The Bliss Classification Bulletin

c/o Commonwealth Institute. Kensington High Street, London, W.B

Vol. VII No. 1, 1980

CONTENTS

Foreword	Page 1
Availability of BC2 schedules	5
Minutes of AGM of Bliss Classification Association	6
Membership of BCA as at May 1980	. 10
A summary of reviews of, and published comments on BC2	18
A summary of reviews of, and published comments on BC2 (by D. J. Campbell) Book review: The case for Bliss (by G. B. Howorth)	30
Additions and amendments to BC2	32
·	

FOREWORD

Progress of the new edition

The past two years has been dominated by the production of Class H (Human biology and health sciences), which is now with the publisher and likely to be on sale in the early autumn. Class H is more than twice the size of all the four classes so far published put together and this raises the question of future policy in terms of the size of vocabulary in classes being prepared.

The general policy of BC2 so far has been to observe literary warrant as displayed in books and periodical articles at the level of summarization; i.e., even quite specific journal articles are classifiable specifically if the indexer limits the indexing to a summarizing of the overall subject (usually expressed approximately by the title in the case of technical literature in a given subject). Looking back on the production of Class H to see how it might have been produced more quickly it would seem that it was not so much the sheer volume of terms (although the incidence of numerous and elaborate synonyms in the case of many diseases and some parts of the body certainly contributed to the bulk of the schedules) as the range and complexity of specializations and relationships which caused the consumption of so much time. Also, numerous special areas in biology, physics and chemistry had to be developed before Class H could be completed; the full

extent of these operative in Class H was not recognized adequately at first and this resulted in what with hindsight we would regard as some premature scheduling and notating. This showed ultimately in further time consuming revision.

Any proposal to reduce substantially the size of vocabulary in future classes must bear in mind that specificity (which implies detailed vocabulary) is an essential requirement in any retrieval language seeking to provide facilities for high precision in retrieval. It should also be noted that the other four classes so far published (I, J, P and Q) have, by the standards of other general classifications (and most special classifications also) quite specific vocabularies; yet they did not demand vocabularies of anything like the size of Class H.

We conclude, therefore, that the general policy should continue. But within this policy, the need to produce schedules with much greater speed will be a paramount consideration; so if a degree of specificity suggested, say, by the internal technical vocabulary of articles (as distinct from the concepts needed to summarize them) conflicts with this aim, it will be modified to conform to it. For a statement of the present availability of BC2 schedules see page 5 of this issue.

Persons and events

The Polytechnic of North London granted a short-term research assistantship in November 1979 (for a period of six months) to assist the editing and preparation of a penultimate draft of Classes E/G and we were very fortunate in securing the services of Vanda Broughton to do this. It is hoped to issue the draft later this year.

Mrs. Jean Stearns, a member of the BCA Committee gave a paper at the Library Association's Catalogue and Index Group Annual Seminar in Oxford in March 1980 Mr. J. Mills attended an 'open-day' of the British National Bibliography Research Fund in February 1980 and gave a very brief report on the work done on BC2, under the Fund's grant in 1977/78. This produced an equally brief editorial comment in the Library Association Record in the following month and this might be said to highlight the relative paucity of comment on library classification in general and BC2 in particular amongst librarians. Dr. Campbell comments on another example of this (in the matter of reviews of BC2) elsewhere in this issue.

If the above comments strike a rather glum note, this may be countered by recording and welcoming the appearance of the first monograph on BC2 (by Maltby and Gill) which is reviewed later in this issue.

A short course on the use of BC2 will be held at the School of Librarianship, The Polytechnic of North London on Wednesday 10th December 1980

Maintenance of BC2

A major function of this Bulletin is to provide a maintenance service for the published scheme and a list of additions and amendments to classes already published will be found on pages 32/34.

All users of BC2 are invited to submit to the Hon. Editor suggestions for incorporation in this vital feature of the Bulletin. Classifiers are urged to develop the habit of recording terms or concepts for which they can find no specific place in BC2 at the time they are trying to classify it. If

this is done methodically (in a special notebook or file, say) and a brief note sent to us about it this would assist greatly the job of maintaining the system.

It should not be thought that only a substantial cumulation of suggestions would justify writing to us; no contribution is too small.

In order to make the business of notification as simple as possible it is suggested that the following standard styles should be followed:

New term to be added

Term

Synonym(s) (if any)

Location suggested between |classmark| and |classmark|

Align with /classmark and term

*This indicates whether the new term is considered to be subordinate to, or coordinate with the term above, or coordinate with (in alignment with) some other term higher up the schedule.

Brief definition (if a recently devised term, or one which you suspect may not be located easily in glossaries, etc.)

Source (if you think it useful, give author, title and date of the work in which you have found the term).

Deletion of existing term

Classmark and term to be deleted Reason for suggested deletion (briefly)

Changed location of existing term

Classmark and term to be moved Location to which it is suggested moving it Reason (briefly)

Alternative to be provided for existing term

Classmark and term Location at which alternative should go

Amended spelling of existing term

Classmark Existing term Suggested correct (or better) form Authority (if you think it is called for)

New users of BC2

The following institutions and persons have joined the BCA and in most cases have adopted the new BC; we welcome them to the ranks of BC2 users. Enquiries regarding BC2 should be sent to Dr. D. J. Campbell, Hon. Secretary, The Bliss Classification Association, The Library, c/o Commonwealth Institute, Kensington High Street, London, W.8.

Cheshire County Council Research Library

Ms. L. Gill (personal member)

Mr. F. Moran (personal member)

National Council of Social Service Office of Population Censuses and Surveys Queensland Institute of Technology Library Scottish Council for Research in Education Tasmania University Library

Dating of the Bulletin

With the beginning of a new volume series, we are dropping the month from the dating of the <u>Bulletin</u>. This does not reflect on our hope to produce the <u>Bulletin</u> more frequently if the number of additions and amendments warrants it.

J. Mills
Hon. Editor
School of Librarianship
The Polytechnic of North London
2⁰7-225 Essex Road
London N1 3PN

Availability of BC2 schedules

The disappointing slowness with which the separate classes have been produced since publication began in 1977 was the subject of a recent BCA committee meeting and although it was assumed that progress would be much faster now that the exceptional Class H was completed, it was thought that some libraries would find it useful to use the penultimate draft schedule in those cases where the draft was unlikely to be changed very much. Unfortunately, this applies only to a few of the drafts; but on the principle of something is better than nothing it was decided to make these available to requesting libraries prepared to pay a small charge (to cover the cost of copying the schedule in question) and on the clear understanding that they would produce the final published version in the normal way. The schedules it is thought libraries may wish to use in this way are: A/AK Philosophy; Class AV Statistics and probability; S Law. Enquiries should be addressed to Mr. J. Mills, at the School of Librarianship, The Polytechnic of North London, 207-225 Essex Road, London N1 3PN.

Present position in publishing BC2 (May 1980)

N.b. Published classes are available from booksellers; or, in case of difficulty, from the publishers - Butterworth & Co. (Publishers) Ltd., Borough Green, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 8PH (Phone 0732 884567).

Published classes

Introduction and Auxiliary Schedules. 1977. (ISBN 0 408 70821 2)

Class I: Psychology and Psychiatry. 1978. (ISBN 0 408 70841 7)

Class J: Education. 1977. (ISBN 0 408 70829 8)

Class P: Religion, The Occult, Morals & ethics. 1977. (ISBN 0 408 70832 8)

Class Q: Social welfare. 1977. (ISBN 0 408 70833 6)

In press

Class H: Anthropology, human biology, health and medical sciences (156N 0408 70828 X)

Penultimate drafts issued, publication due in 1980/81

Class K: Social sciences (general): Sociology, Social anthropology

and Ethnography.

Class T: Economics, Management.

Penultimate drafts issued, awaiting finalization

Class A/AF Philosophy

Class AY Statistics and Probability

Class C Chemistry and Chemical technology

Class D/DF Astronomy

Class S Law

Class V Arts, Music, Recreative arts

Class W/Y Language and Literature

Class Z Library and information sciences (will be a numeral class in BC2)

Penultimate drafs in advanced state of preparation

Class AM Mathematics

Class B Physics

Class DS Meteorology

Class E Biology (general), Microbiology

Class F Botany

Class G Zoology

Class UA Agriculture and animal husbandry

BLISS CLASSIFICATION ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the

Annual General Meeting

held at the Library Association, 7 Ridgmount Street, Store Street, London, W.C.1., at 2.15 p.m. on Friday 11th January 1980.

J. Mills (Polytechnic of North London) Chairman and Hon. Editor, PRESENT: D.J. Campbell (personal member) Hon. Secretary, H.M. Barrett (Department of Health and Social Security) Hon. Treasurer and Membership Secretary, R.H. Hughes, (Commonwealth Institute) Hon. Publicity Officer, Christopher Beale (Royal Holloway College), Kenneth W. Best (Supreme Court Library), Keith G. Cheyney, (Haberdashers' Aske's School), Anthony G. Curwen (College of Librarianship Wales), Elizabeth Edwards (Pitt Rivers Museum, University of Oxford), Sue Egan, (National Council for One Parent Families), C.B. Evers, (National Council of Social Service), Graham W. Geoghegan, (University of Reading Education Library), Ronald Hughes (Balfour Library, Dept. of Zoology, University of Cambridge), Marion A. MacLeod, (Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge), Keith Morton, (King's Fund Centre), Elizabeth M. Russell (King's College, Cambridge), Suzanne Smiddy, (Office of Population Censuses and Surveys), Jean Stearns, (St. Martin's College Lancaster) Jennifer White, (King's Fund Centre).

