

The voice of the user in DDC 23



The journey of a 21st century classification

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Overview

Dewey Decimal Classification is used worldwide in libraries of all kinds: public, educational and national libraries use DDC to shelve their material, and have done so for many years.

DDC 23, more than any previous edition, has highlighted that it is not only the schedule that needs to keep apace with change, but also the focus, direction and delivery of the product as a whole

The DDC Cycle



National cataloging & classification committees discuss schedule proposals

Classifiers raise issues with the national library

Translation teams raise issues in schedule development

Editors produce revised schedules for comment at EPC; via Blog; EDUG meetings

EDUG discusses schedule proposals from DDC Editors

EPC members send a query to DDC editors

Classifiers comment on DDC Blog postings

Editors receive feedback at Conference events (ALA/IFLA)

People in DDC: The DDC Editorial team, OCLC & Library of Congress

The main responsibility rests with:

- DDC Editorial team based at OCLC and at the Library of Congress
- Technical & expert colleagues at OCLC (development, OCLC Research, product marketing)

People in DDC: The DDC Editorial team, OCLC & Library of Congress

Throughout the seven years since DDC 22:

- Reviewed new areas that have emerged from changing trends in research in authorship (literary warrant)
- Reviewed areas that have emerged following translations into new languages
- Reviewed areas that have become dated
- Reviewed language and terminology
- Produced papers for discussion with the Editorial Policy Committee (EPC)

People in DDC: The DDC Editorial Policy Committee

Papers for discussion are circulated to EPC (Editorial Policy Committee)

EPC is a 10 member Committee that works with and supports the Editors by reviewing and commenting on new and revised schedules

EPC currently has members from:

- USA, Australia, Canada, South Africa and UK

Providing International coverage and representing National Committees:

- ALA, ACOC, CILIP

Place in DDC: The classifier

Each member of EPC:

- Brings their own knowledge and expertise
- Represents the views and input of national committee members representing various organisations in their relevant country
- Brings the views, questions and queries of cataloguers and classifiers from their own and other institutions around the world

Place in DDC: Translation partners and subject specialists

Subject specialists from around the world have been consulted directly on areas as diverse as Religion, History, Geography, and Graphic arts

Specialists from other classifications, for example UDC, have been consulted to ensure that the DDC editors have the fullest possible information before expanding, enhancing or updating the schedule

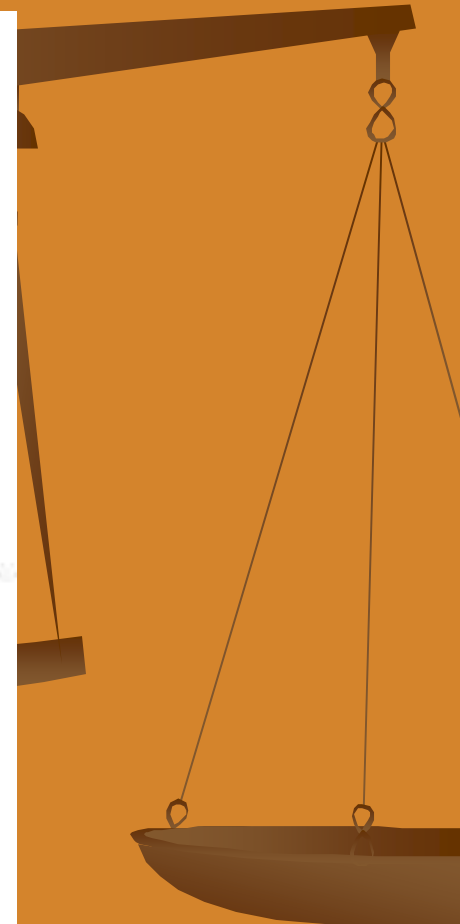
Place in DDC: European DDC User Group (EDUG) and special working groups

A significant change during the development of DDC23 has been the establishment of the European DDC User Group (EDUG)

EDUG was established following a number of European translations, with the aim of sharing experiences and knowledge and contributing to further development from a European perspective

EDUG includes specialist working groups on topics including: Law; Education; Archaeology and technological development

Place in DDC: European DDC User Group (EDUG) and working group on law



EDUG and (Civil) law in DDC23



During the development of DDC23 Civil law matters has been considered. EDUG suggested expansions for criminal courts and for private law concepts.

- New subdivisions in 345.01
- Revision of 346.02 and subdivisions

The law schedule was expanded in DD23 for European Union topics as for instance European Unions bodies and courts.

- Revision of 341.242 and subdivisions

Place in DDC:

Translation partners, European DDC User Group (EDUG), and subject specialists

Since DDC22 the landscape in which the developments take place has also changed:

- Technical experts
- Research partners, and,
- Web Developers

In Summary

Dewey Decimal Classification has grown over many years:

From a system to arrange books on a shelf to aid in the efficiency of libraries

To a language neutral spine for mapping multiple classification schemes / indexing vocabularies (with many uses in between)

Conclusion

Continuing to stay relevant through the input of many people who use the scheme:

The reference librarian; the technical experts; the classifiers; the language experts; the subject specialists and catalogers who use, comment on and make suggestions through the many available forums.

But of course, we could always think of more, and suggestions are welcome.

Further information

OCLC:

<http://www.oclc.org/dewey/>

DDC Blog:

<http://ddc.typepad.com/>

EDUG:

<http://www.slainte.org.uk/edug/>

