indexing system in portuguese), it must be referred the project that will be carry on by The National Library to elaborate specific instructions for the analysis and indexing of cartographic materials. This will be the sequence of the Cartographic Materials Indexing Glossary, published in 1995. It must be referred as well the project of making specific instructions for the indexing of law matters.

CLIP Project

About the **CLIP Project** which involves special libraries and the National Library with the aim of improving and harmonising the languages in use by the libraries for each subject area, the existing working groups have being developing their specific projects.

In addition to the controlled vocabularies already published by The National Library for Design, Military Architecture and Religious Architecture, we must also mention those published by other institutions for other areas like: Photography, Agriculture, Health and Education. An editon for the indexing of Transport subjects is being prepared as well as the edition for Illuminated Manuscripts .

The controlled vocabulary for Environmental matters will be published until the end of this year, and the final draft for Architectural vocabulary is now on discussion.

Classification

Concerning the classification developments in Portugal, the mainly notice is the portuguese translation of UDC Master File which is about to be finished and ready to be available.

Vocational Training Courses

It is important to mention the training courses in classification and indexing that took place last year in Portugal.

The National Library held one week courses in *CDU – Classificação Decimal Universal (UDC – Universal Decimal Classification)* and in *SIPORBASE– Sistema de Indexação em Português (Indexing System in Portuguese)*.

Promoted by the Professional Association (BAD), we have to highlight the following training courses: *Indexação por Assuntos (Subject Indexing) and Classificação Documental em Bibliotecas Escolares / Centros de Recursos (Classification for School Libraries and Resource Centers)*.

We also have to mention the 7th Portuguese Librarians National Congress that took place this year in Oporto. It was an important forum to discuss several problems, among them those regarding classification and indexing.

Júlio Vaz
Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian, Lisboa

5.8 ROMANIA - Report from Romania

Beginning with 2000 and continuing in 2001, one of the main topics of discussion for the cataloguers and indexers in Romania (in articles, professional meetings and seminars of their institutional bodies) was the joint problems of the creation of a National Catalogue and that of the shared cataloguing. The conclusion was that the best solution for Romania is to build a national catalogue using a distributed system with more copies of the whole database of the national bibliography and to use it also for the shared cataloguing.

In order to make this task possible, a Seminar (Iasi, 3-4 July, 2001) dedicated to the comparison of the cataloguing modules of the different library softwares used in Romania was organized by the ABIR (The Association of Education Librarians from Romania) Section on Cataloguing and Indexing. As a result of this meeting, the structure of the main minimal UNIMARC fields to be used for bibliographic descriptions was established, in order to make the data transfer possible.

Under the coordination of the the Central University Library of Bucharest and ABIR, the work on the Romanian Thesaurus (based on UDC) is going on: two new microthesauri (635 Vegetable growing and 7 Arts) were published, in addition to the five already existing ones (02 Librarianship; 1 Philosophy; 2/245 Religion and Theology; 57/59 Biology. Botany. Zoology and 8 Linguistics. Literature).

At the Meeting of the Cataloguing-Indexing Division of the ANBPR (The Romanian National Public Libraries Association) – Busteni, 12 October 2001–, this thesaurus was appreciated due to the complexity and professionalism with which it is drawn up. At the same time, having in view the needs of their specific users, public libraries have to use sooner an encyclopaedic Subject Headings List, less detailed as depth and less related to UDC (containing terms which some UDC classes fail to represent). So the setting up of a Subject Headings List, more simplified (but observing the main proper international rules) was proposed for the Romanian public libraries, through the common effort of these libraries. As a model, Rameau was suggested, taking into account the great similarity between the specialty terms in Romanian and in French. In the next meeting (at the beginning of 2002) a decision is to be made as to this issue.

Adriana Kiraly
The "Octavian Goga" Cluj County Library, Cluj-Napoca

5.9 RUSSIA - Developments in Classification and Indexing in Russia, 2000-2001

In Russia the period under review is characterized by significant advances in the sphere of classification and indexing.

At present there are two main **classification schemes** in use in Russia: BBK and UDC.

BBK is a domestic system. It is the most widely used classification in the country. BBK is maintained and developed by Russian State Library, Russian National Library and Library of Academy of Sciences. At the end of 90ies the BBK editions for mass libraries (1997) and for children's and school libraries (1998) were published. Now the Medium BBK edition (8 volumes) is being prepared (editor-in-chief – Eduard Sukiasyan). Russian National Public Library for Science and Technology in cooperation with Russian State Library is developing the Electronic BBK for mass libraries on CD-ROM. The test version of this CD-ROM was demonstrated at The International Crimea Conference in June 2001.