Prefixes such as 'Mr.', 'Miss' are omitted from the above list in deference to a view expressed at the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from Margaret Walker (Tavistock Joint Library).

Mr. Mills welcomed the increased attendance.

1. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

These, circulated in the 1979 <u>Bulletin</u>, were approved. There were no matters arising not elsewhere on the agenda.

PROGRESS OF THE REVISION AND MATERIAL FOR THE NEXT BULLETIN.

Mr. Mills said that 1979 was the first year during which he had worked virtually without any regular help, and partly as a result, it was a disappointing year, most of which had been taken up by the enormously detailed, difficult and complex class H. It was particularly detailed, because of the standard set by MeSH (Medical Subject Headings) - it was felt that all concepts in MeSH should also be in BC2, and this had caused considerable trouble. For example a disease might have a name consisting of four or five words (as in Idiopathic hypercatabolic sub-valvular stenosis) and also two or three synonyms. Medical technology had grown enormously since BC1. However, class H really was now nearly finished and he hoped to get it off to Butterworths by the end of February.

Class K, on which a great deal had been done, would be the next completed, and then class T, a penultimate draft of which had been circulated, should be finished fairly quickly. He hoped to get K and T to Butterworths by the end of the year.

Since November 1979, the PNL had provided a "short-term research assistantship", which Vanda Broughton had fortunately accepted; this would end in April. He had applied for another assistantship, but had no idea when or if he would get it. He asked for comments, and a short article or two for the next Bulletin, which would appear in the early spring, and reiterated the need for feedback on schedules, however scrappy; it need not be written up so long as it was clear. A Cambridge member suggested a review of the book on BC2 by Arthur Maltby and Lindy Gill, and offered to ask Mr. Howorth of King's College library to write it. A list of users of BC2 was also suggested. The Chairman said that his information on this was imprecise; a questionnaire sent out in 1978 had not yielded the information sought. It was agreed to print a list of members, with known non-users asterisked. The Hon. Secretary suggested sending out a better drafted questionnaire in a year or two. A member suggested a list of reviews of the new edition for the Bulletin and Miss Egan asked if they could be reprinted. The Chairman said that this would take up a lot of room and asked for a volunteer to make a selection from them. Dr. Campbell volunteered.

HON. TREASURER'S REPORT.

Mr. Barrett passed round copies of the accounts (see p.9) and went through them. Subscriptions were not always paid in the year they were due, and receipts were slightly down. The investment in Charifund (a unit trust especially for charities) had been sold at a profit of nearly £100. The Association's assets at 31st July 1979 were £3133.25, of which £800.13 was the cost of the investment in Charibond (a unit trust invested in fixed-interest securities), £2317.53 was on deposit account yielding interest, and £15.59 on current account. About £650 had been spent on typing for the second edition since July 31st, and the figure (£20.72) in the accounts for this was quite abnormally low. The Association had 128 members (including thirteen personal and five children's schools) compared with 123 last year. The accounts were approved.

ELECTION OF HON. AUDITOR.

The Chairman said that the 1978-79 accounts had been audited for a very moderate fee by Mr. Robin Bonner. Mr. K. Best (who retired from the Committee during the A.G.M.) undertook to audit the accounts for 1979-80, and was thanked by the Chairman.

5. REVIEWS OF THE NEW EDITION.

Mr. Hughes said that he had suggested to Butterworths titles of periodicals to receive review copies; he understood that 36 copies of different parts had in fact been sent, but only about ten reviews had appeared. He asked what could be done about it. Dr. Campbell pointed out that copies were sent for favour of review, and publishers had no right to insist on reviews. He suggested twisting the arms, but gently of editors of the main library journals which had not printed reviews. Mr. Mills alluded to recent reviews and read part of Mr. Coates very favourable comment in a paper on Classification in information retrieval in Journal of Documentation, 34(4) (Dec.1978) p. 292.

6. ELECTIONS TO THE COMMITTEE.

The Hon. Secretary said that there were five vacancies; three were because Mr. Mills, Mr. Hughes and Mr. Morton had all completed six years of service as elected members, and were ineligible for further such service until a year had elapsed. (Mr. Mills and Mr. Hughes, as honorary officers still willing to serve, could be co-opted by the Committee). Mr. K. Best had decided to leave the Committee after five years elected service. Mrs. Wilkinson, elected last year for three years, had left King's College, Cambridge, and not being a personal member, had become ineligible.

To fill these vacancies the Committee had nominated Dr.Campbell, Mr. Geoghegan (who had both retired last year after five years elected service) and Mrs. J.B. Stearns, previously co-opted. The Hon. Secretary had received two other nominations: one from Mr. Arthur Maltby, of Mr. A.G. Curwen, and the other from Mrs. Elizabeth Russell, of Miss Marion MacLeod. Dr. Campbell said that it seemed best, as far as possible, to elect three members each year, and that therefore the candidate elected in place of Mrs. Wilkinson should be elected for two years; on grounds of age he thought this should be himself. The Chairman called for other nominations, and, receiving none, declared Mr. Curwen, Mr. Geoghegan, Miss MacLeod and Mrs. Stearns elected for three years, and Dr. Campbell for two years. A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Best and Mr. Morton, the two retiring members.

7. MR. MILLS SERVICE.

A vote of thanks for his work on BC2 was passed, and Dr. Campbell read a letter he had taken to Mr. Mills, with flowers, to 'cheer and encourage' his recovery from an operation.

BLISS CLASSIFICATION ASSOCIATION

Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31st July 1979

1978	RECEIPTS		1978	PAYMENTS	
366.84	Balance forward 1st August 1978	549.07	121.74	Expenses of 2nd edition	20.72
•	Subscriptions		41.11	Committee expenses	38.10
	Personal 21.76 Schools 10.00		69.05	Stationery and postage	8.75
473.98	Other institutions 430.88	462.64		Payment for purchase of 2nd edition on behalf of Center	
52.46	Sales of Bulletin	17.41	28.20	for Mental Health, Athens	adas
	Butterworths Royalty on 2nd		600.00	Purchase of investments	
355.90	edition	313.05		Balance in hand 31st July 1979)
	Distributions from M & G Securit Charifund 69.54	ies	549.07	Bank a/c Current 15.59 Bank a/c Deposit 2317.53	2333.12
108.24	Charibond 83.40	152.94			
**************************************	Sale of Charifund	798.04			
22.30	Interest on Bank Deposit a/c	100.75			
1.25	Postage refunds on 2nd edition	6.79			
28.20	Payment for purchase of 2nd edition on behalf of Center for Mental Health, Athens				
1409.17		€2400.69	1409.17		€2400.69

(Signed)..H.M..Barrett.....

Library,
Department of Health and Social Security,
Alexander Fleming House,
Elephant and Castle, London SEl
The Association's Assets at 31st July 1979
were as follows:
Investments (at cost)
Charibond
Cash at Bank
2048.73
Hon. Treasurer
Hon. Treasurer
800.13
2333.12
£3153.25

AUDITOR'S REPORT

I have examined the books, bank statements and other relevant papers of the Bliss Classification Association and find the above statement of accounts to be correct.

21 November 1979

57. Dorville Road, Stoke Newington Address

Bliss Classification Association: List of members (May 1980)

Institutional members in United Kingdom

The Librarian
Aslib
3 Belgrave Square
London SWIX 8PL

The Tutor-Librarian
Bath College of Higher Education
Newton Park
Newton St. Loe
Bath. BA2 9EN

The Librarian
Birkbeck College
Malet Street
London WC1E 7HX

The Librarian
Birmingham Polytechnic North Centre
Franchise Street
Perry Barr
Birmingham B42 2SU

The Librarian
School of Education
University of Birmingham
P O Box 363
Birmingham 15 2TT

The Librarian
Sibthorp Library
Bishop Grosseteste College
Lincoln LN1 3DY

Department of Communication and European Studies Brighton Polytechnic Falmer Brighton BN1 9PH

British Library (Library
Association Library)
7 Ridgmount Street
London WCIE 7AE

The Librarian
Burmah Oil Trading Ltd
Burmah House
Pipers Way
Swindon
Wilts. SN3 1RE

The Librarian
University of Cambridge
Institute of Criminology
7 West Road
Cambridge CB3 9DT

The Librarian
University of Cambridge
Department of Education
17 Trumpington Street
Cambridge CB2 1PT

The Librarian
University of Cambridge
Department of Zoology
Balfour Library
Downing Street
Cambridge CB2 3EJ

The Librarian
Canterbury College of Arts
St. Peter's Lane
Canterbury. Kent.

