



Greater subject access to Dewey Decimal Classification's notation, with special reference to Indonesia's geography, period and language notations

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Abstract

Although Indonesian libraries have been using Dewey Decimal Classification for more than half century, since 1952 until present times, from 15th through 22nd editions still many Indonesian librarians and users complained on certain DDC notation which they thought didn't reflect the true condition of Indonesia as well as the real needs of the users. This paper proposed some modification and corrections for DDC notations especially those notations on languages in Indonesia including Bahasa Indonesia, geographical and historical period. All those modifications, corrections and expansions were based on the languages map of Indonesia, Indonesian geographical division while historical period were based on Indonesian presidents' administration, from 1945 until present time. It is hoped that such modifications will yield better access to Indonesian-related-materials.

1. Introduction

In various meetings, the late Mr Tairas, a senior Indonesian cataloguer, always mentioned that the Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC) has been used in Indonesia as early as 1930s although it is difficult to support his claim. The earliest known DDC version used in Indonesia is DDC edition 15th, used by the students of the newly formed Courses for Library Officers in 1952. These courses is the pioneer of the present day Indonesian library education. During its history, the name subsequently changed into Library School, Department of Library Science Teachers College Universitas Indonesia, then Department of Library Science Faculty of Letters Universitas Indonesia and now known as the Department of Library and Information Science Faculty of Humanities Universitas Indonesia (Sulistyo 2006). During those long period, the students always used the DDC from various editions, from the 15th edition to the latest 22nd edition. For

more than fifty years the students in LIS as well as Indonesian librarians felt uncomfortable with some DDC notation regarding Indonesia-related notations. On the other hand, they felt comfortable with DDC as proved by a directorate for academic and special libraries (Sobari 2001) which showed that out of 791 libraries, 559 or 71 percent are using DDC, 20% using UDC while the remnants are using other classification schemes such as Library of Congress Classification or home-made classification schemes. For public libraries, almost 100% using DDC (Perpustakaan 2005) while for school libraries also almost 100 percent are using DDC, although it is abridged-Indonesian-translation version. For those public and school libraries that didn't use DDC the reasons given are that they are still in stage phase of library development, but sooner or latter they will use DDC. The reason of high percentage of DDC users because in all public and school library training sessions, introducing DDC is a must hence its wide usage. Also the national bibliography of Indonesia is using DDC for its entries. However, many librarians voiced their objection to DDC notation, especially regarding area, language and history notation.

2. Area notation

2.1. Background

Indonesia is the largest archipelago nation in the world with more than 17,000 islands based on the last data although many books still claimed it around 13,605 islands. There are five major island, those are Sumatera, Java, Kalimantan or Borneo, Sulawesi or Celebes and Western part of Papua. The first five islands was once called Greater Sunda Island while the current isles of Bali, West Nusa Tenggara and East Nusa Tenggara called Little Sunda Islands. However those terms are no longer used in geography textbook in Indonesia.

Right now there are 33 provinces, an increasing sum thanks to era of reformation which flourished after 2000 and one province ceded from Indonesia (East Timor or Timor Leste) with 440 regencies, cities and towns (hereafter shortened to regencies). Those increase total flustered Indonesian librarians as those new provinces and regencies are not all covered by DDC even the by latest 22nd edition.

2.2. The old and new location

At DDC 15th, the area of Indonesia and Philippines were located to 991, as part of the Pacific area. Even the notations were awkward as 991 Indonesia, 991.4 Republic of Philippines, 992 Sunda [sic] covering Sumatera, Java and Bali, Timor Archipelago and Andaman and Nicobar Islands (administratively part of India). At that time the concept of Area Table, now known as Table 2, is not known. Indonesia was placed at 991 while Philippines at 991.4. This allocation is not quite proper because viewed from many disciplines such as geography, history, biology, etc., Indonesia and Philippines were considered as part of Southeast Asia region not Pacific area. Those ill located-notation lasted until 17th edition and then moved to a new position as part of Southeast Asia at DDC 18th. The joint notation for Indonesia and Philippines as shown until DDC 17th edition were considered not proper by both Indonesian and Filipino librarians because they considered Indonesia and Philippines as separate country from geographical point of view, hence notation for both countries should be different. The correction appeared on DDC 18th edition, which changed the notation from 991 to 959.8 in which Indonesia is

considered as a part of Southeast Asia region. Also the Philippines got its different notation 959.9. It is a far cry from the 15th edition and perfect revision.