UDC is the second classification widely used in Russia. It is considered to be the mandatory classification scheme for scientific and technical libraries and information institutes and centers. In 2000 VINITI became a member of the UDC Consortium and now it is engaged in preparing the new printed Russian UDC edition (editor-in-chief – Yuri Arsky) on the basis of UDC Consortium Master Reference File. Class 0 and Common Auxiliaries will be published in fall of this year. According to the license agreement with VINITI Russian National Public Library for Science and Technology developed and began to distribute the Electronic UDC on CD-ROM. Electronic UDC, as well as Electronic BBK, is the CDS/ISIS database in special browsing and retrieval interface. It provides browsing the main and auxiliary tables, search by keywords and UDC numbers and an option of building UDC numbers. This year the Ministry of Publishing of Russian Federation has organized a special Working Group for developing the abridged UDC for book business (chair – Ekaterina Zaitseva). The Working Group consists of representatives of VINITI, Russian National Public Library for Science and Technology, Russian Book Chamber and leading book publishing and book selling companies. The draft version of the abridged UDC for book business was prepared in May 2001. It was sent to libraries, book publishing and book selling companies for receiving comments and it was also discussed at the Round Table held in the framework of The International Crimea Conference in June 2001. The edition will be published at the end of this year.

DDC is not so widely spread in Russia as BBK and UDC. We could say that it makes first steps in our country. It is used by three libraries for organizing their collections and classifying their items: Library of European University (St. Petersburg), Library of Center of Information Resources (St. Petersburg), Library of Higher School of Social and Economic Sciences (Moscow). Russian National Public Library for Science and Technology maintains the database on ecology based on Russian literature and classifies the works for this database using DDC numbers. We hope that the sphere of DDC implementation in Russia will expand in the nearest future. One of the factors speeding up DDC implementation will be the distribution of DDC 21, Russian edition. It is the first publication of the Dewey Decimal Classification in Russia. The translation was prepared by Russian National Public Library for Science and Technology (editor-in-chief – Ekaterina Zaitseva) according to the agreement with OCLC. Four volumes of Russian Dewey were issued from December 2000 through May 2001. The edition appeared thanks to the great assistance of Joan Mitchell, editor-in-chief of the original edition, and DDC editorial staff. DDC 21, Russian edition, was presented at IFLA-2001 at the OCLC meeting dedicated to 125th anniversary of DDC and at the OCLC

booth. The creation of the Electronic Russian Dewey is under discussion now. The interface of this electronic edition is planned to be close to the interface of BBK and UDC electronic versions that will facilitate using two classification systems in one library.

In the sphere of subject indexing the project of creating National Subject Authority Files is currently in progress. Russian National Library is responsible for this work. The following categories of authority files are developed: personal names, corporate body names, geographical names, uniform titles and subject headings. The present extent of Authority Files is about 1,3 million records.

As regards other classification and indexing systems, State Classification for Scientific and Technical Information and thesauri of different kinds (e.g. Agricultural Thesaurus, Medical Thesaurus, Thesaurus on Science and Technology, Thesaurus on Social Sciences, etc.) are maintained and used in Russian libraries.

Ekaterina Zaitseva
Russian National Public Library for Science and Technology

5.10 SPAIN - Developments in Spain regarding Indexing and Classification, 2000-2001

The main developments in Spain produced between 2000 and 2001 in the area of work of this Standing Committee can be summarized in the following points:

National Subject Authority File

The National Authority File (including subject headings) continues to grow and is published on CD-ROM format by the *Biblioteca Nacional de España* (Spanish National Library). The number of new subject entries included in the NAF increased a 20% with respect to the last annual edition. This useful tool is available in the Web site of the Spanish National Library (address: <http://www.bne.es/esp/cat-fra.htm>). The access to information in the on line version is only partial, because the users can only browse the authority headings and they don't have access to the complete information related to each authority entry, such as variant and related headings, and scope notes. Probably, at the end of this year or at the beginning of the one, the National Library will try to develop a new interface that allows to show the entire authority record.