The Principal Information
Officer
Centre for Information and
Advice on Educational
Disadvantage
11 Anson Road
Manchester M14 5BY

Cheshire County Council
Research Library
County Hall
Chester CHI 1SF

The Librarian
Chester College
Cheyney Road
Chester CHl 4BJ

The Librarian
College of Librarianship Wales
Llanbadarn Fawr
Aberystwyth
Dyfed SY23 3AS

The Librarian Commonwealth Institute Kensington High Street London WB

The Librarian
Dr. Barnardo's
Tanners Lane
Barkingside
Essex IG6 1QG

The Librarian
University of Durham
Institute of Education
Old Shire Hall
Durham DHL 3HP

The Director
School of Library and
Information Studies
Ealing College of Higher
Education
Woodlands Avenue
London W3 9DN

The Librarian Exeter College Oxford

The Librarian
Fitzwilliam College
Cambridge CB3 ODG

The Librarian
Froebel Institute College
of Education
Grove House
Roehampton Lane
London SW15 5PJ

The Librarian, Periodicals Department Glasgow University Library Glasgow W2

The Librarian
Goldsmith's College
New Cross
London SE14 6NW

The Librarian
Haberdashers' Aske's School
Butterfly Lane
Elstree
Herts WD6 3AF

Haddon Library
Cambridge University Faculty of
Archaeology and Anthropology
Downing Street
Cambridge CB2 3DZ

The Librarian
Department of Health and Social
Security
Alexander Fleming House
Elephant and Castle
London SEL 6BY

The Librarian
Homerton College
Cambridge CB2 2PH

The Librarian
University of Hull Institute of
Education
Cottingham Road
Hull HU6 7RX

The Librarian
Institute of Cancer Research
Royal Cancer Hospital
34 Sumner Place
London SW7 3NU

The Librarian
University of Keele Institute of
Education
Keele
Staffs ST5 5BG

The Librarian
Kings College
Cambridge CB2 1ST

The Librarian
King's Fund Centre
126 Albert Street
London NW1 7NF

The Librarian University of Lancaster Bailrigg Lancaster

The Librarian
Leeds Polytechnic Department
of Librarianship
28 Park Place
Leeds LS1 2SY

Mr. K G B Bakewell
Department of Library and
Information Studies
Liverpool Polytechnic
Tithebarn Street
Liverpool L2 2ER

The Librarian
Humanities Library
Liverpool Polytechnic
Walton House
Tithebarn Street
Liverpool L2 2NG

Periodicals Department
University of London Library
Senate House
London WClE 7HU

The Librarian
Periodicals Department
University College London
Gower Street
London W C 1

Long Ashton Research Station
Bristol University
(Agricultural Dept)
Long Ashton
Bristol BS18 9AF

The Director
Loughborough Technical College
School of Librarianship
Radmoor
Ashby Road
Loughboriugh.
Leicestershire

The Librarian
Malvern Girls College
Malvern
Worcester WR14 3AR

The Serials Librarian
Manchester Polytechnic
Central Library
All Saints Building
Grosvenor Square
Manchester M15 6BH

The Librarian Charlotte Mason College Ambleside Cumbria LA22 9BB

The Librarian
Merton College
Oxford

The Librarian
National College of Food Technology
University of Reading
St. George's Avenue
Weybridge. Surrey KT13 ODE

The Information Officer
National Council for One Parent
Families
255 Kentish Town Road
London NW5 2LX

Information Department National Council of Social Service 26 Bedford Square. London WClB 3HU

The Librarian
National Foundation for Educational
Research
The Mere
Upton Park. Slough. Bucks. SLl 2DQ

The Librarian
National Institute for Social Work
Maryland House
5-7 Tavistock Place
London WClH 9SS

The Librarian
Newcastle upon Tyne Polytechnic
Ellison Buildings
Ellison Place
Newcastle upon Tyne NEl 8ST

The Librarian
University of Newcastle upon Tyne
Institute of Education
St. Thomas Street
Newcastle upon Tyne. 1

Balfour Library
Pitt Rivers Museum
Parks Road
Oxford. OX1 3PP

The Library
The School of Librarianship
Polytechnic of North London
207-225 Essex Road
London Nl 3PN

The Librarian
Oxford Regional Health Authority
Old Road
Headington
Oxford OX3 7LF

The Librarian
Office of Population Censuses
and Surveys
St. Catherines House
10 Kingsway
London WC28 6JP

The Librarian
Priory Upper School
Mountfield Road
Lewes. East Sussex.

The Librarian
Department of Library Studies
Queens University
Belfast BT7 1NN

The Librarian
Reading University Education
Library
London Road
Reading. Berks RG1 5AQ

The Principal Librarian
Robert Gordon's Institute
of Technology
St. Andrew Street
Aberdeen AB1 1HG

The Librarian
Royal Belfast Academical
Institution
Belfast. Northern Ireland

The Librarian Royal Bota**n**ic Garden Library Edinburgh EH3 5LR

The Librarian
Royal Holloway College
Englefield Green
Egham. Surrey.

The Librarian
Royal Institution
21 Albermarle Street
London W 1

The Librarian
St. Martin's College
Bowerham Road
Lancaster LAL 3JD

The Librarian
Scottish Council for Research
in Education
16 Moray Place
Edinburgh EH3 6DR

The Librarian Scottish Health Service Centre Crewe Road South Edinburgh EH4 2LF

Central Library
Sheffield City Libraries
Surrey Street
Sheffield Sl 1XZ

The Librarian Sheffield University Sheffield SlO 2TN

The Librarian
Sheffield University Institute
of Education
The University
Western Bank. Sheffield S10 2TN

The Head of the Department of
Librarianship
University of Strathclyde
Livingstone Tower
Richmond Street
Glasgow

The Librarian Stretford Grammar School for Boys Great Store Road Stretford M32 OXA

The Librarian Tavistock Centre 120 Belsize Lane London NW3 5BA

The Librarian
Wellcome Foundation Library
Temple Hill
Dartford. Kent DAL 5AH

The Librarian/Information Officer Welsh Water Authority Cambrian Way Brecon, Powys. LD3 7HP

The Chief Librarian
West London Institute of
Higher Education
Borough Road
Isleworth. Middx. TW7 5DU

Institutional members abroad (Australia)

The Librarian
Periodicals Department
Monash University
Clayton
Victoria. Australia 3168

National Library of Australia Processing Branch NC 278/69 Canberra A.C.T. 2600 Australia The Librarian
Queensland Institute of Technology
George Street
Brisbane
Queensland 4000. Australia

Central Library (Serials)
Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology
376-392 Swanston Street
Melbourne
Victoria. Australia

The Librarian
University of Tasmania
Box 252C G P 0
Hobart
Tasmania. Australia 7001

The Librarian
Western Australia Institute of Technology
Hayman Road
Bentley South
Western Australia 6102. Australia

(Canada)

Universite de Montreal Ecole de Bibliotheconomie C P 6128 Montreal. Quebec. Canada.

The Library Science Library
McGill University
3459 McTavish Street
Montreal. Quebec. Canada H3A 1Y1

The Librarian
Collections Development Department
School of Library and Information
Science
University of Western Ontario
London 72
Ontario. Canada N6A 5B9

The Librarian
University of Toronto Faculty of
Library Science Room 408
140 St. George Street
Toronto. Ontario. Canada M5S 1Al

(Denmark)

Periodicals Department Odense Universitetsbiblioteket Campusvej 55 5230 Odense M Denmark

(Israel)

Ms M Dacy Notre Dame de Sion P O B 17015 Ein Karem Jerusalem. Israel.

(New Zealand)

National Library of New Zealand Private Bag Wellington New Zealand

The Librarian
University of Otago
P O Box 56
Dunedin. New Zealand

(Norway)

Universitetsbiblioteket University of Bergen Bergen. Norway.

Universitetsbiblioteket Drammersveien L2-B Oslo 2. Norway.

(South Africa)

The City Librarian City of Johannesburg Public Library Market Square Johannesburg. South Africa 2001.

(Singapore)

The Director National Library of Singapore Stanford Singapore.

(Sweden)

Hogskolan i Boras Biblioteket Box 55067 5000 05 Boras 5 Sweden

(U.S.A.)

The Librarian (Serials Dept General Library) University of California Berkeley California 94720. U.S.A.

The School of Library Science Library Case Western Reserve University Cleveland Ohio 44106. U.S.A.

Serials Records Department University of Chicago Library Chicago. Illinois 60637. U.S.A.

The Library Service Library Columbia University 606 Butler Library New York 10027. U.S.A.

The Serials Department University of Denver Library Colarado 80208. U.S.A.

The Librarian
Harvard College Library Serials Division
Cambridge
Massachusetts 02138. U.S.A.

The Serials Department University of Illinois Library Urbana Illinois 61801. U.S.A.

The Serials Department Indiana University Library Bloomington Indiana 47401. U.S.A.

Serials Department Kent State University Library Kent. Ohio. U.S.A.

The Order Division Library of Congress Washington DC 20540 U.S.A.

