

The Bliss Classification Bulletin

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EDITORIAL

This year's Bulletin is the first for many years to appear without a section of Amendments to BC2, for which, no doubt, many users will be most grateful. However, it should not be thought that we are forgetting the need to keep the scheme up to date. For the moment, work is being concentrated on the preparation and publication of further classes, as described in the following pages. Amendments, at this stage in the scheme's development, are often consequential upon the publication of another class: in a synthetic classification of this kind there is an inevitable knock-on effect. The next class to appear will be K, Society; camera-ready copy went to Butterworth in July, and publication should be in November.

My thanks to those who pointed out my brainstorm: Tuvalu is of course in Polynesia. Work is still in progress. The problems of reconciling geographical, political and cultural areas in a unified classification are worth an article in themselves - but not this year! Melanesia, Micronesia, Polynesia, Amnesia... it's all very confusing.

Hon. Editor, Bliss Classification Bulletin: Mr. A.G. Curwen, c/o College of Librarianship Wales, Llanbadarn Fawr, Aberystwyth, Dyfed, SY23 3AS.

The (mis)numbering of issues of The Bliss Classification Bulletin

This is the twentysixth number of the Bulletin to be published, and is so numbered. The former practice of numbering issues as, for example, "Vol.VII, No.1" gave a misleading impression that there should be more than one issue per year, and that there might be a titlepage and index for each "volume"; it was also alarmingly prone to typing errors which remained undetected until too late, such as the 1983 issue which was described as Vol.VIII, No.4 when it was in fact Vol.VII, No.4.

This is No.26: the next issue will be No.27, and so on, without mention of "volumes" and without prejudice to decisions about frequency of issue in the future.

For the benefit of serials librarians and others, the following is a complete listing of the 25 preceding issues:-

Vols.I-III. 3 numbers per vol., irreg. New York: H.W. Wilson Company.
Dates: August 1954, March 1955, August 1955, March 1957,
 September 1959, April 1963, September 1964,
 December 1965, December 1966.

Vols.IV-VII. 4 numbers per vol., annual. London: Bliss Classification Association.
Dates: December 1967 (Vol.IV, No.1)-December 1975 (Vol.VI, No.1);
 January 1977-January 1979 (Vol.VI, Nos.2-4); 1980-1983
 (Vol.VII, Nos.1-4).

Vol.IV, No.4 (December 1970) was misnumbered Vol.IV, No.3
 Vol. V, No.2 (December 1972) was misnumbered Vol. V, No.1
 Vol.VII, No.1 (1980) was misnumbered Vol.VI, No.1
 Vol.VII, No.4 (1983) was misnumbered Vol.VIII, No.4

There was no issue bearing a 1976 date: Vol.VI, Nos.1-2 were dated December 1975 and January 1977 respectively.

* * * * *

The title remains unchanged...

BLISS CLASSIFICATION ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the

Annual General Meeting

held on 2nd December, 1983 at the King's Fund Centre, London, at 2.15 p.m.

PRESENT: Jack Mills (Chairman and Hon. Editor; Polytechnic of North London)
 Paul Brewin (Department of Health and Social Security)
 Chris Horsey (Office of Population Censuses and Surveys)
 Peter Boaden (University of London)
 Chris Preddle (Dr. Barnardo's)
 Eric Coates (Polytechnic of North London)
 Alan R. Thomas (Ealing College of Higher Education, School of
 Library and Information Studies)
 Hilda Stoddard (Chester College)
 Robin Bonner (National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux)
 John Campbell (personal member)
 Julia Hick (Malvern Girls' College)
 Jean Garriock (S. Martin's College, Lancaster)
 Graham Geoghegan (University of Reading)
 Tony Curwen (College of Librarianship Wales)
 Douglas Foskett (University of London, retd.)
 Susan Bury (Haddon Library, Cambridge)
 Valerie Galpin (King's Fund Centre)
 K.W. Best (Lord Chancellor's Department)
 John Nowell (Dr. Barnardo's)
 Marion MacLeod (Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge)
 Elizabeth M. Russell (King's College, Cambridge)
 Margaret V. Cranmer (King's College, Cambridge)
 E. Edwards (Pitt Rivers Museum, Oxford)
 Giustina Ryan (National Institute for Social Work)
 Roger Hughes (Commonwealth Institute, London)
 Antony Croghan (personal member)
 Deborah Cowley (Central Council for Education and Training in
 Social Work)

Apologies for absence were received from:

Keith Cheyney (Haberdashers' Aske's School, Elstree)
 Margaret Walker (Tavistock Joint Library)

Before the meeting began Valerie Galpin welcomed the Association to the King's Fund Centre.

1. MINUTES

- 1.1 The minutes of the AGM held on 17th December, 1982 were approved, with two amendments. In item 2, in the second paragraph, the name of Graham Howorth was substituted for Elizabeth Russell. In item 9, the name of Marion MacLeod was added as one of the organisers of the Day of Bliss in Cambridge.

