

*The*

# Bliss

## CLASSIFICATION BULLETIN

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### ***EDITORIAL***

This issue of the *Bulletin* records another major step forward in the development of BC2. The scheme's Editor, inspired – and pressed! – by its dedicated and enthusiastic users in Cambridge, has produced a detailed schedule for the Earth Sciences, forming a major part of Class D. An extended outline of this schedule will be found in these pages, followed by a most informative commentary on the schedule and the problems encountered in devising and implementing it in Sidney Sussex College Library. Geographers plainly have a great deal to answer for!

This demonstration of what can be achieved by the cooperation and interplay between Editor and users does not, unfortunately, mean that the schedule is now ready to go to our publishers : firstly, there are parts of class D still to be finalized, and secondly, other classes are ahead of it in the queue. Nevertheless, there are hidden benefits : for example, much of the work done on DG/DY has gone hand-in-hand with development and elaboration of the draft schedules for L/O History, as those for Geography frequently need parallel place and period divisions.

Classes AY/B, Science & Technology (General) and Physics, *are* due to go to Bowker-Saur this summer, and we are hoping that this volume will be available before the year is out.

Jack Mills had a place of honour and gave the keynote address at the Sixth International Study Conference on Classification Research, held in London last year to mark the fortieth anniversary of the first conference at Dorking; he was one of the original participants.

Alan Thomas continues to publicize Bliss in America and elsewhere whenever he can, and as noted later on, has recently been looking at the rich collection of Bliss papers in Columbia University.

No further volumes of BC2 have been published in the past twelve months, but 1997/98 have nevertheless seen great progress made with the scheme and we look forward with confidence. As the advertising billboards said, WATCH THIS SPACE!

As we go to press, it is a great pleasure to be able to welcome a new member and user of the scheme, the National Autistic Society, London, and its Librarian, David Potter, who formerly worked at Barnardo's.

**The Annual General Meeting will be held in late November 1997. Details of date and venue were not complete at the time of going to press and will be circulated to all members in the autumn. Please keep the last week or so (most likely one day of 23rd - 25th November) free for this.**

*Tony Curwen  
Aberystwyth  
July 1998*



**BLISS CLASSIFICATION ASSOCIATION**

Minutes of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Bliss Classification Association held at 2.15p.m. on Friday, 28 November 1997 at the NSPCC Library, 42 Curtain Road, London EC2A 3NH

*Present:*

Jack Mills (Personal member; BCA Chair)  
Heather Lane (Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge; Hon. Secretary)  
Angela Haselton (Tavistock Library; Hon. Treasurer)  
Sarah Butler (Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge)  
Chris Child (Bishop Grosseteste College, Lincoln)  
Eric Coates (BSO Panel)  
Tony Curwen (Personal member; Editor *BC Bulletin*)  
Frank Emmott (Barnardo's)  
Bryan Garrett (Haddon Library, Cambridge)  
Helen Mackin (Barnardo's)  
Marion Macleod (Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge)  
Tricia Murphy (NSPCC)  
Gerry Power (NSPCC)  
Chris Preddle (NCH Action for Children)  
Rupert Price (NSPCC)  
Elizabeth Russell (Rowe Music Library, King's College, Cambridge)  
Angela Upton (NISW)  
Rhona Watson (Jesus College, Cambridge)

1. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Jean Aitchison, Aidan Baker, Ken Bell, Ken Best, Margaret Cranmer, Linda Farley, Ia McIlwaine, Alex Perkins, Alan Thomas.

2. **Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes were circulated.  
Item 4.8 *was amended to read* Ken Best *not* Ken Bell.  
The minutes were then and signed as a correct record.

*Proposed: Chris Preddle, Seconded: J. Mills*

3. **Matters arising**

- 4.8 No training courses had been offered as Ken Bell had resigned from the Committee.
- 8.2 Progress had been made on the website. Bowker-Saur had finally confirmed that they were prepared to act as a host, and had asked the committee to forward sample pages. Tony Curwen asked for information on any websites which might be of interest to BC2 users for inclusion in the *Bulletin*. Eric Coates explained the structure of the BSO website.

4. **Progress of BC2: Editor's report**

- 4.1 Mr Mills commented on his written report, which had been circulated to the meeting and would be appended to the minutes. In addition he reiterated his thanks to Eric Coates for his help with Classes U/V Technology which would be notated in the forthcoming year.

- 4.2 It was hoped that Class C Chemistry would be completed in 1998.
- 4.3 Class D Earth Sciences would be provisionally notated by February 1998 for use at Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, prior to final revision and publication.
- 4.4 Douglas and Joy Foskett were thanked for their assistance with Class W Arts. Decisions still had to be made on how far to enumerate and what citation order to use.
- 4.5 The Editor suggested that Class 8 Museum Studies might be the next to be completed after Class D. Chris Preddle asked if there were any point in working on this if it could not be published on its own. Although it provides a good basis for progress on Classes 2/9, the Haddon Library requires a provisional working schedule which would only require Mr Mills to attach a notation. Work could then continue on the remaining science classes which should take priority.
- 4.6 Elizabeth Russell had offered to revise the Auxiliary schedules, but work had been hampered by the lack of computer software which would enable her to input the revisions. It was hoped that a revised schedule could be produced to overcome the difficulties caused by the first edition no longer being in print.
- 4.7 The title of the Japanese translation of part of the Introduction to BC2, *Fundamentals of modern classification theory*, had inadvertently been omitted from the Editor's report. *[Added in the copy of the report following these minutes. – Hon. Editor, Bulletin]*
- 4.8 E. Coates asked whether the BCA would send a representative to the ISCO Conference in Lille in August 1998. Mr Mills replied that it would be discussed at the next meeting of the Committee.
- 4.9 Rhona Watson asked about the Bowker-Saur publishing schedule. Mr Mills replied that the published schedules usually appeared within six weeks of receipt of the camera ready copy. Tony Curwen asked whether any further proof-reading was done by the Committee once Colin Neilson had input the copy. Mr Mills replied that it was felt to be too lengthy a process, and that having the Editor solely responsible for checking the final draft had worked very well in the case of Class S.

5. **Treasurer's report**

- 5.1 Angela Haselton commented on the accounts for the year to 31 July 1997, which had been circulated to the meeting. She explained that an amended account for the previous year had also been circulated, as they had contained an error, adding the depreciated value of the Association's assets to the total. The amended accounts had been sent to the Charity Commissioners and would be reproduced in the 1998 *BC Bulletin*.
- 5.2 The bulk of the Association's income continues to come from subscriptions. Royalties from Bowker-Saur for 1996-1997 were lower than in previous years as the monies had not been received during the accounting period.
- 5.3 Following the flotation of the Alliance & Leicester Building Society the BCA had received a share certificate. Problems had been encountered because the dividend had been paid to the Treasurer in person. She intended to ask if this could be altered. It was also desirable to have instant access to the funds in the deposit account.
- 5.4 Acceptance of the accounts was unanimously **approved**.