The Librarian University of Maryland CLIS Library College Park Maryland 20742. U.S.A.

The Librarian University of Minnesota Libraries Minneapolis Minnesota 55455. U.S.A.

The Librarian
Periodicals Section
State University of New York
at Albany
1400 Washington Avenue
Albany. New York 12222. U.S.A.

The Serials Department
Lockwood Memorial Library Annex
State University of New York at
Buffalo
Buffalo. New York 14214. U.S.A.

Serials Department
University of North Carolina
Chapel Hill
Wilson Library 024-A
Chapel Hill
North Carolina 27514. U.S.A.

The Librarian Serials Dept. University of Oregon Library Eugene Oregon 97403. U.S.A.

The Director
Simmons College School of
Library Science
300 The Fenway
Boston.
Massachusetts 02115. U.S.A.

Central Serials Records
The General Libraries
University of Texas at Austin
Austin
Texas 78712. U.S.A.

The Librarian, Periodicals Dept. Vanderbilt University
Nashville
Tenessee. 37240. U.S.A.

H.W. Wilson Company, 950 University Avenue Bronx New York. 10452. U.S.A.

Mr W.L. Stockey
John Wood Community College
1919 North 18th Street
Quincy
Illinois 62301. U.S.A.

Private Members

Mr. T.P. Alburger
Box 1553
Deep River
Ontario. Canada. KOJ IPO

Mr. K. Best 12 Lynwood Gardens Hook Basingstoke Hants. RG27 9DT. England.

Mr. R.A. Bonner
57 Darville Road
Stoke Newington
London N.16 7PT. England.

Dr. D.J. Campbell 60 Woodcote Valley Road Purley. Surrey. CR2 3BD. England.

Mr. A. Croghan 91 Cranwich Road London N16 5JA. England. Ms L. de G. Gill 52 Oak Village London NW5 4QL England.

Mr. J.P. Langridge 13 Widmer Court Vicarage Farm Road Hounslow. Middlesex. TW3 4NL England.

Mr. A. Maltby 38 Kirkbank Road Burntisland Fife. Scotland.

Miss F Moran
32 Station Road
Woolton
Liverpool. L25 3PZ
England.

Miss S. Soto Jose Hernandez 2484 piso 12, dto "B" 1426 Buenos Aires Argentina. A Summary of reviews of, and published comments on the 2nd Edition of the Bibliographic Classification

by

D. J. Campbell

In this summary any criticisms, unless very lengthy, are reproduced in full, whereas explanations of the faceted structure and other features, which will be well known to all readers of the <u>Bulletin</u>, are omitted unless unusually interesting.

One of the most favourable comments, in an article on 'Classification in information retrieval...' by E. J. Coates in J. Doc. 34(4). (Dec. 1978) 292-293) is reproduced in full: 'It is not too early to speak of the second edition of the Bliss Bibliographical Classification (BC2) as a major success, even though so far only four of a projected twenty parts have been published. The parts which have appeared (Introduction and Auxiliary Schedules, Education, Social Welfare, Religion) are a success on their own account. Here, perhaps for the first time, can be seen, at the detailed level, the embodiment of most of the theory of classification from 1933 onwards. Revision is an inappropriate term to give to the process of inserting a fully faceted structure into the remarkably accommodating shell bequeathed by Henry Bliss. BC2 combines the syntactic versatility of the Colon Classification with much of the BC1 philosophy on simplicity of notation. It is, at the moment, up to date in content, and in detail pitched somewhere between monograph and journal article level, often nearer the latter. Reception of the parts so far available suggests that despite the claims of the established classifications as de facto standards, and despite the view that all classifications are defective and that there is little to choose between them, there is also a decided hunger for the best that modern classification can produce. When the decision to review BC was taken it was questioned whether any library would adopt the revised scheme, whatever its merits. Now that the first parts have appeared, it seems likely that BC2 will not lack for takers. In broadest terms, the real achievement of BC2 is that it has gone so far in closing the gap between classification theory and practice, that it demonstrates the theory in real life, and thus permits assessment of such factors as the cost of applying it, its communicability for teaching purposes, and the satisfaction offered to (and accepted by) the ultimate user. The second of these factors could be of greater than usual importance in the present case. A generation of students in library and information science have been taught classification theory, only to find that there is no general classification scheme which fully shows it forth. BC2 is in process of changing this, but as will appear from what follows, only just in time'.

Coates goes on to criticize the classification policy followed by the British National Bibliography (BNB) since 1970, based on published Dewey without the former additions.

An earlier comment, in an article as 'Revision of classification' schemes, policies, and practices' by Anthony G. Curwen, in <u>Journal of Librarianship</u>, <u>10(1)</u>, (Jan. 1978), 29-31, asks:

'How then does Bliss's Bibliographic Classification (BC) stand in comparison with the three great schemes DDC, LCC and UDC? Is it the necessary and continuing by-product of the work of a great library? No. Is it used in a large number of libraries throughout the world? No. Is it backed by a large organization? No. It is well funded? No. Is its author still alive? No. Is the last edition reasonably up to date? No. On this evidence one could be forgiven for concluding that Bliss's classification, conceived in the United States when DCC and LCC were already established, is past saving and can now be relegated to the textbooks, in the chapters on Other Historic Schems with Many Interesting Features, along with Brown's Subject and Cutter's Expansive classifications.

So why will it not lie down and die? The reasons are to be found in the best features of the original scheme and in the faith, determination and vision of many of its users. The reputation of BC was firmly established on (i) a sound order of main classes (disciplines and subdisciplines); (ii) careful attention to the best collocation of related subjects at all levels; (iii) regard for what Bliss called the scientific and educational consensus; (iv) liberal provision of alternatives; and (v) brief class marks...

What is certain is that his scheme appealed to librarians working in many different academic and special libraries, not least those dealing with eduacation. The fact that he provided so many alternative locations for subjects and so many alternative arrangements within subjects — one of the most attractive and valuable features of the schem — shows that he recognised that his consensus was by no means of general or permanent application...

On the debit side, the scheme could be faulted for (i) lack of provision for many topics, despite the publication of a number of revision bulletins in the 1950s and 1960s; (ii) uneven provision; (iii) incomplete or inconsistent analysis; (iv) inconsistent provision for synthesis, and lack of filing order for synthesized classes; and (v) a poor general index...

The reasoning behind this decision to revise radically, building a modern faceted structure on the foundations has been well arguel by the editor, Jack Mills; BC cannot hope to command large resources nor appear in profit—making new editions every seven years, like DDC; so a radical revision once and for all in line with modern classificatory thinking should produce a scheme with a sound structure which could thereafter be maintained with minimal revision for the foreseeable future...

It is far too early to attempt an assessment of the revised scheme the only reliable test is application to libraries' stocks - but some indication of the scope, possibilities and defects in the first volumes may be given here...

Introduction and auxiliary schedules... Although some sections tend to repeat, sometimes more fully, what has been said in others, this is a classic exposition of the case for a modern bibliographic classification, and much of it is worth reading by practising librarians and students, whether or not they are concerned with BC...

Class volumes. ... Each volume contains an introduction... To a certtain extent they duplicate and enlarge on the general introduction, but the former is still absolutely essential reading if the scheme is to be fully understood...

Brickbats. Reduced and printed for camera-ready copy, the type-size is minute. The print is also (in my copies) rather uneven in depth, tending to greyness... there is very little room for making notes and amendments.

Apart from a summary index of places, there is no index to the auxiliary schedules, which are very extensive.

Despite the editor's notes on indexes and index construction, those in classes J, P and Q are by no means perfect. Consider:

Accommodation	•	entry)
Rate rebates	QHQ	V
Rebates	·	
Rent	QHQ	U
Rent increases	QHQ	X
Rented accommodation	QHO	· . :
Rents	QHQ	·

The instructions for the application of the scheme, especially for the synthesizing of classes, need very careful reading indeed, whether they occur in the general introduction, introductions to the individual classes or in the schedules. There are still places where these instructions are inaccurate or confusing...

Thus at PNK under Church organization and administration, there should be a note to "add to PN the letters K/X following PF in PFK/PFX (of which the following is a selection)". This in turn affects the instruction at JLC G, Religious bodies, denominational schools: Sunday schools should be JLC NQO. In Auxiliary Schedule 1, the note under 9J, Influence by another subject, must surely be wrong: the alternative not recommended is to subordinate to the influencing subject using 9K.

Most serious, the instructions for synthesis using intercalators (I shall not attempt to explain them here) can be very tricky. It is therefore doubly unfortunate that there is a meticulous explanation of one of the problems at section 7.454.8 (pages 79-80) of the general introduction which shows two alternative methods and recommends the second in the interests of consistent practice —— a recommendation which is flatly contradicted in section 8.2 (page xiii) of Class J, using the same part of the schme for its example.

Is the scheme too British? Much of it is based ---often explicitly---on British usage and British social and administrative structures. The extensive schedule at QFC/QFM, Social security, is a good example...