Publications

The chapter devoted to publications is one of the most important in the period 2000-2001. The *CINDOC* (Spanish Center for Scientific Information and Documentation), that is run by the *Centro Superior de Investigaciones Científicas* (Spanish Center for Scientific Research), and as an editor and promoter of tools for indexing, has continued publishing several specialised thesauri for different subjects, with on line access through Internet. Some of these matters are Science and Technology (represented by the *SPINES Thesaurus*), Psychology, Ocean Sciences, Economy, Machines and Tools, Animal Biology, and Industrial Property. An online version of the *Tesaurus ISOC de Topónimos* (ISOC Thesaurus of Geographic Names) has been developed recently. All these tools are available in the Internet site of the CINDOC (address: <http://pci204.cindoc.csic.es/tesauros/index.html>)

The publishing of printed handbooks devoted to indexing and classification techniques has continued in Spain during 2000-2001. Among others, we have to mention two works:

Information retrieval techniques, by José Antonio Salvador Oliván & José María Angós Ullate; and *Digital information systems and services*, by Ernest Abadal Falgueras. Both books have been published by Trea Publishers.

By the end of 2001, it will be published a theoretical and practical handbook on the authority file, written by Jesús Jiménez Pelayo, member of this Standing Committee, and Rosa García Blanco, member of the Acquisitions and Collection Development. This book will be a very useful tool to Spanish speaker librarians and include a foreword and a little but relevant contribution by Barbara Tillett.

Apart from the books and electronic tools cited above, the most important event concerning publications has been the first edition of the *Formato IBERMARC para registros de autoridad* (IBERMARC format for authority records). This useful tool –published in 1999 by the National Library and distributed during 2000– is based in the MARC21 format and represents a very relevant step to make possible a better standardisation and national interchange of authority records, including, of course, subject headings. IBERMARC format is absolutely compatible with *UNIMARC Authority format*.

Finally, at the end of the last year, a new edition of *Universal Decimal Classification* has been published in Spain. This is the 8th Spanish edition of UDC and it presents some changes and innovations. The most remarkable are the following:

- It appears in three volumes: number 1 and 2 contain the tables, and the third one, the alphabetical index.
- It is available an electronic and interactive version on CD-ROM.
- It is more complete, including more notations.
- It increases and updates notations related to subjects of rapid development, such as Computer Science and Internet.
- The formal appearance has been improved, due to the use of fonts of different aspect and size to represent the different levels of hierarchy of the notations.

Courses

As for the courses in this subject, it is being consolidated the tendency to consider the indexing languages as useful and usable tools for Web resources retrieval. We have to mention two courses organised by the *Spanish Center for Scientific Information and Documentation (CINDOC)*. The first one was entitled “Document analysis in Internet” and was imparted in December 2000. The other one, with the title “Second generation tools: indexes and search engines in Internet”, was hold in Madrid in March 2001.

Current Projects

The national project called *Spanish Co-operative Bibliography* goes on. This project was initiated in 1999 by the National Library together with the rest of Spanish regional libraries in order to coordinate and unify criteria for cataloguing and indexing of documents. The representatives of every library involved continue to hold meetings in which they try to make useful standards that improve the cooperation in the aspects of bibliographic description and content analysis (subject headings or other indexing terms). This will make possible to develop a useful controlled indexing language for most Spanish library centres.

Jesús Jiménez Pelayo
Andalusian Library, Granada, Spain

5.11 SWEDEN - Report from Sweden

The Royal Library

The Royal Library (KB) is the National Library of Sweden and it is also head of the LIBRIS Database, the union catalogue of Swedish libraries.

See: <http://www.libris.kb.se/english/home.html>

The Section of Bibliographic Development and Coordination (BUS)

The Section of Bibliographic Development and Coordination (BUS) is concerned with bibliographic quality of the LIBRIS Database.

The responsibility for an authority list of Subject Headings lies with us. Another important task of BUS is to produce guidelines for subject headings, classification and authority control. Our aim is to make bibliographic information in LIBRIS as standardized as possible within a Swedish as well as an international framework.

As LIBRIS is a union catalogue to which all participating libraries contribute, cooperation becomes highly important in order to secure the quality standards of the database. Consequently, BUS is working hard for the libraries within LIBRIS to cooperate when it comes to subject headings and classification.

Concordance Dewey - SAB

The classification system used by the Royal Library as well as most university libraries and all public libraries is called *Klassifikationssystem för svenska bibliotek (SAB)*. In the autumn of 2000 a concordance between Dewey 21 and SAB 7 was presented both as a booklet and as an online database for LIBRIS associated cataloguers to use. This assists cataloguers with material that has already been classified according to Dewey. It can subsequently be used for searching material worldwide even if you are only familiar with the Swedish classification system.