On the other hand, geographical consideration is not always proper for geographic notation as shown at -598 3. DDC 22nd mentioned as Kalimantan, Class here Borneo. It should add not all Borneo were part of Indonesia because Sabah (-5953), Sarawak (-595 4), and Brunei Darussalam (-595 70 all are situated in the island of Borneo, the same island shared also by Indonesia but those regions belong to Malaysia and an independent country (Brunei Darussalam). Concerning the name, old publication before 1942 mentioned Borneo, but now Kalimantan is more popular for the Indonesian public than Borneo.

The new reformation movements which struck Indonesia in late 1990s compelled the Indonesian librarians to accommodate new location for various regencies. It is suggested that the National Library of Indonesia expanded notation -598, from -598 2 to 598 6 and -951 to further provinces because there are new provinces in Indonesia. The expansion should be based on geographical, eastern longitudinal, northern and southern latitude factors as Indonesia covered wide areas. The administration approaches which has been proposed by some librarians are considered not proper because the administrative division could change but not the geographical matters. With that approach, Sumatera should be divided into 3 regions, i.e. Northern, Middle and Southern Sumatera, then proceeds to further administrative classification until regency or even sub-regencies notation. So the proposed notation of Sumatera proceeds as follows:

-598 1	Sumatera
-598 12	Northern part of Sumatera
-598 14	Central part of Sumatera
-598 16	Southern part of Sumatera

Borneo or Kalimantan is rather awkward because the island belong to three governments that are Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, and Malaysia. Hence the same island but different part got different notation like

-595 3	Sabah
-595 4	Sarawak
-595 5	Brunei but
-598 3	Kalimantan

Class here Borneo[part of Indonesia]

From Indonesian point of view, geographically Kalimantan can be divided into three regions, then further divided into administrative expansion, hence the proposed notation for Borneo is as follows

-598 3	Kalimantan
	Class here Borneo
-598 32	Western part of Kalimantan
-598 34	Central part of Kalimantan
-598 36	Eastern part of Kalimantan

During the Netherlands administration which ended in 1942, Celebes was divided into two parts, North Celebes and South Celebes. With that base, Celebes geographical notation can be expanded as follows

- 598 4 Celebes (Sulawesi)
- 598 42 Northern part of Celebes (Sulawesi)
- 598 44 Central part of Celebes (Sulawesi)
- 598 46 Southern part of Celebes (Sulawesi)

For Moluccas or Maluku the notation should covers information as follows

- 598 5 Maluku (Moluccas)
Including province of North Maluku, the islands of Ambon, Bandaneira, Buru, Halmahera, Kai, Obi, Seram, Yamdena and adjacent silands

Special attention should be given to For Lesser Sunda Island as the term has been decreasing in usage, instead the name changed to designation of the provinces. Hence the notation should revised as follows

- 598 6 Bali, West and East Nusa Tenggara
 - 62 Bali
 - 64 West Nusa Tenggara province covering Lombok, Sumbawa and adjacent islands
 - 66 East Nusa Tenggara covering Flores, Sumba, West Timor and adjacent islands

The term Lesser Sunda Islands as mentioned in DDC 22nd ed is rather misleading because the term is no longer used even not mentioned on textbook of Indonesian geography.

3. Language notation

3.1. Background

For language notations, there are two approaches. The first approach is using the linguistic maps as shown by various publications such as by Summer Institute of Linguistics, Pusat Bahasa (Language Center) of the Department of National Education and also nby DDC which based its notation on Austronesian languages. The second approach is based on the mother tongue. The number of languages listed for Indonesia is 672 (Ethnologue 1988). Of those 669 are living languages and 3 are extinct. Of those languages, it is suggested that the language spoken by more than 1 million speakers should be included in the list. The figure 1,000,000 is arbitrary.

Right now there are notation for languages in Indonesia listed at Table 6 as follows:

- 992 21 Bahasa Indonesia
- 992 22 Javanese

Those notations are not enough for Indonesian needs as there are 672 languages spoken in Indonesia (Ethnologue 1988), although it is not necessary to put all of them in DD C

notation. The mother tongue ranges from as large as 70 million (Javanese language) speakers to as small as 250 speakers for Bedoanas language in Bomberai Peninsula, Papua (Ethnologue 1988). Based on total mother tongues of other languages are as follows:

Table 1 Mother tongue speakers

No.	Language	Main area	Total speakers
1.	Java (Javanese)	Central and East Java	70,000,000
2.	Sunda (Sundanese)	West Java	25,000,000
3.	Malay (Melayu*)	In Indonesia	10,000,000
4.	Madura (Madurese)	Island of Madura	9,000,000
5.	Minangkabau (Minang)	West Sumatera	6,000,000
6.	Bali (Balinese)	Island of Bali	3,000,000
7.	Bugis (Buginese)	South Sulawesi	2,500,000
8.	Aceh (Achinese, Achehnese)	North, Aceh province	2,200,000
9.	Batak Toba (Toba Batak)	Samosir island and east, south and west of Toba Lake in north Sumatera	2,000,000
10.	Banjar (Banjarese)	Around Banjarmasin in south and east, South Kalimantan	1,800,000
11.	Makassar (Makassarese)	South Sulawesi	1,500,000
12.	Lampung (Lamong)	Southern Sumatera	1,500,000
13.	Batak dairi (Dairi, Pakpak)	Northern, southwest of Lake Toba around Sidikalang, North Sumatera	1,200,000