Auxiliary schedule 2, Places, is generally very well conceived and expanded... but I regret that administrative areas are often crudely translated into English equivalents without giving the vernacular for reference... Similarly, several place names are only given in their Anglicized forms ... whereas travel and television (to say nothing of programmes of Universal Bibliographic Control) are making the local forms more familiar.

The lack of diacriticals is excusable, but there are still too many misprints ... errors in the index, or in cross-references, instructions and examples in the text can be extremely time-wasting.

Bouquets. Notwithstanding the criticisms expressed in the last section, I believe the scheme promises great rewards for those who are prepared to take the trouble to study it and to apply it with professional skill and understanding... [The "selling points" are then discussed The detail and precision which can be achieved, taken overall, go far beyond anything in DDC or LCC so somewhere between the medium and full levels of UDC, perhaps...

Alternatives in BC2 are invaluable, although at first sight they do complicate the schedules. Once they have been assessed and the best ones selected for the needs of a particular library, the remainder can be deleted... An option to appear later will at last give geographers a single place for all aspects of their subject, DT/DY at the end of the Earth sciences.

BC2 can certainly produce exotic classmarks, but Mills's recommendation in the general introduction ... should not be overlooked: analyse the subject and record the full classmark somewhere ... and use a shorter classmark if necessary for shelving. "A six-character classmark can be assumed to be a tolerable maximum in any context".

Let the scheme speak for itself. [There follow six examples of highly specific publications taken from BNB in which the BC2 notation is worked out in detail and the DDC number given for comparison.] ...

Well, the proof of the pudding is in the eating (it will surely be possible to synthesize a classmark for that in due course) and we shall watch with interest the reactions of those libraries which apply BC2, notably the ... Tavistock Clinic Joint Library, which has received a grant from the British Library to reclassify from BC1 to BC2. It is too much to hope that every library in the United Kingdom which would like to reclassify will receive similar generosity: word might get back to the British Library that there is a scheme it should adopt for its own use. (9 references)

The two extensive comments above are extracted from articles not concerned only with BC2. Some account of explicit reviews is now given, taking them as far as possible, in date order:

Catalogue & Index, no. 46, (Autumn 1977) p. 5-7. Reviewer Norman Roberts, Postgraduate School of Library and Information Science, University of Sheffield:

The decision to publish in this manner (in parts) is to be commended. Not only does it provide a series of special classifications in handy form but it is the only way of convincing the library world that BC2 is alive, well and kicking and likely to be a serious contender in future classification stakes... Because of the wealth of material which it contains, and because of its straightforward presentation, the Introduction seems destined to become required reading for tyro librarians.

Seeing these schedules is like meeting old and familiar friends in formal dress; there is an element of surprise, but not much... The central ideas which inform the work have been common, perhaps the only, surrency among classificationists for years past. Most librarians who have been through the formal system of professional education will experience a sense of recognition as they examine the schedule. They have been prepared intellectually, if not practically, for the appearance of

just such a scheme of classification. However, this high degree of familiarity should blind no one to the magnitue of an accomplishment achieved with the minimum of resources. Without doubt BC2 appears as a major bibliographic classification, soundly based on literary warrant and reflecting modern classificatory principles and practices to an extent which renders it technically superior, at all levels, to its main competitors, the Dewey and Library of Congress schemes and, probably, in most respects, to the Universal Decimal Classification.

... the degree of continuity between the arrangements of the two editions is remarkable, bearing convincing witness to the validity of Bliss ideas regarding the order and relationships of the main areas of knowledge. ... but BC2 is not a simple updating of the first edition. Within the noted stable framework a revolution has taken place...

It is not a difficult matter to demonstrate the superiority of BC2 over its only faceted rival, the Colon Classification, yet everyone must recognise that BC2 was possible only because of the convincing success of the theoretical ideas underlying CC. The two schemes demonstrate vividly the value and success of cumulating research and practical experience. This lesson, long learned in the sciences. has yet to be fully assimilated in librarianship and information science. As a result, the cause of a general, faceted, classification which had languished in the fundamentalism, biases and terminological absurdities of the Colon Classification, has been given new life and impetus. The way is now open to a more widespread, practical acceptance of the faceted ideas which Ranganathan introduced. Whether this practical potential will be realised is problematical; but it may be asserted with certainty that the business of interesting tyro librarians in the problem of evolving modern classifications ... is considerably eased by the appearance of BC2...

However effusively BC2 may be lauded by reviewers for its technical and philosophical qualities it has to be accepted that the justification of so many years labour lies in the degree of general and practical acceptance and implementation... Questions must then be asked. Has BC2 arrived too late? Have centralising tendencies now made it impossible for a new classification scheme to break the barrier of general acceptance by libraries? At this stage the prospects are uncertain. The technical matter of securing acceptance by the centralised cataloguing agencies may be difficult, but not impossible. Although essential for long term success, this may be the lesser problem. There is a need, also, to change the attitude of the majority of librarians towards classification in libraries... The classification schemes which they employ are demonstrably inept, inefficient, imprecise, and responsible, in part, for a persisting unfavourable image of librarians and librarianship...

Why do librarians remain wedded to classification schemes notorious for their imprecision and inability to reflect current states of thought and their literatures? Why do they prefer the ancient to the modern? The usual answer runs along the following lines. Classification schemes are much of a muchness... It is true that there is a certain amount of experimental evidence to support the idea of classification schemes being as good, or as bad, as each other. Evidence for the acceptance of such a view in libraries and among users? however, is completely lacking. There is a wealth of anecdotal evidence to show that, for many individuals, certain groupings of material are regarded as confusing, mystifying, frustrating incomprehensible and beyond rational understanding.

The case favouring the retention of the ramshackle classifications now being made to work with increasing difficulty may be strong but it is not

overwhelming. It owes much of its strength to the past lack of an obviously superior alternative and to the development of an indifference towards
classification in libraries which, in turn, appears to be a product of an
ignorance of user-classification relationships and an uncritical acceptance of what have come to be regarded as administrative imperatives. If
it is no longer possible to argue that available classification schemes
are not significantly different then it follows that the success of BC2
will depend to which librarians can be persuaded that classificatory
benefits to library users outweigh administrative costs. The need is
for evidence if this is to happen. Do we care sufficiently about one
of our main tools of literature exploitation to ensure that it does
happen?

This review by Norman Roberts led to a longish letter in the following issue of <u>Catalogue & Index</u> (pp. 7-8) from Ross Trotter, Head, Dewey Section, British Library BSD, who accuses Mr. Roberts of 'bias' while admitting his own. He criticizes BC2 for its layout and printing, its multi-volume presentation, praises the Introduction as 'a brilliantly written piece of work' but thinks it more suitable for a book on classification! He criticizes the faceting, the hierarchy, the treatment of interdisciplinary works, the handling of alternatives, the index, and the outline of the whole scheme, concluding:

The choice is therefore between BCII and Dewey. Although BCII is by far the more specific, and although it claims to have a more rational and logical construction I cannot envisage it displacing Dewey as the most used scheme in in Britain. It lacks Dewey's notational simplicity, its monolithic unity, its extensive and international machinery of revision. And what about BCII versus BCI? I think that libraries using the latter will find it almost impossible to change over --- BCII is not just an updated scheme, its revision is so extensive and extends to such basics that it is virtually a new scheme. As BCI stood as a monument to Bliss and more or less dies with him I'm very afraid that BCII will stand as a monument to Jack Mills in the same way. I sincerely hope I am proved wrong in this, but in an age when librarianship is becoming more and more dependent on the computer... in an age when the existing classifications are increasingly being forced on to the defensive, one can only question the wisdom of such a major undertaking as BCII... new classification, and BCII is that, will find it exceedingly hard to make a corresponding impact, unless it shows itself to be overwhelmingly superior to those already in use, and BCII, on the present evidence, fails this test?.

This letter in turn produced another in no. 48, page 8, from Mr. David Evans, Leeds Polytechnic School of Librarianship, intermediate between Mr. Roberts and Mr. Trotter. He criticizes the notation, praises other features, and concludes:

I entirely agree with Norman Roberts that BC2 scores heavily over CC, but surely the absolutely basic factor here is that the former can be used without recourse to facet formulas or theorizing about general categories. The solutions to these questions are built into the layout in a straightforward way and it is this resolution of so many theoretical difficulties in a series of inverted schedules that particularly commends itself. One certainly hopes that BC2 will make the impact that its clarity of conception and years of endeavour seem to deserve.

Although review copies of the first four parts of BC2 were sent to nearly fifty library, information science and other journals, mainly but not only in the English-speaking world, few seem to have thought it worthy of review and

the next review comes from a publication, apparently monthly, to which I have no access, called Documentation on Books, published by the European Foundation for Management Development, in the Netherlands. The review is unsigned.

'This volume is a completely revised edition of the Bibliographic Classification of H.E. Bliss. The fundamental reasons for this may be summarised as follows: The vocabulary of BC1 badly needed extensive updating and expansion. The detailed specification needed by the numerous special and semi-special libraries which are likely to be major users of BC could not be provided without extensive expansion of the facilities for synthesis, or composite specification as Bliss preferred to call it. Large scale synthesis imposes on a scheme a demand for a consistent and predictable pattern. Consistency and predictability were also essential requirements if BC is to be maintained and revised smoothly and economically in the future. These demands constituted four interlocking criteria for a new edition... The BC is a general library classification suitable in the first place for general information collections, but possessing features which should enable specialized collections to adjust it to particular requirements...*

No praise or adverse criticism is included.