*Proposed: M. MacLeod; seconded: C. Preddle.*

- 5.5 There were two further proposals from the floor:

Marion MacLeod *proposed* that the committee be authorised to return to a mutual society, and Elizabeth Russell *proposed* that the sale of the Alliance and Leicester shares should be fully investigated by the committee and that they should be sold if the committee considered it in the Association's best interests. These motions were both *seconded* by H. Lane. Both proposals were unanimously **accepted**.

5.6 Mr Mills expressed the Association's thanks to the Treasurer for her work during the year.

6. **BC Bulletin**

6.1 Tony Curwen apologised for the single-sided printing of the 1997 issue which had been caused by a printer's error.

6.2 Thanks were proffered to all those who had contributed during the year, and an appeal was made for additional copy for the 1998 Bulletin.

6.3 Mr Mills expressed the Association's appreciation of Mr Curwen's work during the year.

7. **Publicity**

7.1 Mr Mills felt strongly that there had been too little publicity for the new BC2 schedules, and in particular, a lack of reviews in the professional press. The Hon. Secretary had been asked to write to the editors of the leading journals to encourage reviews and to offer review copies. There had already been correspondence with Bowker-Saur on this subject during the year.

7.2 Mr Mills thanked Marion MacLeod, Angela Haselton and Elizabeth Russell for their efforts in producing new publicity leaflets. These had been distributed at the Dorking Conference and would be available on request to the BCA from January 1998. They cover three main areas:

- a) the work of the BCA and an introduction to the scheme;
- b) outline, structure and coverage of individual published classes; and
- c) indexing and class mark synthesis.

8. **Auditor's election**

Ken Best was thanked for his continued help as the Association's auditor. His re-election was *proposed* by A. Haselton and *seconded* by H. Lane, and unanimously **approved**.

9. **Committee elections**

9.1 Following the resignations of Ken Bell, Sue Mitchell and Vicky Sinclair during 1997, there were three vacancies for ordinary members of the committee. Two nominations had been received before the meeting, for Marion MacLeod and Guy Mitchell, and Frank Emmott was proposed as a third candidate from the floor of the meeting. All three were duly elected without opposition. Colin Neilson was co-opted for a further year. It was suggested that the Committee also seek to co-opt an additional member with an interest in information technology. Mr Mills thanked those committee members who had stepped down, and welcomed the new recruits.

10. **A.O.B.**

10.1 The recent death of David Hope, a personal member of the Association, was announced with regret by Mr Mills. He recalled in particular his valued criticism of the schedules.

10.2 The committee had begun discussion of a revised Schools' Edition, as the first edition was no longer in print. All the materials to create a revised edition were available, and a working party would be convened. The Secretary appealed to the meeting for names of possible contributors. The working group would be exploring sources of funding and hoped to be able to co-opt members from the Schools Library Association.

10.3 The meeting closed at 3.40pm.



## **PROGRESS OF BC2 IN 1997 : EDITOR'S REPORT TO THE AGM**

### **Development of schedules and publication**

**Class AY/B: Science & Technology (General) and Physics.** The news on this front is very disappointing. Although the two classes (to be published in one volume) were reported at the last AGM to be nearly complete, they have still not been delivered to Bowker-Saur. The main reason for this has been the sheer difficulty of scheduling modern physics; although the problems were known to be formidable, they were still underestimated. The complexity of the problem in AY (of providing schedules for instrumentation and techniques to serve as the basis – and more – of the Operations and Agents facets in all the natural sciences, whilst at the same time being consistent with those in Class U/V Technology, which has somewhat different demands) also proved unexpectedly difficult. However, the job is now nearly complete and it is hoped to deliver the camera-ready copy to Bowker-Saur in December. I should like to acknowledge here the enormous help I have received from Eric Coates in resolving the many problems which have arisen.

**Class C: Chemistry.** Further work was done on the problem of deciding just how far to go in providing specific class-marks for individual chemical compounds. A reasonably satisfactory solution was agreed at a Classification Research Group (CRG) meeting (which Vanda Broughton also attended) and it now remains to implement this as soon as AY/B is finished.

**Class D: Earth Sciences.** The schedules for this were developed a little further and were the subject of another CRG meeting.

**Class W: The Arts.** Work on this is being speeded up by the very welcome assistance now being given by Douglas and Joy Foskett. They are paying particular attention to the problem of arranging and enumerating the large number of arrays of schools, movements, styles, etc., and of the artists within these. This and other problems have been the subject of discussion at meetings of the CRG (which Colin Ball also attends).

**Class 8: Museum Studies.** Aidan Baker, Librarian of the Haddon Library in Cambridge, has prepared an excellent draft of a classification of museum studies, to fit eventually into the Library & Information Studies class in BC2. It is hoped that this will be developed and completed in the coming year.

**Common Auxiliary Schedules.** The need to revise these was raised at the May meeting of the BCA Committee. Liz Russell said she was prepared to begin work on the format and called on members to send her their suggestions, including lists of terms which they have added provisionally in practice. Dr McIlwaine said UDC had already done considerable work on geographic places, which should prove useful. To ensure that work in Cambridge would benefit from a common plan it was proposed that the formatting software for BC2 be made available to the revisers.

**A/Z Index.** A meeting of the CRG, led by Eric Coates, was held to discuss the problems of computerized production of A/Z indexes, with special reference to BC2. The present variations in the quality of the indexes to the separate volumes were considered and it was thought that the problems of a consolidated index to the whole scheme (on its completion) should be explored now.

**Introduction.** This is now out of print. In reply to a strong letter of protest, Linda Hadjukiewicz (responsible for handling BC2 at Bowker-Saur) explained that it had proved quite uneconomic to reprint the Introduction in its present state. Bowker-Saur would probably grant permission to photocopy until a revised version of the volume was ready. The work on auxiliary schedules described above is obviously relevant here.

This seems to be an appropriate point to report the publication of a book in Japan, a significant part of which is a translation into Japanese of Sections 4, 5 and 8 of the Introduction to BC2 and the rest of which contains extensive explanations and analyses of BC2. I should like to take this opportunity to express BCA's appreciation of the excellent work being done for BC2 by our Japanese colleagues.

(The fundamentals of modern classification theory / Jack Mills, Naoki Takubo, Satoshi Yoshida, Masaaki Kashiwada, Bliss Classification Association. - [1997]).

### **Other matters**

In June, the School of Library, Information and Archive Studies, University College London, hosted the 6th International Study Conference on Classification Research. This was the fortieth anniversary of the first conference (Dorking, 1957). As one who had contributed a paper at that pioneering conference, I was asked to give the keynote address. This attempted to review the developments in classification for retrieval in the past forty years and consider its place now, in face of the inflated claims of computerized retrieval. Naturally, BC2 was taken as the basis for considering these developments and the newly produced leaflets on BC2 and the BCA were as naturally distributed.



## **BLISS CLASSIFICATION ASSOCIATION**

### **Accounts**

*A copy of the corrected accounts for the year ending 31 July 1996 appears on the next two pages, followed by the accounts for the year ending 31 July 1997.*

*Members' attention is drawn to the following statement from the Honorary Treasurer concerning corrections to the accounts for the year ending 31 July 1996:*

It is regretted that two errors were made in the typing up of the accounts, which were only noted after copies had been distributed to members at the 1996 Annual General Meeting and published in the 1997 *Bulletin* (No. 39).

