



Dewey Decimal Classification NEWS



January 2013 Edition ALA Midwinter, Seattle [SAC 13-MID/6]

Dewey at ALA Midwinter

The Dewey Breakfast/Update will be held on Saturday, 26 January, 7:00–8:30 am, Conference Center of the Washington State Convention Center, Room 202. The program will feature presentations on machine-assisted classification using WebDewey, Classify and AutoDewey; the new user contribution module in WebDewey; and upcoming Dewey data enhancements. The ALCTS Public Libraries Technical Services Interest Group will meet in the same room, 8:30–10:00 am, directly following the Dewey Breakfast/Update.

Dewey at the ALA Midwinter Exhibits

Stop by OCLC Booth 1917 to see WebDewey 2.0. The print editions of DDC 23, Abridged Edition 15 and 200 Religion Class are available at the Combined Book Exhibit, Booth 2330. There will be presentations of AutoDewey at the Library of Congress Exhibit Booth 603 on Saturday, 26 January, at 3:00 pm, and on Sunday, 27 January, at 1:30 pm.

340 Islamic Law

After a favorable response in the worldwide review of the discussion paper “Proposed expansions for Islamic law in 340 Law and related changes” (www.oclc.org/dewey/discussion/papers/IslamicLawDiscussion2R.pdf), we plan to introduce the changes in the DDC 23 database by 1 February 2013. The updates focus on expansions for Islamic law in 340 Law—and on a few topics that came to our attention because of our work on Islamic law, especially religious activities and religious groups in 341 Law of nations and 342 Constitutional law.

WebDewey

WebDewey features an easy-to-navigate user interface with local control over the display of record elements, a generic user interface script to support access to Dewey data in different languages, and access to different mapped terminology sets. In March 2012, the full mixed translation of DDC 23 was made available in the Swedish version of WebDewey. In November 2012, the updated translation of DDC 22 was made available in the German version of WebDewey.

We introduced a combination of data improvements, interface adjustments, and static linked PDFs on 23 September 2012 to support an abridged view of the full edition data in WebDewey. On 11 November 2012, we installed the beta version of the number building / user contribution tool in WebDewey. This new WebDewey feature assists users in building numbers, assigning index terms to the resulting numbers, and contributing the numbers plus index terms back to the Dewey user community. The user-contributed data are captured in a structured format that can be imported and redistributed. Staff at the Library of Congress plus several national libraries in Europe participated in testing the tool prior to launch. Training modules on WebDewey and on the DDC in general are available at www.oclc.org/dewey/resources/teachingsite/courses/.

Dewey.info

Dewey.info, an experimental space for linked DDC data, contains the top three levels of the DDC in 12 languages, plus assignable numbers accompanied by captions from the English, Italian and Vietnamese DDC Abridged Edition 14 data sets. In June 2012, we extended the linked DDC data in dewey.info by adding assignable numbers and captions from DDC 23 (38,000+ numbers—this increased the Dewey linked data store tenfold). At the same time, OCLC took the first step toward adding linked data to WorldCat by appending Schema.org descriptive mark-up to WorldCat.org pages; the WorldCat data includes links to DDC data in dewey.info. In August 2012, we once again extended the linked DDC data available in dewey.info by adding notation for geographic areas from Table 2 (8000+ numbers).

2012 International Dewey Users Meeting

Forty-two librarians from 15 countries attended the International Dewey Users Meeting held in conjunction with the World Library and Information Conference (IFLA) in Helsinki on 14 August 2012. The meeting was the 10th annual meeting of Dewey users held in conjunction with IFLA. A full description of the meeting and links to the presentations are available at <http://ddc.typepad.com/025431/2012/08/international-dewey-users-meeting-at-ifla-2012.html>.

European DDC Users' Group

The European DDC Users' Group (EDUG) will hold its annual meeting in Oslo 11–12 April 2013. Swedish DDC users will meet in Stockholm on 9 April 2013 prior to the EDUG meeting. Julianne Beall, assistant editor, DDC, will represent the Dewey editorial team at both meetings; she will also meet with colleagues at the National Library of Sweden on 10 April 2013.