Bulletin des Bibliotheques de France, 23(1), (Jan. 1978), 49-50. Reviewer Marie Therese Laureilhe. Translated by the compiler of this selection.

The Bibliographic Classification of Bliss, the principles of which were established early in the present century, but which was only published in its complete form between 1940 and 1953, is little known in France, not being in use there, at least in public libraries. It represents an interesting attempt to be practical and to keep sensible account of the relations between varied spheres of knowledge. Their author did his best to provide answers to the faults of older schemes, particularly those of Dewey... Bliss's plan to do this is seen in Class P, Religion, Ethics, etc. Dewey had been reproached for giving the predominant place to Christianity, at the expense of oriental religions, and, within Christianity, to churches formed as a result of the Reformation, at the expense of Roman Catholicism. The Bliss Classification gives more importance to non-Christian religions, and if Dewey and the UDC provide detailed divisions for the Bible, and none for other sacred books, Bliss provides subdivisions for the Avestas, the sacred books of Taoism, Buddhism and Judaism (apart from the Bible). The occult forms part of the same class, an arguable decision. Dewey and UDC were probably right to put it with philosophy... The table of place names is very detailed, but does not always take account of geography; thus for France it is divided by regions, and the arrangement of departements is surprising, and the same is true of Spain...

In spite of these detailed criticisms, we can say that this is a very scholarly classification, and it would be interesting to translate it if libraries would use it. It represents a huge effort of coherent organisation and is interesting for classification theorists to study.'

International Classification, (5)2, (1978), 43-44. Reviewer K.G.B. Bakewell, Liverpool Polytechnic. This is a fairly long review and there is only room here for extracts.

We have waited a long time for the revised edition of the Bliss Bibliographic Classification; now it has begun to appear - and the first four volumes indicate that it has been well worth waiting for. ...

So many and fundamental are the changes in this second edition (BC2) that one might at first question whether it should still be called the Bliss

Classification. ... However, the comparative table on pages 21-27 of Volume 1 shows that the extensive alterations take place within classes and that Bliss's main class structure remains basically unchanged — which is indeed as it should be since this has always been accepted as the most satisfactory main class order of all the general classification schemes. And it is Bliss's portrait which appears as the frontispiece to Volume 1.

...Volume 1 is entitled Introduction and Auxiliary Schedules, but this is far too modest a title. ... it also includes three general sections which can be used with profit by anybody concerned with the organisation of library and information services, whether by BC or some other system. ... There is also a short and very readable biography of Bliss by Dr. D.J. Campbell.

There are two unfortunate errors in Section 6.422, on BC's retroactive notation, which appears to have been written from an earlier draft of Class J. We are told

"For example, in Education (Class J)

Audio-visual aids is JJN

Biology (in the curriculum) is JKQ

Secondary education is JN

and from these elements compound classes may be built
(synthesized):

Biology teaching - Audio-visual aids JKQ JN

Secondary education - Audio-visual aids JNJ N

Secondary education - Biology teaching - Audio
visual aids JNK QJN"

In fact Audio-visual aids is JIE and Biology (in the curriculum) is JKT E, so that the notations for the examples given should be JKT EIE, JNI E and JNK TEI E.

... The retroactive principle allows far more detailed classification than is possible with any other general scheme. Thus, a document on coming into being among the Australian aborigines is classified at PHY LBE EG, the notation being built up from the following elements:

PEE G Religious beliefs relating to fertility
PHY LB Australian aborigines religions

Some may find an 8-letter notation unacceptable, but I was told at the Tavistock Joint Library, which is already reclassifying by BC2, that (a) excessively long notations are the exception rather than the rule and (b) there is no evidence of reader resistance to long notations, while library staff find them more helpful for shelving and shelf-tidying than the short notations produced by broad classification, which have to be subdivided alphabetically by author. Libraries do not, of course, have to use the whole notation for shelving purposes - this document could be shelved at PHY LB or PHY L (Australonesian religions).

When I reviewed the second edition of The Unesco: IBE Education Thesaurus for Education Libraries Bulletin, I tested it against some titles taken at random from British Education Index. I decided to try classifying some of these titles by Class J of BC2 and the results were generally satisfactory:

Creativity and curriculum structure JKC EID
Raising of the school leaving age JDR 0
Teaching the understanding of developing countries JKT 3D3 EIK C
An integrated studies course in the sciences and the humanities in a Nottinghamshire secondary school JKT AZ3 KSC J8EM V
Smoking amongst grammar school girls JNO LFE MG
(=Behaviour amongst grammar school girls)

I wonder how many other general classification schemes would be able to cope so well with such specific subjects?

One of the worst features of BC1 was its index, which was often inaccurate as well as being uneconomical (frequently repeating the subdivisions of the schedules) and inconsistent. BC2 being a fully faceted scheme, its indexes list only concepts and therefore are not likely to repeat BC1's lack of economy. I carried out a spot check of the indexes to Classes J, P and Q to test their accuracy and consistency and detected two errors: Examinations should be JFL, not JFD, and Temperance should be QNU ET, not QNU ESS. I should also like to see an entry under Parent—Teacher Relations as well as Teacher—Parent Relations. I could not carry out a spot check of the index to Volume 1, as there is none apart from an inadequate and hard to find index to places.

Another fault of BC1 was its presentation, with lack of pagination for the schedules and scattering of the systematic auxiliary schedules. We now have pagination, and the auxiliary schedules which remain are together in Volume 1, but otherwise I found the presentation of BC2 inferior to that of BC1. Classification schemes are not, it is true, meant to be read continuously, but there are sections of this, particularly in Volume 1, which are designed to be so read and (as I have suggested earlier in this review) deserve to be so read. Unfortunately I cannot recommend them to anybody who is as short-sighted as I am - my bifocal spectacles found them very difficult!

Was is worth doing, and would Bliss have approved of the result? To deal with the second question first, I believe the answer must be "yes". Bliss was a progressive, and he would surely have wanted to take advantage of the work of the other classification genius of the century, Ranganathan, and his followers. Dr. Campbell refers in his biographical note to the appreciative and encouraging letters which Bliss wrote to Ranganathan in 1933 when Colon Classification was published.

Was it worth doing? It is not likely to challenge the two giants, Dewey and Library of Congress, even though it is going to be a much better scheme than either. But there are many libraries, especially in Britain, classified by BC1 and it is up to them to accept the challenge of the revision. At least one library, the Tavistock Joint Library in London, has begun to use BC2 and others have indicated their intention of doing so. Publication in parts means that special libraries can take advantage of the revision without having to worry about lack of provision for fringe topics, which might be the case if they compiled their own schedules. Compilers of classification schemes will be able to use the BC2 schedules as a source of inspiration and ideas - Jack Mills knows that my colleagues and I have been doing this in our revision of The London Classification of Business Studies. Yes, it was worth doing and the result is far too good to be regarded simply as an excellent teaching tool, a monument to the dedication of its three compilers, and a memorial to a great American classificationist who had to look outside his own country to find appreciation of his work.

Australian Academic and Research Libraries, 9(4), (Dec. 1978), 210-214, headed 'A new life for Bliss'. Reviewer, Michael J. Ramsden, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology.

'The publication of a new general library classification scheme is a comparatively rare event; the last new scheme of any note was probably Fremont Rider's International Classification, which appeared in 1961. Now,

Classification (BC2) which is so fundamentally different from the original full edition of 1940-54 (BC1) as virtually to amount to a new scheme. The main class order of Bliss's original scheme —— always its best feature —— remains substantially as it was, but the internal order and framework of the individual classes has been entirely restructured...

The <u>Bibliographic Classification</u> is the only major general library classification scheme whose main class order has been carefully worked out from a clear theoretical foundation ... [and] is clearly superior to that of the other major schemes. To a large extent this order is preserved in the new edition, although some additions have been made to accommodate developments in knowledge since 1954; for example Systemology, including Systems theory, Cybernetics, Organization theory, etc., is located at AX, where it appears at the beginning of the empirical sciences. Other minor changes reflect a recognition of "disciplines as classes reflecting distinct forms of knowledge"; thus the Occult, previously to a larger extent subsumed under Folklore in K, now appears as a separate class at PX.

Any classification whose main classes are based on disciplines poses problems when the need arises to classify a document which deals comprehensively with an entity. Thus in the Dewey Decimal Classification we can class railway transport in 385, railway engineering in 625.1 or the administration of railways in 658.385; however, we cannot classify a document which deals comprehensively with all aspects of railways except by subordinating it to one aspect... the new edition provides for the situation by providing a new and comprehensive class for Phenomena (i.e. attributes, activities and processes, entities and interdisciplinary subjects such as communication) which accommodates multi-discipline studies and files at 4/9, ahead of the sequence of discipline-based main classes. Documentation and library science form part of this new general class.