Subject headings online

Our database Svenska ämnesord (Swedish subject headings) www.amnesord.kb.se has been a great success. During this year we have developed the database in many ways: We approve new subject headings according to literary warrant of course.

Mapping of Swedish subject headings to LCSH and adopting international standards

We have an ongoing project concerning mapping to LCSH and making our guidelines more international. Much work has also been put into the hierarchical structure of the subject headings with broader and narrower terms. From the beginning the list was more of an index to the classification system but we aim for it to be a retrieval system of its own.

When it comes to mapping we have had an extra librarian working with us for four months and she has concentrated on subjects within the humanities such as art, history, ethnology, linguistics and literature. We hope to continue with this mapping to LCSH.

Lectures by Lois Mai Chan

We were honoured and happy to get Professor Lois Mai Chan to come to Stockholm in March to give a series of lectures on Library of Congress Subject Headings. These lectures and (as well as the mapping to LCSH) has been organized between the university libraries of Stockholm and Uppsala and The Royal Library. The lectures were attended by around 170

persons from many libraries all over Sweden and were highly appreciated by everybody. Alongside these lectures a smaller group was also being instructed according to LCSH. This training aims at making the libraries within the LIBRIS database construct subject headings according to the same guidelines aiming to achieve retrieval of a higher quality.

Visit to Bibliothèque nationale and Max Naudi

In order to make the best of the training course two members of staff from the Royal Library visited Max Naudi in Paris last autumn to look into the RAMEAU system. The experience of both RAMEAU and LCSH has been of great help working on the Swedish guidelines. At the beginning of this autumn these guidelines will be made public for cataloguers at our website even if we have not yet quite finished them.

This autumn in October Lois Mai Chan will come back for a second training course.

Summing up - tasks ahead

We do very much want to be more international in our approach to subject headings and we will try to speed up the mapping of our Swedish subject heading system into LCSH. Doing this and looking at projects like the MACS project this mapping will be very useful in the future.

Pia Leth
The Royal Library, Stockholm

5.12 UNITED KINGDOM - United Kingdom Classification Report

UK Classification Research Group

The CRG has continued to meet throughout the last year at the School of Librarianship, University College London. Subjects for discussion included the classification of Computer Science, Technology and the Leisure Arts.

In July 2001 the Group was visited by Shawne Miksa, who is researching into the dichotomy between Classification research and information science which occurred in the 1960s and 1970s. A number of the senior members of the CRG were able to help with historical background and personal reminiscences of the events and personalities of the period, which was enlightening for others present.

Some time has been spent this year in debating 'the future of classification', and in defining the current objectives of the CRG. There was a wish among some members to widen the agenda and to consider the development of classification in the digital context, and it was agreed that alongside the usual working meetings (mainly occupied with discussion of BC2) some additional general meetings would be held, open to a wider audience and with broader topics for discussion. This would be likely to occur in the autumn of 2001 onwards.

HILT (High Level Thesaurus) Project

This is a major project that has been running for two years, and which is about to present its final (first stage) report. The project arises out of a need to address the problems of subject access in a variety of United Kingdom information sectors, and to propose some solutions to the difficulties currently encountered. At present there is a very diverse approach to subject indexing, with some institutions and services using a range of standard

classifications, subjects headings and thesauri, and others using in-house, customised and home-made schemes. The adoption of standards for subject metadata seems a very distant prospect, and inter-operability and the exchange of data is adversely affected.

The project which has largely been an information and opinion seeking exercise, culminated in a workshop at Strathclyde University, Glasgow on June 19th 2001. Stakeholders from libraries, archives, museums, electronic information services were represented, along with representatives of computer science, library schools and independent consultants. The purpose of the workshop was to establish the best strategy for alleviating the current complicated and unmanageable approach to subject access. Various options were proposed, including the imposition of a single standard, and various mapping exercises. There was wide spread opposition to the idea of an imposed system, and the generally most acceptable plan was for the establishment of a mapping pilot project, supported by a central terminologies agency which would take responsibility for subject standards. Further information about HILT can be found at the project website: <http://hilt.cdlr.strath.ac.uk>

Bliss Bibliographic Classification

Steady work continues on the revision of BC2. Since the publication of Class AY/B at the end of 1999, most work has been on Class C Chemistry, which is now complete (although not yet published) and the Technology classes.