Data Provenance

At the ALA Annual Conference, MARBI (Machine-Readable Bibliographic Information) Committee approved option 2 (with minor modifications) in MARC Proposal No. 2012-03, Data Provenance in the MARC 21 Bibliographic Format (www.loc.gov/marc/marbi/2012/2012-03.html). The new 883 Machine-generated Metadata Provenance field supports the documentation of provenance of any MARC data field to which it is linked, e.g., the data provenance of machine-generated DDC data in the 082 field. The new field is already in use with respect to user contributed data in WebDewey. Deutsche Nationalbibliothek (DNB), the Library of Congress and OCLC jointly developed the proposal.

Indexing of 083 and 085 Fields in WorldCat

The 2013 OCLC-MARC Update will include several new Connexion and FirstSearch indexes related to Dewey numbers related to Dewey numbers and facets in 083 (Additional DDC Numbers) and 085 (Synthesized Number Component) fields. The new indexes will allow users to discover resources in different numbers from the preferred standard assignment found in the 082 field, or associated with facets within built numbers, like geographic features (from Table 2) or time periods (from Table 1 and elsewhere). Facets within built numbers are detailed in 085 fields, which are in turn are linked to built number represented in 082/083 fields. DNB has been using a local equivalent of 085 fields on a large scale for several years now, resulting in hundreds of thousands of records with 085 field information already present in WorldCat today.

Decimal Classification Editorial Policy Committee (EPC)

The Decimal Classification Editorial Policy Committee (EPC) held electronic Meeting 135A in October 2012, during which the committee approved the final version of the changes to Islamic law. EPC will hold Meeting 136 at OCLC headquarters in Dublin, Ohio, 13–14 May 2013.

Translations

Most of the Dewey translations highlighted below are using translation-support software developed by Pansoft. The Pansoft software imports and exports DDC data using the same MARCXML format used to export the English-language DDC data and to represent DDC data in WebDewey 2.0. Pansoft also developed WebDewey 2.0 under an agreement with OCLC. In addition, Pansoft has developed an end-user Dewey search tool (WebDewey Search) commissioned by the national libraries of Germany, Norway and Sweden using the look and feel of WebDewey 2.0 under an agreement with OCLC.

Arabic: A new Arabic translation of the full DDC is under way at Bibliotheca Alexandrina and is expected to be published by April 2013.

French: Two meetings were held during IFLA 2012 to plan the new French translation of DDC 23, and the translation is now under way. *Guide de la classification décimale de Dewey*, an authorized derivative work based on DDC 23, will be published during early 2013 by Electre.

German: DNB launched the German version of WebDewey on November 30 with updated DDC 22 data; WebDewey DE also features the new number building / user contribution tool. DNB expects to introduce the German translation of DDC 23 in 2015. An updated translation of DDC Sachgruppen is also under development.

Indonesian: Work continues at the National Library of Indonesia on the Indonesian translation of Abridged Edition 15.

Italian: Some experimentation is under way on an Italian WebDewey at the present; translation plans are still under investigation.

Norwegian: Work is under way at the National Library of Norway on a translation of DDC 23 in a Web-only version—the previous five Norwegian translations were customized abridged editions. The Norwegian team has launched a website and blog in conjunction with work on the new Norwegian edition: www.nb.no/norsk-webdewey.

Portuguese: OCLC is in discussions with Fundação Editora Unesp (São Paulo) to produce the first Portuguese translation of the full edition of the DDC. Unesp proposes to publish the Portuguese DDC 23 in print and Web versions.

Swedish: In March 2012, the National Library of Sweden made available the full mixed translation of DDC 23 in the Swedish version of WebDewey.

Turkish: OCLC has received a letter of interest from the National Library of Turkey for a new full-edition translation. The last Turkish translation was based on DDC 20.