(a) RECEIPTS 1996 – the entry for 'Current account' should have read **£209.16** and not £209.70; the total is correct.

(b) ASSETS 1996 - the entry for computer equipment and the depreciated entry were added together when the accounts were typed up. The correct entry should have read **£1258.84** for the depreciated amount (£1573.55, less depreciation @ 20% of £314.71) with the total actually reading **£7706.71**.

These amendments have been noted and accepted by the Bliss Classification Association Committee.

A copy of the corrected accounts has been sent to the Charities Commission.

It should be stressed that the Honorary Auditor had verified the handwritten accounts, and that these errors were entered on the typed version only.

*Signed:* A.E. Haselton

*Signed:* K. Best

*Date:* 27 November 1997

*Date:* 21 November 1997

Angela Haselton  
Honorary Treasurer

Ken Best  
Honorary Auditor

**BLISS CLASSIFICATION ASSOCIATION**

Consolidated Receipts and Payments for the Year Ending 31 July 1996 <sup>(4)</sup>

<u>1995</u>	<u>RECEIPTS</u>	<u>1996</u>
	<b>Balance brought forward at 1 August 1995</b>	
2155.54 <sup>(1)</sup>	Appeal account	0000.00
3139.59	Deposit account	3394.70
612.45	Current account	209.16 <sup>(4)</sup>
100.00	Societies account	303.10
	<b>Subscriptions</b> <sup>(2)</sup>	
80.00	Personal	180.00
607.13	Institutional	1275.80
78.83	<b>Royalties on 2nd edition</b>	268.91
65.09	<b>Distribution from M &amp; G (Charibond)</b>	48.81
0000.00	<b>Other receipts</b>	
	UDC Consortium	500.00
	Photocopying draft schedule for Sidney Sussex College	21.75
	Q' Workshop	350.00
000.00	<b>Transfer to Clubs &amp; Societies a/c from Current a/c</b>	300.00
	<b>Interest payments</b>	
34.43	Deposit account	95.68
5.01	Closing interest	N/A
23.64	Appeal account	N/A
3.44	Closing interest	N/A
<u>3.10</u>	Societies account	<u>7.33</u>
<b><u>6908.25</u></b>		<b><u>6955.24</u></b>

**CURRENT ASSETS AT 31 JULY 1996**

<u>1995</u>		<u>1996</u>
800.13	Charibond (at cost)	800.13
209.16	Cash in Current account	1046.93
303.10	Cash in Societies account	610.43
3394.70	Cash in Deposit account	3990.38
(1966.95)	Computer equipment <sup>(4)</sup>	1573.55
<u>1573.55</u>	less depreciation @ 20% per annum	<u>314.71</u>
<u>6674.04</u>		<u>1258.84</u>
(6280.65)		<b><u>7706.71</u></b>

**BLISS CLASSIFICATION ASSOCIATION**

Consolidated Receipts and Payments for the Year Ending 31 July 1996

<u>1995</u>	<u>PAYMENTS</u>	<u>1996</u>
319.91	Committee and AGM expenses	172.09
344.43	Stationery, postage and photocopying	301.19
0000.00	Bulletin printing	190.66
1966.95 <sup>(3)</sup>	BC2 expenses (computer equipment)	82.42
370.00	Other payments: 'Q' Workshop	261.14
0000.00	Transfer from Current a/c to Clubs & Societies a/c	300.00
<b>Balance in hand at 31 July 1996</b>		
209.16	General current account	1046.93
3394.70	General deposit account	3990.38
303.10	Societies account	610.43
<u>3906.96</u>	<u>0000.00</u> Appeal account	<u>N/A</u> <u>5647.74</u>
<u>6908.25</u>		<u>6955.24</u>

**Notes:-**

- (1) The Appeal Account was amalgamated with the General Deposit account in 1995 (*see* Note 1 in the 1994/95 accounts).
- (2) Subscriptions for 1996 include payments for 1995/96 and 1996/97, taking into account the change of subscription year.
- (3) This figure was incorrectly transcribed as £966.95 in the *Bulletin* for 1996 – *Editor*.
- (4) See Treasurer's notes preceding these revised accounts.

**Angela Haselton**

*Honorary Treasurer*  
40c Morpeth Road  
LONDON  
E9 7LD

**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.

**Ken Best**

*Honorary Auditor*  
30 Cissbury Close  
HORSHAM  
West Sussex  
RH12 5JT

**BLISS CLASSIFICATION ASSOCIATION**

Consolidated Receipts and Payments for the Year Ending 31 July 1997

<u>1996</u>	<u>RECEIPTS</u>	<u>1997</u>
	<b>Balance brought forward at 1 August 1996</b>	
3394.70	Deposit account	3990.38
209.16	Current account	1046.93
303.10	Societies account	610.43
	<b>Subscriptions</b> <sup>(1)</sup>	
180.00	Personal	140.00
1275.80	Institutional	886.80
268.91	<b>Royalties on 2nd edition</b>	55.80
48.81	<b>Distribution from M &amp; G (Charibond)</b>	78.66
	<b>Other receipts</b>	
500.00	UDC Consortium	500.00
21.75	Photocopying draft schedule for Sidney Sussex College	0000.00
350.00	'Q' Workshop	0000.00
	<b>Transfers</b>	
0000.00	to Alliance & Leicester a/c from Current a/c	700.00
300.00	to Clubs & Societies a/c from Current a/c	1000.00
	<b>Interest payments</b>	
95.68	Deposit (Alliance & Leicester) account	88.20
7.33	Clubs & Societies account	10.72
<u>6955.24</u>		<u>9107.92</u>

CURRENT ASSETS AT 31 JULY 1997

<u>1996</u>		<u>1997</u>
800.13	Charibond (at cost)	800.13
1046.93	Cash in Current account	414.80
610.43	Cash in Societies account	1621.15
3990.38	Cash in Deposit account	4778.58
	Computer equipment	1258.84
1258.84	less depreciation @ 20% per annum	<u>251.77</u>
<u>7706.71</u>		<u>8621.73</u>

**BLISS CLASSIFICATION ASSOCIATION**

Consolidated Receipts and Payments for the Year Ending 31 July 1997

**PAYMENTS**

<u>1996</u>		<u>1997</u>
172.09	Committee and AGM expenses	299.90 (289.90) <sup>(2)</sup>
301.19	Stationery, postage and photocopying	73.01
190.66	Bulletin printing	78.83
82.42	BC2 expenses (computer equipment)	141.65
	Other payments:	
261.14	'Q' Workshop	0000.00
	Transfers:	
300.00	from Current a/c to Clubs & Societies a/c	1000.00
<u>000.00</u>	from Current a/c to Alliance & Leicester a/c	<u>700.00</u>
1307.50		2293.39
	<b>Balance in hand at 31 July 1997</b>	
	3990.38 General deposit account	4778.58
	1046.93 General current account	414.80
<u>5647.74</u>	<u>610.43</u> Societies account	<u>1621.15</u> <u>6814.53</u>
<u>6955.24</u>		<u>9107.92</u>

**Notes:-**

- (1) Subscription levels have stabilised for 1996/1997, following the introduction of the April subscription year.
- (2) This figure accounts for a membership subscription deducted from an expenses claim.