Anxiety about the future of the publication programme, occasioned by Bowker-Saur's decision to abandon their paper-based titles, was alleviated when Saur agreed to take over the list from 2001 onwards. The first product from Saur will be a reprint of the Introduction and Auxiliary Schedules which has been out of print for some time now; we hope to follow this up fairly quickly with the publication of the new Class C. Saur have expressed a commitment to BC2 and to continuing publication of new schedules.

In June this year a two day short course on BC2 was held at University College London, the first for a number of years. Attendance was good and enthusiasm for the scheme appears unabated. Particularly gratifying was the presence of a number of non-librarians with an interest in facet analysis; opportunities for the publicising of BC2 and its theoretical basis have followed on from this, and it is excellent to see some acknowledgement of the strong theoretical claims of classification work in Library Science from researchers in computer science.

Dewey Decimal Classification (United Kingdom)

Most of the business conducted by the UK Committee in this last year was discussion of, and response to, proposals from the Editorial Policy Committee.

There has been some debate about the need to change the treatment of UK political parties, to avoid the repetition of place notation in the classmarks; this would bring the UK into line with practice in a number of other countries. A user survey was carried out, but ultimately there was insufficient interest to warrant a change.

A source of dissatisfaction, particularly for academic libraries, is the treatment of Tourism. The increasing number of further and higher education courses in this subject has created a demand for a single location. A paper with recommendations for its future development has been submitted to the EPC.

Vanda Broughton
University College London, London

5.13 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA - Subject indexing and Classification in the United States

Subject Indexing

Library of Congress Subject Headings

In an effort to provide increased access to individual works of fiction, instructions on assigning subject headings were updated in the most recent revision of instruction sheet H 1790 in the *Subject Cataloging Manual: Subject Headings*.

FAST (Faceted Application of Subject Terminology)

FAST, an OCLC research project investigating the feasibility of developing an LCSH-based controlled vocabulary using a faceted, post-coordinate approach to the subject analysis of web resources, continues to progress. An article on the rationale and design of FAST has been published (Lois Mai Chan, Eric Childress, Rebecca Dean, Edward T. O'Neill, and Diane Vizine-Goetz, A Faceted Approach to Subject Data in the Dublin Core Metadata Record, *Journal of Internet Cataloging* 4(1/2): 35-47 (2001)). During 2001, Lynn El-Hoshy, a subject specialist at the Library of Congress Cataloging Policy and Support Office, joined the FAST Team as the liaison from LC.

Sears List of Subject Headings

The *Sears List of Subject Headings*, a subject headings list devised especially for small to medium-sized libraries, is in its 17th edition. Headings in this list are accompanied by class numbers from the 13th abridged edition of the Dewey Decimal Classification.

The 6th edition of the Canadian Companion to the *Sears Subject Headings* has been published.

Classification

Dewey Decimal Classification

See report by Joan Mitchell, Editor, Dewey Decimal Classification.

Library of Congress Classification

New editions

The 2001 editions of the following Library of Congress Classification (LCC) schedules are now available from the LC Cataloging Distribution Service:

- BL-BQ (Religion (General): Hinduism. Judaism. Buddhism)
- D-DR (History (General))
- G (Geography)
- KL-KWX (Law of Asia and Eurasia, Africa, Pacific Area, and Antarctica)

LCC Outline

An online-version of the LCC Outline has been posted to the Cataloging Policy and Support Office's Web site at <<http://lcweb.loc.gov/catdir/cpsolcco.html>>

National Library of Medicine Classification

The National Library of Medicine has announced an online beta version of the *National Library of Medicine Classification*, 5th edition, revised 1999; its URL is: <http://wwwcf.nlm.nih.gov/class>.

In implementing this version, the Library states: Web-based access to the Classifications provides the user with greater maneuverability through the schedules and their index. The new searching tools enhance access to the Classification and present the data in new ways, relating concepts and class numbers to one another. Class numbers in the schedules are directly searchable. The schedules are browsable and references to class numbers are linked throughout the schedules. The index is also browsable and term/word searching retrieves all occurrences of a word or MeSH descriptor in the index. Links from MeSH descriptors in the index to the MeSH browser provide direct access to definitions and applications.

An updated version of the Classification is expected in 2002. The Library plans to keep the Classification up-to-date on an annual basis following the MeSH pattern.

ALA Subcommittee on Metadata and Subject Analysis

The Subcommittee on Metadata and Subject Analysis, established in 1997, with the charge to “identify and study the major issues surrounding the use of metadata in the subject analysis and classification of digital resources”, has completed its work. Subcommittee members have developed two papers:

Subject Data in the Metadata Record: Recommendations and Rationale

(<http://www.ala.org/alcts/organization/ccs/sac/metarept2.html>)

and *Comparison of Subject Treatment of Several Metadata Standards*

(<http://www.ala.org/alcts/organization/ccs/sac/metafinal.pdf>).