Vietnamese: The Vietnamese translation of DDC 23 is slated to be issued in early 2013.

Dewey Online Training Modules

We have completed development of an online set of training modules (available at no charge) for the DDC. The modules are based on DDC 23, and each consists of a slide presentation and a set of exercises; they can be found at www.oclc.org/dewey/resources/teachingsite/courses/. Several of the modules treat general principles governing the operation of the DDC; others treat the structure and use of specific tables and main classes. The presentations and exercises assume the availability of the latest version of the DDC database (i.e., WebDewey), and a professor, trainer and/or experienced Dewey user for offering explanations and fielding questions. The set of training modules includes: Technical Introduction to the DDC; Table 1; Choice of Number Review; Number Building: Add Tables; 000, 100, 200; 300 and Table 5; 400 and Tables 4 and 6; 500; 600; 700; 800 and Table 3; and 900 and Table 2. A separate set of training modules on WebDewey in general and the new number building tool are available on the same training site.

Dewey Staff News

Joan S. Mitchell, editor in chief of the DDC since 1993, retired from OCLC on 18 January 2013. She is the ninth editor of the DDC since 1876. (OCLC acquired the DDC in 1988 from the Lake Placid Foundation.) Prior to joining OCLC in 1993, she was director of educational technology at Carnegie Mellon University and an adjunct professor in the School of Information Sciences at the University of Pittsburgh. She has also held various positions in technical and public services in academic and special libraries. Under Joan's editorship, OCLC published DDC 21 (1996), DDC 22 (2003), and DDC 23 (2011), plus the corresponding abridged editions and 200 Religion Class publications accompanying each full edition. In addition, Joan expanded the DDC's electronic publications, including Dewey for Windows and WebDewey, a Web-based product with a generic user interface script to support access to Dewey data in different languages. Most recently, the DDC has been released as linked open data.

Joan also oversaw the translation of various versions of the DDC into 18 languages and development of various mappings and crosswalks to the system. Joan has also been a tireless advocate for Dewey and librarianship, and visited 30 countries on six continents on behalf of Dewey. While at OCLC, she co-authored two books, wrote 30 scholarly papers for publication, and gave over 120 presentations in venues around the world. Joan has a BA cum laude in economics from Newton College and an MLS from the University of California, Berkeley. In 2005, the American Library Association awarded her the Melvil Dewey Medal, which recognizes distinguished service to the profession of librarianship.

Dewey Section at the Library of Congress

Dewey Section classifiers, others at the Library of Congress, and Cataloging-in-Publication partner libraries assigned Dewey numbers to 92,099 titles during the fiscal year 2012 (October 2011 – September 2012).

Dewey Editorial Office

Please direct questions, comment, or requests for information on the Dewey Decimal Classification to dewey@loc.gov, or:

Dewey Editorial Office
Library of Congress
Dewey Section
101 Independence Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20540-4292
Fax: 1-202-707-0279

(Note: Mail service may be slow to LC due to heightened security precautions.)

Useful Dewey Links

DDC 23	www.oclc.org/us/en/dewey/versions/print/
WebDewey 2.0	http://dewey.org/webdewey
Abridged Edition 15	www.oclc.org/us/en/dewey/versions/abridged/
200 Religion Class	www.oclc.org/us/en/dewey/versions/religion/
dewey.info	http://dewey.info
Dewey webinars & presentations	www.oclc.org/us/en/dewey/news/conferences/
025.431: The Dewey Blog	http://ddc.typepad.com
Dewey training courses	www.oclc.org/dewey/resources/teachingsite/courses/
Discussion papers	www.oclc.org/dewey/discussion
Updates	www.oclc.org/us/en/dewey/updates/ddc23/
Classify	http://classify.oclc.org/classify2/
Questions?	dewey@loc.gov (Dewey Editorial Office) dewey@oclc.org (licensing, group purchases, LIS program)

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