**Angela Haselton**

*Honorary Treasurer*  
40c Morpeth Road  
LONDON  
E9 7LD

**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.

**Ken Best**

*Honorary Auditor*  
30 Cissbury Close  
HORSHAM  
West Sussex  
RH12 5JT

## **Down to Earth : Class D takes shape**

The detailed schedules for Classes DG/DY, Earth Sciences, which form the greater part of Class D, are now virtually complete (except for DI, Petrology, Soil Science & Mineralogy). These follow on logically from Astronomy, focussing on our little planet.

The outline supplied by Jack Mills which follows is published for information; comments should be sent to him at 38 Hardy Road, London SE3 7NN or to the Secretary, Heather Lane, at Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge CB2 3HU (hel20@cus.cam.ac.uk).

However, Class D is still a fair way down the queue of classes to go to Bowker-Saur, so readers should not expect to see the final version in print for a while yet – nor should they regard this outline as absolutely final and definitive!

### *Citation order and alternatives*

The facet formula for these classes is quite regular, reflecting the standard BC2 citation order. Properly seen, it starts at Class D, Astronomy:

Celestial bodies - The Galaxy (*i.e., ours*) - Solar System - Sun - Planets - EARTH -  
(Parts) Geosphere ... Hydrosphere ... Atmosphere ... - (*Properties and processes*) -  
(Operations) - (*Agents*) - (*Common subdivisions*)

Under Earth, division is directly into *Parts*, there being, of course, no *Types* facet. The filing order of the macro parts is from the core outwards; this has the advantage of ending with the surface, which more or less defines the field of geography and progresses logically to the biosphere (which conceptually embraces human geography).

The demands of specialists in various fields have, however, led to the provision of several alternatives. This aspect is still not fully resolved and final decisions have yet to be taken : how many alternatives can the schedules (and their users!) tolerate? Which ones? Where? An alternative location or a change in the citation order for the topic as well? Examples of alternatives are Environmental geography at DTV (preferred location is GY) and Travel and Description at DUL 4 (preferred location L4). The most important alternatives, however, are those for Geography.

### *Geography*

The classification of Geography continues to cause the greatest problems. Is it primarily a physical science, correlating with the Earth Sciences in D, or is it primarily a Social Science falling more naturally between K and L? What is its scope? The *Shorter Oxford English Dictionary* defines Geography as "The science that describes the earth's surface, its form and physical features, its natural and political divisions, its climate, productions, etc." This is fair enough, but some geographers – not least in Britain – have seized on the second half, especially that "etc.", to lay claim to everything that has ever happened on Earth, geological, geophysical, atmospheric, hydrological, political, economic, industrial, social, medical, cultural and more besides. This view creates great difficulties for us.

In this schedule, the preferred place for Geography is at DT, after DSY V, Biosphere, Ecosphere, defined as "Biosphere viewed as the physical and behavioural environment of humans". To meet the demands of those who take the all-embracing view, an alternative for general and Regional Geography has been provided at DLR following the Geosphere and Geology (DGH/DLQ) and preceding Surface of the Earth, Geomorphology (DM). This has the

effect of breaking the otherwise regular sequence in the Parts of the Earth facet, and making all the succeeding divisions DM/DW subdivisions of Geography.

*Preferred arrangement*

- (Parts of the Earth)
  - Geosphere, Geology
  - Surface of the Earth, geomorphology
  - Hydrosphere, hydrology
  - Atmosphere
  - Biosphere
  - Geography *Preferred*
    - Regional geography *Preferred*
    - Systematic geography
    - Human geography, etc.

*Alternative arrangement:*

- (Parts of the Earth)
  - Geosphere, Geology
  - Geography in general* *Alternative, especially for British users*
    - Regional geography* *Alternative, especially for British users*
    - Surface of the Earth, geomorphology
    - Hydrosphere, hydrology
    - Atmosphere
    - Biosphere
    - Systematic geography
    - Human geography, etc.

***Earth Sciences – outline schedule***

- DG** **EARTH SCIENCES**
- DG2 . *Common subdivisions*
  - . . \* Add to DG2 numbers 2/9 from Schedule 1, with some adjustments.
- DG3 . *Research, theoretical & practical*
  - . . \* As AY3/8 Science in general (modified).
- DG3 3D . *Theory*
- DG3 5 . *Practical... Equipment... Instruments...*
- DG5 2 . *Techniques... Acoustic... Electrical...*
- DG6 2 . *Techniques... Indicating... Measuring...*
- DG7 9 . *Geodesy & surveying... Cartography...*
- DG 8 . *Places, regions, areas*
  - . . \* As Schedule 2
- . *Processes & properties*
- DGB . *Physics in earth sciences... Chemistry...*
- . *Parts of the earth*
- DGH** . ***Geosphere, geology***
- DGR . *Physical geology (general)*
  - . . *Processes & properties of the geosphere*
- DGS . *Endogenic processes (general)*
  - . . \* For exogenic processes, see Crust DJ.
  - . . *Parts of the geosphere*
- DHB . *Barysphere, interior of earth*
- DHC . *Core... Mantle*
- DHL . *Lithosphere*
- DHL J . *Structural geology (general)*
  - . . *Processes & properties of lithosphere*
    - \* The literature refers mainly to the crust. Details are given there (DJ) but may be added here; eg
- DHM T . *Deformation... Fracture... Folding...*
- Earth Sciences
  - . *Parts of the Earth*

					Geosphere, geology
					<i>Parts of the geosphere</i>
					Lithosphere
<hr/>					
					<i>Parts of the lithosphere</i>
					<i>Constituents</i>
DID					Rocks... Soils... Minerals...
DJ					Crust
DJI					Historical geology
DJK					Palaentology (as agent)... Stratigraphy...
DJO	B				Periods... Cambrian... Quaternary...
					<i>Processes &amp; properties of the crust</i>
DJR	F				Non-tectonic...
DJS					Tectonic...
DKB					Faulting... Folding... Cleavage...
DKF					Plate tectonics
DKG					Diastrophism... Seismology, earthquakes
DKM					Igneous, magmatic cycle... Metamorphism...
					<i>Parts of the crust</i>
DLN					Oceanic crust... Continental crust...
DLR					Geography
					* <i>Alternative to locating at DT. The latter is preferred, especially for non-British libraries.</i>
					* N.B. Inserting this alternative interrupts the hierarchy of the preferred order. If DLR were Geography, all the classes DM/DS would constitute physical geography & would be indented as subclasses, like regional geography (with DM, etc., being indented accordingly).
DLR	8				Regional geography (general)
<b>DM</b>					<b>Surface of earth, geomorphology</b>
					<i>Processes &amp; properties of the surface</i>
DMJ					Process geomorphology
DML	E				Exogenic processes, external geodynamics
DML	J				<i>By locale</i> Subterrestrial...
					<i>By nature of the action</i>
DML	X				Denudation... Sedimentation... Layering...
					<i>By agent of the action</i>
DMT					Water action... Snow & ice action...
					<i>By element of water</i> Currents...
					<i>By salinity</i> Freshwater...
DNB					Fluvial action, river action
DNC					Standing waters action
DND					Lake water action... Marine action...
DNG					Atmospheric action... Wind action...
DNH					Biological action, organogenic action
					<i>Parts of the surface</i>
DNL					Landforms
DNM	N				<i>Of endogenic origin</i>
					<i>By rockform</i> Duricrust... Outcrops...
					<i>By rock composition</i> Limestone...
DNR	F				Non-tectonic... Gravity-controlled...
DNS					Tectonic structures
DNU					Fractures... Joints... Faults... Folds...
DOG					Diastrophic landforms
DOM					Igneous landforms... Plutons... Volcanoes...
DOW					Metamorphic structures
					<i>By landmass</i> Continents... Islands...
					<i>By relief</i> Mountains... Slopes...
					Earth Sciences
					<i>Parts of the Earth</i>
					Surface of the Earth, geomorphology
					<i>Parts of the surface</i>