Note : *Slightly different from those Malay spoken in Malaysia

Source: *Ethnologue*(1988)

Those languages deserved special notation because the tongue speakers in average above 1,000,000 people and invented their own scripts such Javanese, Balinese, Buginese, Batak. If those data to be combined by subdivision of Austronesian and Malayo-Polynesian language groups, and the facts that the DDC has provide notation for Javanese language in -992 22 then we can expand it based on the language family. Hence it is proposed that notation for Indonesian languages, based on mother tongue and subdivision of Austronesia and Malayo-Polynesian language groups yielded results as follows:

499.221	Bahasa Indonesia
.222	Javanese language
.222 2	Sundanese language
.222 4	Maduranese language
.222 6	Balinese language

.223	Languages of Sumatera
.223 2	Minangkabau
.223 3	Aceh (Achinese, Achenese) language
223 4	Batak Toba language
.223 5	Lampung (Lamong) language
.223 6	Batak Dairi
.224	Languages of Kalimantan
.224 2	Banjar (Banjarese) language
.225	Languages of Sulawesi (Celebes)
.225 2	Bugis (Buginese) language
.225 4	Makassar (Macassarese, Makassarese) language
.226	Languages of Maluku (Moluccas), Nusa Tenggara
.227	Languages of Papua

4. Historical period division

There are radical changes in the historical period from DDC 15th edition to 22nd edition. For example at 15th edition there is no period division for Indonesia. The period division began to appear in 16th edition, expanded in 17th edition and the longest period division naturally appeared at 22nd edition. The 22nd edition divides Indonesian history period from early history to [year] 2000- Alas, the historical period at DDC 22nd edition showed lack of understanding or ignorance of Indonesian history. The notation 959.801 Early history to 1602 is not proper. The year 1602 marked the founding of Dutch East India Company (Vereenigde Oost Indische Compagnie in Dutch term) is not accepted by Indonesian historians as shown on the almost history book of Indonesia (Sejarah, ed 4 1984). The year 1602 marked the establishment of a trading company in Netherlands which latter on conquered Indonesia, but not the mark stone in Indonesian history. The previous 16th edition even marked from “early history to 1596” which is the year the Dutch traders came to Indonesia, also not the marking stone in Indonesian history. However, the Indonesian founding fathers smartly manipulated the year 1596 as the beginning of Indonesia under foreign powers for more than 350 years (Indonesia declared her independence in 1945). Historically, the sum 350 years under colonialism is not true but capable inflamed the nationalism among Indonesian youths. Indonesian historians generally agreed with period division as mentioned in *Sejarah Nasional Indonesia* (Sejarah 1984). The six volume books divided Indonesian history period as shown in its volumes as follows:

Volume 1	Prehistory in Indonesia
Volume 2	Early history (to – 1500)
Volume 3	Period of the rise and growth of Islamic kingdoms in Indonesia (± 1500 – 1800)
Volume 4	Indonesia in nineteenth century (± 1800 – 1900)
Volume 5	Period of National Awakening and the end of Netherlands Indies (± 1900 – 1942)

Volume 6 Period of Japanese occupation and period of
 Republic of Indonesia (\pm 1942 – present time)

This paper does not want to changes the DDC period division totally, it just want to combine the period division commonly found in Indonesia with the existing DDC notations. Although DDC mentioned the year 1478 as the period covering early history to 1478 (959.801 2), that year actually marked the downfall of Majapahit Kingdom but not the milestone for 15th century Indonesia. Even some historians doubted that year as the end of Kingdom Majapahit, because some Dutch and Indonesian historians marked it at 1525.