A new Subcommittee, yet to be named, will be formed to focus on the issue of semantic interoperability.

LC Bicentennial Conference

The Bicentennial Conference on Bibliographic Control for the New Millennium: Confronting the Challenges of Networked Resources and the Web, sponsored by the Library of Congress Cataloging Directorate, was held in November 2000. Some of the issues covered by the conference concern subject indexing and classification. The proceedings are now available (*Proceedings of the Bicentennial Conference on Bibliographic Control for the New Millennium*, Washington, DC: Library of Congress, Cataloging Distribution Service, 2001. 574 pages. ISBN 0-8444-1046-2). Based on the papers, discussions, and recommendations from the conference, the Library of Congress has developed an action plan, which includes a number of items relating to subject analysis and classification. A draft of the plan is available at (<http://lcweb.loc.gov/catdir/bibcontrol/draftplan.html>).

It is the intent of LC's Cataloging Directorate to accomplish each action item in the Plan based on a priority ranking: near-term/high, near-term/medium, long-term/high, or long-term/medium. The LoC will use its own resources and seek external assistance when necessary and appropriate. During the coming months, assignments will be made within the Library, which will also seek to establish working relationships with external collaborators.

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Knowledge Organization Systems (KOS)-Related Activities in the U.S.: VocML (Vocabulary Mark-Up Language), Taxonomy of KOSs, and KOS Registry Reference Document for Data Elements

1. A draft XML DTD, developed by Joseph Busch and Ron Daniel of Interwoven, Inc. was presented and reviewed to the NKOS group (nkos.slis.kent.edu) at both 2000 ASIS Annual Meeting and the 4th NKOS Workshop at the Joint Conference of Digital Libraries in June 2001. The schema, called **VocML (Vocabulary Mark-Up Language)**, defines a structure for tagging KOS content to retain the structure. The DTD allows for Dublin Core metadata that describes the KOS itself. It also provides tags and syntax for uniquely identifying each term, its relationship to other terms (using the standard Z39.19 relationships as well as more detailed types of associative relationships), and information such as scope notes and definitions.

The goal is to make the DTD as generalized as possible, so it will work for a variety of KOSs, including authority files, hierarchical thesauri (including those with polyhierarchies), classification schemes, digital gazetteers, and subject heading lists.

2. In addition, a subgroup of the NKOS is developing a **taxonomy of KOSs**, which defines types of KOSs based on their structure and behavior in a networked environment. The descriptions are based on characteristics such as structure and complexity, the relationships between terms, and historical function.

The specific types are grouped into general categories :

- Term lists, which emphasize lists of terms often with definitions, include:
 - Authority Files,
 - Glossaries,
 - Gazetteers,
 - Dictionaries.
- Classifications and categories, which emphasize the creation of subject sets, include:
 - Subject Headings,
 - Classification Schemes, Taxonomies and Categorization Schemes.
- Relationship lists, which emphasize the connections between terms and concepts, include:
 - Thesauri,
 - Semantic Networks, and
 - Ontologies

Information about the draft VocML DTD, and the draft Taxonomy of KOSs can be found at (<http://nkos.slis.kent.edu>).

3. **Networked Knowledge Organization Systems (NKOS) Registry Reference Document for Data Elements**
(draft: http://staff.oclc.org/~vizine/NKOS/Thesaurus_Registry_version3_rev.htm)

The first block of elements, KOS Title through Rights, correspond closely to the Dublin Core (DC) element set. These elements are intended for creating metadata descriptions that will

facilitate the discovery of KOS resources. The designation KOS has been added to the element name when the DC definition has been altered to accommodate the description of a KOS resource as opposed to a generic resource. The second block of elements are intended for recording specific characteristics of a KOS resource that will facilitate the evaluation of the resource for a particular application or use. The descriptions of these elements are incomplete and should be viewed as working descriptions.

Data Elements

KOS Title (R)

Alternative Title (O)

Creator (O)

KOS Subject (R)

Description (O)

Publisher (O)

Date (R)

KOS Type (R)

Format (R)

Identifier (O)

Language (R)

KOS Relation (R)

Rights (O)

Entity Type (R)

Entity Value (O)

Relationships (R)

Information Given (O)

Arrangement (R)

Application (O)

Minor Subject (O)

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