Within the established framework of main classes the scheme has been extensively restructured... The principles are those of facet analysis... The sometimes complicated and frequently inconsistent apparatus of "systematic auxiliary schedules" has been replaced by generally applicable auxiliary schedules (i.e. tables of common subdivisions) which are more detailed than those in other general library classification schemes, and by schedules founded upon a rigorous subject analysis which are mechanized by a retroactive notation to give complete hospitality in chain... The new edition may thus be said to be truly analytico-synthetic...

In BC1 the primary facet usually reflected "thing" or "end product", for example substances in Chemistry or person educated in Education. An important consequence of this is that the primary facet in most cases was the one which a "standard" citation order (e.g. Ranganathan's PMEST) identifies as the major facet. It therefore followed that, if a "standard" citation order was applied throughout the new edition there would be a broad consistency with the first edition, at least in the primary facet. The summary schedule in the introductory volume shows that this has generally been achieved...

The comparisons which matter, however, in determining the long-term viability of the scheme, are with... the <u>Dewey Decimal Classification</u> and with the <u>Library of Congress Classification</u>. On technical and theoretical grounds BC2 is clearly superior... However the two entrenched schemes have the very great practical advantage that their class numbers are available from centralised cataloguing agencies and are part of the MARC record. It will be essential for the long-term success of BC2 that it win acceptance by the major central cataloguing agencies. To win this acceptance may be difficult

for there is here a "chicken and egg" situation. On the one hand the agencies are unlikely to supply BC numbers unless there is a demand from librarians, whilst librarians are unlikely to adopt BC unless class numbers from the scheme are available as part of the subject analysis package offered by the agencies...

It is a lamentable fact that librarians in general display very little interest in information handling skills, although this ought to be a key area of professional expertise. The general level of competence and interest in this area is poor. One manifestation of this is that most librarians are quite content to use classification schemss which are illogical, imprecise, and inadequate to cope with the complexity of modern knowledge... The real challenge of the new edition of the <u>Bibliographic Classification</u> may therefore be to see whether we care sufficiently about employing effective retrieval tools to ensure that the scheme survives, eventually to replace the inadequate tools which we at present use.

Review of Class I. <u>Catalogue and Index</u>, no. <u>53</u>, (Summer 1979), 5b. Reviewer Ann H. P. McKeown, Medical Sub-Librarian, Queen's University of Belfast.

This is not merely a revision of H. E. Bliss's original Class I: it is a virtual rewriting of the schedule. The introduction explains very clearly how the facet and array structure, citation order and filing order should be applied. A great deal of work has gone into the production of this new schedule, and the compilers are to be warmly applauded...

The first edition of Bliss was unsatisfactory in many ways, particularly in that it was 'inhospitable' to new subjects and concepts. The new edition represents a vast improvement, since new topics can be interpolated wherever they are required. But my first quarrel would be with the notation. Bliss has always suffered from being a purely alphabetical scheme. In the first edition, classmarks frequently ran to four letters... and since many libraries use the first three or four letters of the author's name for further subdivision, combinations like IMTA/EDW are not uncommon-slightly clumsy, to say the least... However, the new schedule, accommodating many more topics, runs to even more letters—— e.g. IRF TDB B... I am doubtful, too, about the use of spaces to separate different topics in array. The structure itself is elegant, but it would seem more appropriate in a classified bibliography or catalogue than for the arrangement of books on the shelves...

However, the typography, to me, presents the major bone of contention. I have never linked near-print, but ... in this edition, the typeface has been very much reduced (two columns to a page)... This reviewer found great difficulty in reading the introduction. Furthermore, since the schedules themselves are single-spaced, a cataloguer working under pressure might easily read a classmark out of alignment. On the other hand, the subject index is perfectly clear, because it is double-spaced.

Finally, a word about collocation of subjects. It is acknowledged in the introduction that Psychiatry is a branch of Medicine, (Class H). Why, then, not place it at the <u>beginning</u> of Class I, instead of the end? Child Psychology and Psychiatry (which must go together) would then be almost at the end of Class I, adjacent to Class J (Education), with which they are closely related.

But I repeat that the compilers of this revised schedule have done an excellent job, and I hope that some libraries will find it possible to follow it, either in reclassification or in setting up new collections.

This review also gave rise to correspondence in the next issue, but I only learned of this just before sending off the typescript.

It may be an indication of how much we care, that the review copies originally sent to the <u>Library Association Record</u> were apparently passed on to the editor of <u>Catalogue & Index</u>, where they produced the very favourable review of Mr. Norman Roberts quoted earlier. Pressure was brought on the editor of <u>L.A.R.</u> to review the new edition, and a fresh set of volumes sent, which resulted in the following review of the Introductory volume, and classes I, J, P and Q, in the <u>L.A.R.</u>, <u>81(9)</u>, (Sept. 1979), 441. The review is by D. W. Evans, School of Librarianship, Leeds:

'The above title indicates the debt of the schedules under review to Bliss's original scheme, but the reader must first be advised that BC2 is at least as different from BC1 as UDC from the Decimal Classification. This fact reflects a difficult decision on the part of the compilers to undertake major surgery...

On the evidence so far the reviewer is inclined to regard the new schedules as entirely vindicating this decision. What, essentially, we are offered, is a complete set of faceted classification, plus an introductory volume containing auxiliary schedules applicable to all parts of the scheme. Within particular subjects specialized number-building is achieved by adding earlier divisions directly to later (i.e. without repeating the main class symbol)... The procedure is easily mastered, and consistently applied by the compilers, any minor adjustments being linked to specific instructions under the relevant heading ... The notation as a whole has been simplified as compared with BC1, so that filing problems are now minimal with only upper case roman and arabic numerals to contend with... It is also a pity in some ways that the original four volumes planned should have to multiple fivefold. However the parts of BC2 are slim and easy to handle, with each containing its own index and instructions, as well as a summary of the whole scheme. Since general classifications now rank as decidedly expensive items the attraction of self-contained parts which can be purchased separately by libraries with special collections is obvious... The small type used for both instructions and entries is likely to be criticized...

That apart, BC2 is recommended for serious consideration by anyone with major classification problems. It combines ease of use with consistent and flexible structure, and the compilers express the hope that this second factor will minimize the problems of future revision. The extent to which this hope is realized will no doubt tell us whether BC2 offers the best solution to date in the search for a classification which can be kept up to date without undue labour by those who maintain it and, more relevantly for most readers of this review, by those who have to classify by it.

Review of Class I: <u>Documentation on Books</u>, apparently July 1979, p.4. Unsigned.

This classification represents a radical revision and expansion of Class I Psychology... It is designed to give a clear view of the basic structure. If it is remembered that the schedule is an inverted one the outline will be seen to show not only the general sequence of classes, but also the basic operational rule in applying the classification...: compund classes topics involving concepts from more than one class facet are located under the class facet appearing later (lower down) in the schedule...

The compiler is indebted to Mr. R. H. Hughes, our Hon. Publicity Officer, and to Jack Mills for photocopies of the reviews quoted from, some of which may have come from Butterworths, our publishers. The above seems a scanty harvest in return for nearly fifty review copies, but if readers know of any other reviews, BCA would indeed be grateful for photocopies, to be sent to Mr. J. Mills of Librarianship, The Polytechnic of North London, 207-225 Essex Road, Islington, London N1 3PN, England. If members have any influence on the editorial policies of periodicals which they think ought to have reviewed BC2 (or even if they haven't!) they might write to the editor asking if review copies were received, and if so, why this valuable new classification was not reviewed.

Reviews

MALTBY, Arthur and GILL, Lindy. The case for Bliss Bingley, 1979. 142pp. ISBN 0-85157-290-1 £5.50.

Despite the title of this slim volume, the contents are by no means polemical in favour of the Bliss Classification: objectivity is attained. It is an attempt "to provide a concise introduction, guide and critique on all aspects of BC2 (p.133) and to some extent it succeeds in this objective. As the first independent monograph dealing with the BC as a whole it certainly deserves a welcome.

The matter is divided into two parts. The first section is devoted to an examination of the background, nature and chief factors involved with both BC1 and BC2 although, one feels, in a somewhat meandering fashion with much space being given to the order of main classes in the scheme, and this reflects the apparent fascination which this topic holds for Bliss enthusiasts. A review of progress to date on the revision and publication of BC2 follows. The second half of the book, by Lindy Gill, consists of a practical discussion of the scheme, including worked examples in building BC classmarks. This is followed by an account of the reclassification to BC2 of the stock at the Tavistock Institute library where the co-author is in charge of re-classification; factors and problems involved are discussed. This is of more than specialised interest. Included also are the results of a survey of 30 users of BC; practices and problems are examined and librarians' comments both significant and insignificant given.