		Landforms	
		<i>Of exogenic origin</i>	
DPL X			Denudation landforms... Eroded... Weathered...
DPO			Transported landforms... Sediments...
		<i>By agent of formative process</i>	
DPT			Hydrogeomorphology
DPT R			Snow & ice... Glacial forms...
DPX F			Groundwater forms... Surface water forms...
DQA			River landforms... Floodplains...
DQC			Bodies of water landforms
DQC S			Shorelines (general)... Banks...
DQE			Marine action landforms... Coastal...
DQG			Atmospheric geomorphology... Aeolian...
DQG V			Arid zones... Deserts...
DQH			Biological action landforms
DQH X			Extraterrestrial action... Meteor craters...
<b>DR</b>		<b>Hydrosphere, hydrology</b>	
		<i>Processes &amp; properties</i>	
DRH C			Hydrological cycle...
DRK G			<i>Elements &amp; types of flow</i>
		* As BU Physics of liquids.	
		<i>Forms of water</i>	
DRO			Snow & ice, glaciology (broadly)
DRQ			Glaciers, glaciology (narrowly)...
DRR			Water on land, land hydrology
DRS			Groundwater, hydrogeology
DRS NX			Zones... Layers... Aquifers...
DRS T			Springs (at intersection of water table/surface)
DRT			Surface water, freshwater
DRU			Rivers & streams, potamology
DRU M			Drainage systems...
		<i>Parts &amp; types of rivers... Banks... Estuaries...</i>	
DRU X			Bodies of water (general)
DRV			Lakes... Artificial bodies of water...
DRW			Ocean, seas, oceanography
DRW 8			Regional
		<i>Processes &amp; properties</i>	
DRW KP			Flow... Waves... Ocean currents...
DRW LS			Mixing... Stratification...
DRW N			Body of ocean, pelagic body
DRW PC			Air-sea boundary... Ocean layers... Surface...
DRW XBC			Coastal forms... Fjords... Inland scenes...
DRW U			Seabed, ocean floor, submarine topography
DRW UP			Marine deposits... Siliceous... Biogenic...
<b>DS</b>		<b>Atmosphere, atmospheric sciences</b>	
		* Nearly all the literature relates to meteorology of the troposphere and tropopause. The detail given under the latter (DSK/DSX) may be applied to the atmosphere in general when applicable.	
DSG W			Atmospheric regions
DSI			Upper atmosphere.. Ionosphere... Stratosphere...
DSJ T			Tropopause... Troposphere...
DSK			Meteorology, weather science
		Earth Sciences	
		<i>Parts of the Earth</i>	
		Atmosphere, atmospheric sciences	
		Atmospheric regions	
		Meteorology, weather science	
DSK 35			<i>(Operations)</i> Practical meteorology

DSK 92	. . . . .	Forecasting... Weather modification... (General processes & properties)
DSK 9CP	. . . . .	Distribution... Variation... Duration...
DSK AB	. . . . .	Physics
		* Add to DSK letters AC/J following BT Gas physics; eg
DSK B	. . . . .	Mechanics & flow... Pressure... Density... Special features of airflow
DSK GB	. . . . .	Confluence... Eddies... Turbulent flow...
DSK N	. . . . .	Winds
DSL S	. . . . .	Planetary winds... Westerlies... Types of winds other than planetary
DSL X	. . . . .	Seasonal... Monsoon... Orographic...
DSM V	. . . . .	Vortices... Tornadoes...
		Other energy interactions
		* Division by B Physics was interrupted to take the special extension of flow at DSK GB; it is now resumed.
DSO P	. . . . .	Thermal phenomena... Lapse rate...
DSP H	. . . . .	Electrical phenomena... Lightning...
DSP K	. . . . .	Radiation... Optical phenomena...
DSQ	. . . . .	Composition of the atmosphere, air
DSQ U	. . . . .	Gaseous constituents... Nitrogen... Oxygen...
DSQ W	. . . . .	Water in atmosphere
DSQ WNP	. . . . .	Evaporation... Condensation...
DSQ X	. . . . .	Water vapour... Clouds... Fog...
DST B	. . . . .	Precipitation... Rain... Dew...
DST R	. . . . .	Solid matter in atmosphere
DST S	. . . . .	Aqueous... Frost... Hail... Snow...
DSU B	. . . . .	Non-aqueous... Haze... Aerosols... Dust...
DSU H	. . . . .	Atmospheric layers in meteorology
		* Divide as DSI/DSJ.
DSU M	. . . . .	Atmospheric formations, weather systems
DSU MU	. . . . .	Instability... Air masses... Fronts...
DSW H	. . . . .	Anti-cyclones, highs...
DSW N	. . . . .	Cyclones, lows, depressions, disturbances
DSW W	. . . . .	Air-earth surface boundary... Boundary layer...
DSX	. . . . .	Climates, climatology
DSX RC	. . . . .	Zones... Oceanic climates... Temperate...
DSY C	. . . . .	Macroclimatology... Microclimatology...
<b>DSY V</b>	. . . . .	<b>Biosphere, ecosphere</b>
		* Part of the Earth adjacent to the surface.
<b>DT</b>	. . . . .	<b>GEOGRAPHY</b>
		* Biosphere viewed as the physical & behavioural environment of humans.
		* In British practice, usually includes the classes DM/DS above (as physical geography). Alternatives reflect this.
		* Alternative (not recommended) for geography in general is DLR.
DT8	. . . . .	Regional geography
		* Alternative at DW allows citing region first.
DTL S	. . . . .	Systematic geography
DTL Y	. . . . .	Physical geography, physiography
		* Alternative (not recommended) to DM/DS.
		* Add to DT letters M/S following D; eg DTM Geomorphology.
DTU	. . . . .	Biogeography
		* Preferred in Biology (at EJJ, FJJ and GJJ)
		Earth Sciences
		. Parts of the Earth
		. . Geography
		. . . Systematic geography
DTV	. . . . .	Environmental geography (general)
		* Covers environment of all living forms. Most of the literature relates to the human environment.
		* Alternative (not recommended) to GX.
DU	. . . . .	Human geography, anthropogeography (broadly)