For notation 959.802 Dutch period 1602-1945 is not correct because the Netherlands administration ended in 1942 when the Imperial Japanese Army occupied Indonesia until 1945. Also those period covered the period of the e East India Company occupied Indonesia from 1811 to 1816. With that considerations then the proposed period detailed into

959.801	Early history until \pm 1500
959.802	Indonesia until 20 th century, \pm 1500 - 1942
1	Period of the rise and growth of Islamic kingdoms in Indonesia (\pm 1500 – 1800)
2	Indonesia in nineteenth century and period of National Awakening and Japanese occupation
959.803	Period of Republic, 1945-

With that proposed changes, the coming DDC edition for Indonesian history period does not radically changes but still suited to the Indonesian period history. Further expansion can be conducted without changing the existing notation. For example the period of Indonesia in nineteenth century can be developed as follows

959.802 2	Indonesia in nineteenth century and period of National Awakening and Japanese occupation
21	Under Netherlands Kingdom, 1800-1811
22	East India Company, 1811-1816
23	Netherlands East Indies, 1816-1942 Including Java War, National Awakening Movement
24	Japanese occupation

The history period shown on DDC 22nd edition, especially for the Period of Republic does not reflect the true history period but based on the general assumption every decade period in which a new notation was added for ten year period. For example

959.803 6	1960-1969
959.803 7	1970-1979
959.803 8	1980-1989

959.803 9	1990-1999
959.8034	2000-

Such periodic division showed the inability among DDC editors to understand Indonesian history, beside being took the easiest way to divide a country history. Also such approach is not consistent with other South-east Asian countries e.g. Philippines whose chronicle based on the presidential administration after its independence in 1946. Analogically, the period of Indonesian history can be arranged the same with Philippine history, hence the results are as follows:

959.803	Period of Republic, 1945-
.803 1	Administration of President Soekarno, 1945-1967
.803 2	Administration of President Soeharto, 1967-1998
803 3	Administration of President B.J. Habibie 1998-1999
.803 4	Administration of President Abdurachman Wahid, 1999- 2001
.803 5	Administration of President Megawati Soekarnoputri, 2001-2004
.803 6	Administration of President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, 2004-

Such notation reflects better understanding about Indonesian history and does not confusing Indonesia librarians because the ten year period implied difficulties in classification. The DDC version of 959.803 9 1990-1999 and 959.804 2000- really confusing because between 1998 until 2001, in a span of four years there were four presidents in Indonesia!

5. Remarks

DDC devised by Melvil Dewey, an American with strong bias to American needs. It is not quite surprising that America (read United States) got more detailed notation than the other countries. Such treats also appeared in the notation about Christianity, historical period. However, its wide usage world wide acclaimed its popularity but paradoxically, the very popularity of DDC should be responsible for most of the criticism against it today (Khanna & Vohra 1996). With its international usage, it is to improve the notation coverage for non-Anglo-Saxon scope. The geographical notation

The history of a nation or country reflected its struggles, attainment, occupation, administration. The notation should not viewed from the former colonial point of view, but from the country's. An historical nation that based on every ten years period as shown at DDC 22nd edition for Indonesian history does not reflect the real history but perhaps the misunderstanding of the DDC editors or the easiest way to divide a nation's history. Also it seemed that the US-based-DDC-editors understand better about its former

colonies than the other non US colonies. The historical division for Philippines since DDC 16th edition is more complete than Indonesia.

Providing a more suitable for Indonesian history division could build better understanding on Indonesian history. If the librarians notice, for almost 54 years Indonesian just knew only two presidents! Apart from political and economic point of views, it is a surprising or even jokingly why a country for more than half century just ruled by two presidents! On the other part, the division of Indonesian history also showed once Indonesia has a woman president (959.803 5) which is not always found in other countries, even for those nations which claiming as the pioneer of democracy.

On language notation, it is time to provide language notation for those languages who mother tongue speakers totals more than 1 million. If one notice the language notation found in DDC 22nd edition, Table 5 and checked with the reference sources, then one can found that some of those language notation has less than 1 million mother tongue speakers. If one checked at the Library of Congress Catalogue, there are some headings for language of Indonesia of whose mother tongue speakers total 1 million above, even there are new headings for languages of Indonesia which almost extinct.

There are question whether the proposed new notations or Indonesian geography, language, and history period will extends the coming DDC edition. The newly proposed notations do not changes the already-exist DDC notations significantly but significantly it is hoped that the proposed notations reflect the true condition of Indonesia. Such new notation could improve better understanding of Indonesian geography, history and languages in term of notation and facilitates better access toward resources on Indonesian geography, history, and language from DDC notation. For DDC-user-libraries, the revised notation will ease them on using and retrieving materials on Indonesian geography, history, and languages. If such goals are achieved then the library has utilized the DDC notation and by so doing the library indirectly has achieved its mission, to serve the user better.

6. Conclusion

The existing notation on Indonesian geography, history period and languages do not reflect the commonly notion used in Indonesia, either by users or librarians. The paper proposed that the already exist notation in DDC 22nd edition should be revised in accordance with Indonesian geography, history division and languages as reflected in various publications. It is hoped that the coming DDC edition notation on Indonesian geography, history period and languages reflected the commonly used approach as understood by Indonesian users and librarians and also by librarians and DDC users from other countries.

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