As a whole, this material is all of interest to those who know little of BC, the last two chapters being so to all librarians involved. The section headed "Guide to classifying by BC2" will no doubt be of some value as a practical manual to those who require guidance in the application of a faceted scheme although it does not go beyond the advice contained in the introduction to the scheme itself and concerns itself with examples from three main classes alone. Each main class in BC2 throws up its own problems for the indexer and these have to be tackled prior to the actual business of indexing. Unfortunately much of this and other material in the book is confined to a rather elementary level, so for example, the authors find the sneed to state on page 56 that "critical appreciation of BC2, as it is known, demands... some acceptance or at least understanding of modern classification theory, since otherwise attempts at evaluation become irrevelant or even 'mindbending"; concepts such as citation-order or summarization are explained to the reader. BC2 is a complex precision tool and the potential user will need more information than is contained in this section, he or she will require a good grasp of classification principles and will not be unfamiliar with basic modern concepts. The library school student will undoubtedly study these concepts and principles before coming to BC2.

So, in the opinion of this writer, the major weakness of this work lies in the failure on the part of the authors to conceive and write the book with a clear readership in mind; the exact purpose of the book is unclear to me despite the statements in the introduction. No doubt it will serve the student as a prepackaged 'introduction' to BC in lieu of anything superior but he or she will probably gain more from studying Bliss' writings and the schedules of BC2, especially the introduction.

Many items mentioned in the text are not fully identified, while the bibliography provided could have been fuller given the scope of the work. Finally, it could be argued that this book could have served the interests of BC2 more successfully by making a <u>case</u> for it in the more definite sense by comparing it with its competitors such as LC, UDC, CC and DC, inevitably to its advantage, for it is the inertia caused by these established schemes and their hold in libraries who cannot bear to face re-classification that is a major obstacle to the further adoption of BC2.

It would be ungrateful to messers. Maltby and Gill to over-criticise their book, it contains much that is useful; a gap in the literature exists for a comprehensive book on the BC but I feel that it has still not been filled. Perhaps the work is premature given that only five out of twenty plus parts of the scheme have so far appeared; a case is being made for a scheme which is far from being a complete tool capable of challenging the classification establishment.

Graham B. Howorth
The Library, King's College, Cambridge

ADDITIONS AND AMENDMENTS TO BC2

* BC2 began publication in March 1977. These additions and amendments constitute a maintenance service for all published parts. Relevant parts will be consolidated when a new edition of a given part is published.

* All users of BC2 are invited to submit to the Hon. Editor suggestions for incorporation in this vital feature of the Bulletin (see p.3 of this issue. The continued effectiveness of the system is assisted greatly if new concepts and terms are incorporated promptly into it.

Introduction and Common Auxiliary Schedules

(Schedule 1)

- p. 3AD Insert new entry: Concise encyclopedias in systematic form
- p. 3AP Insert new entry: Gazetteers
- 75. 3LR U Insert new entry: Individual papers
- p. 6J Time: correct 'Add' note to "... from Schedule 4".

(Schedule 2)

- p. BLK European... : correct heading to European Economic Community
- p. EUZ Insert new alternative entry:

Isle of Man

- * Alternative (not recommended) to EQH for libraries wishing to locate this outside UK class
- p. EZ Insert new alternative entry:

Channel Isles

- * Alternative (not recommended) to EH for libraries wishing to locate this outside UK class.
- p. ERE P Rhudlan : correct spelling to Rhuddlan
- ERG G Anfon: correct spelling to Arfon
- ERS H Insert new entry: Merthyr Tydfil
- p. ERS J Taff-Ely: delete (and move to ERS P)
- p. ERS K Insert new entry: Rhymney Valley
- p. ERS P Insert new entry: Taff-Ely

Class I Psychology and Psychiatry

p.2	IBC EJ	Insert new entry: Non-respondents
	IBC V	Quantitative: add methods, psychometrics
p.7	IDD H	Insert new entry: Readiness
p.9	IFH D	Grief: add mourning
1 •	IFH T	Hostility: add resentment
	IFJ D	Humiliation: add shame
•	IFJ N	Insert new entry: Gratitude
	IFT MS	Insert new entry: Toys, doll play
	IJL Y	Insert new entry: Projective identification
p.11	IJR FXD	Insert new entry: Recall
	IJR W	Recall: delete (and move to IJR FXD)
p.12	IKC MN	Phallic stage: add genital stage
p. 15	IKT E	Masturbation: add auto-eroticism
p. 18	IMS V	Middle-aged: <u>add</u> midlife
•	IMU W	Hearing defective: add deaf
p.20	IOR	Verbal communication: add speech
_	IPT WT	Insert new entry: Ambiguity of role
p.21	IQS 0	Insert new entry: Foursome
	IQT YW	Insert new entry: Self-analytic groups

	IQU C	Secondary: add large groups	
p.22	IQV CNT	accumulation: correct spelling to ac	oul turation
p.23	IRF TK	Psychiatric clinics: delete (and use IRF	•
p.24	IRL	Assessment: add to 'Add' note: with	
P • 24	1111	amendments:	TOTTOMTITE
•	IRL QS	Insert new entry: Projective tests	
	IRL QT	Insert new entry: Other than Rorschach,	$\Lambda/7$ or H_{13}
	TIIII AT	figure drawing IRL QTH U	n/n c.g. munan
	TTDT OT	Insert new entry: Non-projective tests	**
	IRL QV		$\sim \pm ca \pm a + \Lambda / 7$
:	IRL QW	Insert new entry: Specific non-projectiv	
		e.g. Embedded figure test IRL QW E	M; my serick
· · · ·	TDT OV	personality test IRL QW EY	
	IRL QX	Individual non-projective tests	· .
	IRL QY	Group non-projective tests	
	IRL QYO	Insert new entry: Diagnostic graphology	m TVD V o m
		* Add to IRL QY letters 0/T following	g rvp r - e.g.
06	TCO TTT	IRL QYP Physiognomy	
p.26	ISQ EV	Insert new entry: Patient's expectations	
p.27	ISS F	Insert new entry: Sensory integrative the	эгару
:	IST V	Insert new entry: Primal therapy	
	ISX T	With mother: <u>delete</u> (and move to ISX U)	
	ISX T	Insert new entry: Conjoint family therap	у
	ISX U	Insert new entry: With mother	
	ISX XY	Insert new entry: Conjoint marital therap	ЭУ
	A /17 = = = = = = = = = = = = = = = = = = =		
	A/Z index		
p.36	Insert new	entry: Accomplishment	IDK
	17 17	": Ambiguity of role	IPT WT
p.37	Anal stage:		IKC MM
p.38	Insert new		IDK
	11	Attention	IGL
	•	Autoeroticism	IKT E
		Bonding: emotions	IFJ P
p.39		Causality	IDT Q
	Change of a	ttitudes: correct classmark to	INL N
	Insert new		ICL V
p.40	7 7 7 7	Cognitive dissonance	IFL
•••	11 . 11	" Conjoint marital therapy	ISX XY
p.41	Courage: co	rrect classmark to	IKK U
<u> </u>	Insert new	entry: Deaf persons	IMU W
p.42		correct classmark to	IEH R
. –	Insert new	entry: Detachment	IJM T
•	11 11	Diagnostic graphology	IRL QYO
p.43	17 11	"Doll play	IFT MS
	11 11	" Dyadic groups	IQS M
:	77 17	" Egotism	IKL NR
p.44	11 11	" Foursome	IQS O
p.44 p.45	17 77	"Genital stage	IKC MN
	tt tt	" Gratitude	IFI N
p.46	17 27	"Group non-projective tests	IRL
•	11 11	"Group processes	IQR T
•	11 11	" Humiliation	IFJ D
p.49	**	" Large groups	IQU C
エ・コン	Laughter: c	orrect classmark to	IFJ Y
	Insert new		INN TV
p.50		Midlife	IMS V
エ・ノー			

p.51	Mothers: family the	rapy: correct classmark to	ISX	U
	Mourning: correct c	lassmark to	IFH	D
p.52	News: correct class	mark to	IOX	3SN
—	Common State of Common State o	Non projective tests	IRL	•
	the search of th	Non-respondents	IBC	•
•		Non-verbal communication	IOP	
	• • • •	Object conception	IFO	S
•	Oedipal stage: corr		IKC	
p.53		Patients, patient care	IRF	
often	Commenced and the September of Processing September 1 and 1	Patients expectations	ISQ	
		Perceptual distrotions	IDF	,
p.54	Phallic stage: corr		IKC	MN
p.55		Primal therapy	IST	
		Projective identification	IJL	-
-		Projective tests	IRL	
		Psychometrics	IBC	•
p.56		Readiness	IDD	
p.57		ychology: correct classmark to	IC6	
	Insert new entry:		IFH	
	Rumour: correct cl		IOX	3SR
p.58	Secritarian and Applications of the Application of	Self-analytic groups	IQT	-
		Sensitivity: stimulus and response	*	
		Sensory integrative therapy	ISS	
		nces ILM N: delete entry		
				•
	Insert new entry:	Shape perception	IDT	F
		Similarity: attitudes	INL	
p.59		Speech	IOR	70
p.60	Terminally-ill diso	rders: correct classmark to	IUL	
p.61	Insert new entry:	Toys	IFT	MS
Class .	Education			
p.16	A/Z index Insert n	ew entry: Examining bodies	JFL	O