		* All aspects of geography not directly concerned with the physical environment.
DUG	. . . . .	Systematic human geography, applied geography
		* Add to DU letters G/Z from the whole classification:
DUH	. . . . .	Medical geography... Psychological...
DUK	. . . . .	Social geography, sociocultural geography
DUK AH	. . . . .	Social environmental geography
		* <i>Alternative is to make a separate class at DY.</i>
DUK AI	. . . . .	Settlement... Areal mobility...
DUK AR	. . . . .	Rural geography... Urban...
DUK B	. . . . .	Population geography
[DUK CP]	. . . . .	[Development geography]
		* <i>Use DV.</i>
DUK BV	. . . . .	Cultural geography (narrowly)
DUK KL	. . . . .	Differentiation & stratification
DUK NV	. . . . .	By sex Geography of gender
DUK WR	. . . . .	Geography of custom & lore
DUL4	. . . . .	Travel & description...
		* <i>Alternative (not recommended) to L4.</i>
DUL5	. . . . .	Historical geography
		* Reconstruction of the geographies of past periods.
		* Division of this class may be as in the history class itself
		L/O; eg DWM Preferred country, DWN Others (by
		Schedule 2). This would include their period divisions.
DUL56	. . . . .	Exploration & discovery
DUR	. . . . .	Political geography
		* For geopolitics narrowly, see DWR_QP.
DUR QP	. . . . .	Imperialism. Geopolitics, Geopolitik
DUT	. . . . .	Economic geography
DV	. . . . .	Development geography, development studies
		(general)
		<i>(Processes &amp; properties</i>
DVE	. . . . .	Scale of change... Globalization...
		<i>By level of development</i>
DVJ	. . . . .	Developed world (usually assumed)
DVL	. . . . .	Developing countries... Third world...
DW	. . . . .	Regional geography
		* <i>Alternative to DT8 (collecting under a place all aspects of its</i>
		<i>geography).</i>
DY	. . . . .	Ecology & environment (general & human)
		* <i>Alternative (not recommended) to GY.</i>
<b>E</b>	<b>BIOLOGY</b>	
		* Included here to show context.
EGO	. . . . .	Ecology, environment (biology)
		Biogeography
GY	. . . . .	Ecology (general & human), environment (general & human)
		* For works dealing with ecology in purely biological terms, see EGO.
		* <i>Alternative (not recommended) is DY.</i>
		<i>Subjects of control &amp; protection</i>
		Pollution
		Natural resources
		* Consumption, expenditure, renewal.

## **Notes on the implementation of Classes DG/DY (Earth Sciences) draft schedule in the Library of Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge**

**Heather Lane**, *Librarian*

**Sarah Butler**, *Bibliographic Services Librarian*

### **Background**

Sidney Sussex College Library began reclassification to BC2 from a local scheme in 1995. Reclassification has been carried out in tandem with the retrospective conversion of the library's catalogues. It is hoped that the project will be completed by the end of September 1998. The library has a stock of approximately 30,000 volumes covering the full range of subjects taught in the University, with particularly strong holdings in Geography and History. Bliss was chosen as a flexible and hospitable scheme which would provide an arrangement which closely matched the requirements of the Tripos courses.

From the outset, it was clear that we would have to use a mixture of published and draft schedules. We therefore decided to close our card catalogue subject by subject, and began work on the areas covered by the published schedules. During the course of the project, Classes R (Politics) and S (Law) appeared, and for the remainder of the subjects good drafts were obtained from the BCA and from King's College, who had pioneered the use of Bliss in Cambridge. However, it became apparent that no substantial draft existed for the Earth Sciences, and work began in 1996 to collect materials. With the assistance of colleagues from the Department of Geography, notably James Blake and Benjamin Rule, two graduate students, one in human and one in physical geography, a broad structure was prepared and submitted to the scheme's Editor, Jack Mills, for comment. By February 1998 the notated draft had evolved to the state reproduced elsewhere in this Bulletin, and the decision was taken to implement it. We were aware that the draft was deficient in a number of areas, despite Jack Mills's heroic efforts to supply sufficient terminology, but agreed that applying it would provide useful detail for subsequent amendments.

The draft provides several alternatives for the arrangement of the stock, and we consulted colleagues in the Department of Geography to ascertain the approaches which seemed most suited to Tripos. BC2 also enabled us to create a detailed subject index. This was to prove invaluable in ironing out discrepancies and resolving differences of opinion. The first choice involved the basic structure of the subject, reflecting the differing traditions which have grown up on either side of the Atlantic:

#### ***American***

Earth sciences  
Geology  
Geomorphology = physical geography  
Geography = human geography

#### ***British***

Earth sciences  
Geology  
Geography  
Physical geography  
Geomorphology  
Human geography

We decided upon the British option, and modified the notation slightly to allow the gathering of general works on Geography as a discipline (physical and human considered together) at DM, with Physical geography at DMF, Geomorphology (study of landforms) at DMG and Human geography at DU.

### **Physical science vs. Human science?**

In Cambridge Geology forms part of the Earth Sciences Tripos, while the Geography Tripos is divided into two sub-disciplines, Physical and Human Geography, and different approaches have been required for each, leading to some inconsistency in the treatment of the subject as a whole. We did not wish to make the regional approach paramount, i.e. subordinating both geology and physical and human geography to place. In Geology and Physical geography therefore, place is subordinate to aspect (e.g. all general works on types of landforms file before works on those landforms in particular locations, rather than being arranged as regional physical geography).

*Geology* and *Physical geography* presented relatively few problems. It was difficult to maintain a consistent notation in DG2-9 whilst drawing on the general concepts of theory, research and instrumentation from the draft of AY (Science in general). As far as possible we have tried to use the numeral 7 to introduce date and 8 to introduce place (with additions from the Common Auxiliaries) throughout, except where a subject is arranged regionally (e.g. British history N; Modern American society KVY). This is a concept easily grasped by users and classifiers, and simple to explain when giving a brief introduction to the scheme.

There was some debate about the arrangement of *palaeogeology* and *stratigraphy*, and whether they should be collocated with historical or regional geology. We opted for a historical approach, and took the option to locate them at DGK rather than with the crust at DJ. This is no consolation to first years wanting to find a sequence of British palaeo-geology, but useful for second and third years looking for works on the Jurassic era. On balance, we also felt that two sequences for historical geology, one for the geosphere and one specifically for the crust, would not necessarily be helpful.

A further problem has been the arrangement of works on sub-disciplines such as sedimentology and glaciology, which encompass all aspects of the subject. With the draft as it stands, works are divided by process (e.g., sediment transport, glacial action) or structure (e.g., depositional forms, glaciers). This division is not reflected in the literature, and some additional work on the notation has been necessary to create a satisfactory arrangement on the shelves.

### **Human geography**

Human geography, however, created an entirely unexpected set of problems. The most urgent of these was the degree to which we should attempt to arrange works regionally, as opposed to systematically. It was apparent from the course outlines that only certain areas/countries are studied on a regional basis each year, and although it would be possible to gather all the materials on these countries together, and treat all others systematically, that would leave us with an inconsistent arrangement between preferred and non-preferred areas.

We set out a number of alternatives:

- 1) to arrange the whole subject systematically by subject: human, social, historical, political, economic (reflecting the order of the main BC2 classes), with development and environmental studies as possible additional areas. Truly regional treatments (physical and human together) would file at the beginning of the sequence, otherwise works about geographical aspects of individual countries would be filed by subject, and place indicated by 8 + letters from Auxiliary Schedule 2.
- 2) to arrange everything (except for general systematic treatments) regionally, and subordinate subject to each country or region, using two letters to introduce Regional Geography and adding places from Auxiliary Schedule 2. Works on aspects of human geography could then be arranged systematically to reflect the main sequence.
- 3) to separate the subjects according to the level of development discussed:
  - a) global (systematic)
  - b) developed world
  - c) developing world

This begs the question, when does a country move from one category to another, and would we then want to reclassify it? At what developmental level are the post-Soviet States, Central America, China, etc., and could we use this as a criterion for gathering works on these areas?
- 4) to attempt some kind of hybrid scheme – perhaps Developed world (however defined) arranged systematically; Developing world (divided into Second World, Third World?) arranged regionally.
- 5) to keep a single sequence not divided by level of development and subordinate Development geography to Economic geography. This we rejected, as studies of the Third World are not necessarily economic studies, and there is a large body of literature on Development Studies and Development planning which encompasses not only the economic aspects of developing countries, but also the political and social aspects, and their interaction. The sequence in our first draft (not divided by level of development and subordinating Development Studies to Economic geography) made it difficult to group social and political aspects of development together.

After considerable thought we chose Option 2, perhaps the most traditional approach. A regional arrangement has the advantage of being the expected arrangement, with all works on an individual country filing together. The users readily accept that the sequence in each country reflects the main systematic sequence.

After a couple of decades of discussing the nature of the discipline, Human geographers are now moving back towards an Area Studies approach (human geography of an entire region, whether this is political, e.g. Communist world, post-Soviet States, or economic, e.g. Third World, or geographical, e.g. Latin America, South Asia). We therefore created a Development Studies section at DV, which covers development theory as well as providing a place for general works on areas by level of development – the Second or Third World, developing countries or regions. All South Asian or Latin American studies, for example, could be kept together here if preferred. On reflection, we chose to leave them in the regional sequence at DX + letters from Auxiliary Schedule 2, as introductory materials to the national states within each region.

### **General problems**

The current draft does not fully address the need for a terminology specific to geography, e.g., spatial concepts of organisation and distribution, time-space series. Human geography is wholly dependent for terms by addition from other schedules. This is advantageous in providing the user with notation which points directly to related topics in the library, e.g. *A geography of economic behaviour* at DUT BO is clearly related to TBO in Economics. However, there is as yet no mechanism for synthesis between the notation thus created and the notation 'internal' to Geography. It is difficult to express, for example, spatial concepts in the cultural geography of imperialist systems, since this will currently file with imperialism in political geography at DUR QP, rather than with cultural geography (which would be preferable) at DUK BV.

A further problem which arises when adding directly from other schedules is the relatively late position in most of the global or international sequence (RO in politics, TO in economics). Global concerns in geography warrant a more prominent location, particularly one suitable for works on globalization and global change. The globalization process covers all subjects, and could be made a specific geographic process, perhaps using 9, but the problem of synthesis with other classes still remains. To avoid a vast amount of repetition, notation from all other schedules is necessary, but the geographical perspective is global to specific, unlike, e.g. Politics, where RO = international politics. If we were to treat both global and systematic as synonymous, works on the discipline of political geography at DUR could not be distinguished from treatments of the geography of global politics.

*Historical geography* creates some difficulties as it interrupts the sequence of main strands of human geography, social, political and economic. It would be possible to subordinate historical to regional, although with some difficulty as our draft of history does not use the Auxiliary Schedule 2 notation for Place. As it forms the subject of a number of discrete papers in Tripos, we decided to leave it at DUL-DUO, and to take the notation directly from the History classes. A further alternative would have been to collocate historical geography with History.

We also found that there was no single place for libraries wishing to collocate *rural geography* and *urban geography*, pulling together social, political and economic aspects. We therefore suggested a possible location at DUW-DUX, but in practice have divided urban and rural geography systematically, using the notation for rural and urban communities provided in K, R and T, with some slight amendments to provide a more consistent notation. We also encountered a further complication, in that *Land economy* (including Town and country planning) had historically been placed with Geography in our existing classification. Where possible we divided those textbooks which were definitely "geographical" (i.e. by geographers) from those by land economists. Inevitably there has been some overlap in subject matter. BC2 places Land Economy in Class U, and we have therefore used DUU as a temporary location until the published schedule is available.

*Environmental studies* posed a final problem. In Cambridge this is generally studied as part of either physical or social geography. We did not wish to use GY (Human ecology) as this would have taken the human environment too far from its base subject in Tripos. DT was mooted as a possible location, forming a bridge subject between physical and human geography. As the majority of our textbooks cover human impact on the environment, we finally opted to use DY as the base classmark, and to subdivide like DU for human and social aspects, whilst adding some terms of our own to cover scientific aspects, hazards, etc. Natural history was then placed at DYX.

In summary, we have developed two possible models for the structure of Classes DM/DY, actually implementing the first of them:

<i>Structure 1</i>		<i>Structure 2</i>	
DM	Geography	DM	Geography
DMF	Physical geography	DMF	Physical geography
		DT	Environment & Ecology
DU	Human geography	DU	Human geography
DUK	Social	DUK	Social
DUL	Historical	DUL	Historical
DUR	Political	DUR	Political
DUT	Economic	DUT	Economic
DUU	Land Economy		
DV	Development Studies	DV	Development Studies
DW	( <i>spare class</i> )	DW	Regional geography
DX	Regional geography	DX	Land Economy/Town planning
DY	Environmental & Ecology	DY	Natural History
DYX	Natural History		

It must be remembered that these are based upon local requirements in Cambridge, and there are no doubt areas for debate that we have not yet uncovered. We have successfully implemented the draft schedule, and produced an arrangement which has met with approval from our users. With the customary flexibility of BC2 it should be possible to design a schedule with sufficient alternatives to meet the needs of geography libraries everywhere. We can only hope that this exercise has gone some way towards pointing out the pitfalls.



***It was so much simpler in those days...***

The art of Biography  
Is different from Geography.  
Geography is about maps,  
But Biography is about chaps.

*Edmund Clerihew Bentley (1875-1956)*



## **Forty years after Dorking**

### **Jack Mills at the 6th International Study Conference on Classification Research**

The fortieth anniversary of the first study conference held in Dorking in May 1957 was commemorated at the Sixth ISCCR held in London 16 - 18 June 1997, which had as its theme and title *Knowledge Organization for Information Retrieval*. Many of the participants at that historic and ground-breaking meeting in 1957 gathered again for a celebration dinner.

Jack Mills, who had been one of the main participants in the first conference, was invited to give the keynote address. In this he sought to embellish the statement in the leaflet announcing the sixth conference, that "Classification never really went away..." The bold and confident claim by the Classification Research Group in 1957 that faceted classification was needed as the basis of all information retrieval set the keynote for that conference. Two developments in particular questioned this assertion in the years which followed: firstly, a concern with exhaustive retrieval of highly specific information, compared with the limited exhaustivity associated with pre-coordinate systems, and secondly, the rapid development of machine searching and selection, associated with a minimum of pre-indexing and pre-coordination.

In his paper, Jack went on to review forty years' developments in classification design, in particular the work of the CRG on a general classification scheme, which was never created but established the principles for developing special classifications, and the emergence of BC2, which is both a greatly enlarged and radically revised edition of the work of H.E. Bliss and at the same time in many ways the fulfilment of the CRG's vision of a general scheme. In reconsidering the claims of the 1957 declaration, he noted the nature of those indexing devices developed for machine searching which cannot be said to be dependent upon faceted classification, but nevertheless reaffirmed the value of the technique as a powerful – indeed, indispensable – tool in the initial stage of searching (that is, clarifying and articulating the searcher's need), and made a plea for the recognition of faceted classification as a potentially very powerful aid in the educational process. The sheer magnitude and rate of growth of knowledge and information makes the need for clearly and consistently structured maps of the fields of knowledge ever more important. Libraries need good tools to help their users cope with the problem.

The proceedings of the conference were published last year:

**International Study Conference on Classification Research** (*6th : 1997 : University College, London*)

Knowledge organization for information retrieval : proceedings of the Sixth International Study Conference on Classification Research : held at University College London, 16 -18 June 1997 / organized by FID/CR and University College London in association with Aslib, the Classification Research Group and the International Society for Knowledge Organization.

The Hague, Netherlands : International Federation for Information & Documentation, 1997. ix, 206 p : ill ; 29 cm. – (FID ; 716). – ISBN 92-66-00716-1

## **Nine Decades of Bliss**

### ***Alan Thomas investigates the archive***

Henry Evelyn Bliss was a prolific writer, both for publication and in correspondence. He himself selected from the mass of material accumulated over his working life those items which related to classification and deposited them at the Columbia University School of Library Science (subsequently transferred to the Rare Book and Manuscript Library). This fine archive had been sadly underused until Alan Thomas delved into it and emerged to produce an invaluable – and in some ways tantalising – account of his findings.

*Bibliographical classification : the ideas and achievement of Henry E. Bliss* <sup>(1)</sup> draws on Bliss's own comments and those of his correspondents and vividly illustrates his thought and style, his views on classification and indexing in general, and on schemes other than his own, describes the making of the scheme and traces the development and influence of the BC in Bliss's own lifetime. The final eight or nine pages bring the story forward to the present day.

Alan read all 1300-odd items in the Henry E. Bliss papers, and has selected quotations from some 200 of them to make a balanced and manageable account for his readers. It is absolutely required reading for all students of Bliss. Invaluable, certainly, but tantalising, too : how many more nuggets of HEB's wisdom and insight, his criticism and his humour lie there deserving resurrection?

The last couple of pages contain an appendix entitled *Glimpses of Henry Evelyn Bliss: 1937-40* by Joseph R. Dunlap. Mr Dunlap worked at the City College Library in New York, starting in 1937 shortly after completing his degree at the Columbia University School of Library Service, when Bliss was then nearing seventy. Acknowledging receipt of a copy of the article, Mr Dunlap's wife, Barbara J. Dunlap, librarian in the Division of Archives and Special Collections in the College, wrote to Alan recently:

... His classification worked particularly well for the subject divisional reading room collections which were such a good feature of our former library.

Our Special Collections ("rare books") have now been retrospectively converted and listed in our OPAC. We made the decision not to reclass these titles (about 18,000 altogether). They are protected, paged volumes. Our Bliss call numbers are attached to these titles in the OCLC local field. ...

It will be a pleasure to add your article to our collection of materials on Bliss. I hope this summer to look over our Bliss collection again and construct a proper finding aid for it which can be put on the Web. While our materials are scanty compared to those at Columbia, it is important to me that City College continue to be publicly linked with the Bliss Classification. ...

Once again, Alan Thomas has put us all in his debt by bringing Bliss's ideas and work and personality to life though Bliss's own words, in a way that the standard textbooks on classification can only do in part. This was the enormously influential thinker whom we honour, and who described himself in later life as "a little fellow with something of a sprightly mind ... The erosions of life have worn down to a little fellow, one who once thought he had a big head, and so undertook a big job."

We are still in the process of finding out just how big that job was.

### **The Bliss Classification Association an association to develop and promote the**

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<sup>1</sup> *Cataloging & classification quarterly*, vol. 25 (1), 1997, p. 51-104.

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**Observer from UDC Consortium:**

Mrs Ia McIlwaine

## The Back Page

### And note also...

... the publication of *Cataloging and classification : trends, transformations, teaching, and training* / James R. Shearer, Alan R. Thomas, editors. (Haworth Press, 1997). ISBN 0-7890-0339-2 and 0-7890-0340-6 (paperback). This contains among its twelve articles *The work-wide web : a cataloging career for every librarian?* by Alan Thomas, and Ia McIlwaine's contribution, *Classification schemes : consultation with users and cooperation between editors*. (The book was also published as *Cataloging & classification quarterly*, Vol. 24, nos. 1/2, 1997).

### UDC at IFLA

This year's IFLA Conference in Amsterdam in August sees a major session on UDC, led by Ia McIlwaine. Ia herself is contributing a paper on *UDC at the present time* which surveys the whole scene, including due reference to the cooperation between BCA and the UDC Consortium. Another paper, highly technical and not concerned with BC2 at all, but nevertheless of potential interest as a demonstration of techniques we use, *The revision process in UDC : an examination of the systematic auxiliary a "point of view" using facet-analytical methods*, is to be given by Vanda Broughton. Both these papers are available on the World Wide Web: <http://ifla.inist.fr/IV/ifla64/102-158e.htm>  
and <http://ifla.inist.fr/IV/ifla64/103-158e.htm> respectively.

### For shame

Two years ago we noted the merger of the Office of Populations Censuses and Surveys (OPCS), one of our BC2 users, with the Central Statistical Office, to form the Office of National Statistics. The two sections would be remaining in Pimlico, London, and Newport, South Wales, respectively. Alas! – our young and enthusiastic colleague who had only recently taken up post at Pimlico was unable to convince her seniors that her library should not be classified by the well-known and less efficient scheme used in Newport. Our loss – and also theirs, did they but know it.

### New Bliss Web pages

These are still few and far between. Various organizations whose libraries use BC have Web sites, but they do not necessarily say anything much about their library services, still less give external access to their catalogues. Please tell the Editor about any developments. The *Broad System of Ordering* has its homepage at <http://www.classbso.demon.co.uk>

### Oh, no it's not! ...

... what you might be thinking and hoping. An Internet search for 'bliss' and 'marc' will retrieve BLISS-MARC INTERNATIONAL, of Lincolnwood, IL, which appears to be a relatively new firm offering financial and insurance programs, and whose Web pages are somewhat uninformative and largely under development. Waste neither \$20+ per month nor your time on this one. I've no idea what the significance of the name is!