2. MATTERS ARISING

- 2.1 The Chairman reported that BC2 had been proposed as the master classification for an Integrated Thesaurus of the Social Sciences and that a pilot project on ethnicity had begun in which BC2 would be considered alongside an alternative system designed for the project. The project was being funded by Unesco.

3. FUNDRAISING APPEAL

- 3.1 The Chairman reported on the fundraising appeal. It had consumed a great deal of time, but had raised £24100 altogether. £17000 had come from trusts and companies, £1545 from schools of librarianship and similar bodies, and £5300 from Association members.

4. PROGRESS OF BC2: REPORT BY THE HON. EDITOR

- 4.1 Physical production of class K had been delayed for two years by many difficulties arising from its computer production. Completion of camera-ready copy was now imminent, and it should be sent to Butterworths early in 1984. In class T, Economics had nearly all been input and Management was being made ready for input. Penultimate drafts of E/F/G and R had been distributed during 1983. Class A was now being finalised under a grant from the John S. Cohen Foundation.
- 4.2 The Editor had almost finished reviewing the remaining gaps in BC2 and finalising the overall structure, and had worked particularly on classes 2/9. Eric Coates began work on classes U/V (Technology) on 1st December, 1983. The Public Record Office had promised a grant towards a draft History schedule (for classes L/O), and a researcher at the PNL would work on social history for three months in 1984. A contract for the finalisation of Music had unfortunately fallen through.
- 4.3 In answer to a question the Editor said that the phenomenon classes should be short, with a selection of entities drawn from the discipline classes and properties and processes partly drawn from the discipline classes and partly enumerated as specials.

5. ARRANGEMENTS FOR BC2 ON THE HON. EDITOR'S RETIREMENT FROM THE POLYTECHNIC OF NORTH LONDON

- 5.1 The Editor reported that he would retire from the PNL at the end of 1983 and would have to reduce considerably the time he spent on BC2. But BC2 would definitely be completed; the PNL was committed wholeheartedly to its completion and would remain the centre for its production. Three members of the PNL's staff were actively contributing to the schedules, and arrangements had been made for regular contact with the Association.

5.2 The Editor circulated a summary of work outstanding on BC2 and said that voluntary help would be very welcome indeed in the enlargement and physical production of the remaining schedules, even in quite small areas. He would remain Editor until the completion of BC2, which he hoped would be in three years' time.

5.3 In response to questions, the Editor explained that classes and volumes would be revised individually for the third edition. The meeting was anxious for a reprint of the Introduction.

6. FINANCE AND MEMBERSHIP

6.1 The Treasurer circulated the general accounts and appeal accounts for the year ended on 31st July, 1983, and sales figures for the published classes. He explained that £9100 promised by the Leverhulme Trust for the compilation of the Technology class would be paid directly to the PNL and would not appear in the Association's accounts. The accounts, which appear later in this bulletin, were approved by the meeting.

7. AUDITOR'S ELECTION

7.1 K.W. Best was re-elected auditor and thanked for his past services in this office.

8. PUBLICITY FOR BC2

8.1 The Publicity Officer reported the publication of a publicity leaflet for BC2 and the Association, which may be inserted in Library Science Abstracts. Two more journals to receive copies of class H had been suggested to Butterworths, and the list of journals to receive class K had been amended and extended. A press release had been prepared for the publication of new classes.

8.2 The Chairman thanked the members who had organised the Day of Bliss in Cambridge.

9. COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

9.1 Jack Mills, Roger Hughes and Susan Bury were elected to the committee.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

10.1 Graham Geoghegan proposed that honorary life membership of the Association should be given to Jack Mills, on the occasion of his retirement from the PNL, and to John Campbell, in gratitude for very many years of service to the BC and to the Association. This was carried by acclaim.

BLISS CLASSIFICATION ASSOCIATION

Receipts and Payments Account for the Year ended 31st July 1983 (General)

| PAYMENTS | | RECEIPTS | |
|----------|-----------------------------------|----------|--|
| 1983 | | 1983 | |
| 450.00 | Expenses of 2nd edition | 574.26 | Balance forward 1st August 1982 |
| 50.00 | Committee Expenses | 45.50 | Subscriptions |
| 86.45 | Stationery and Postage | 33.00 | Personal |
| 6.79 | Other | 789.20 | Schools |
| | | 867.70 | Other Institutions |
| | | 8.00 | Sales of Bulletin |
| | Balance in hand at 31st July 1983 | 204.61 | Butterworths Royalties, year to June 1982 |
| | Bank a/c current 45.72 | 86.77 | Distributions from M&G (Charibond) |
| | Bank a/c deposit 2878.17 | 180.13 | Interest on general bank deposit a/c |
| | (general) 2923.89 | 3517.13 | |
| | | 2280.65 | |

P. Boaden
.....
Hon. Treasurer

University of London Library,
Senate House,
Malet Street,
London, WC1E 7HU.

The Association's Assets at 31st July 1983 were as follows:-

| | | | |
|------|---------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| 1982 | 800.13 | Charibond (at cost) | 800.13 |
| | 2169.92 | Cash at Bank (General a/cs) | 2923.89 |
| | 2970.05 | Cash at Bank (Appeal a/c) | 3724.02 |
| | | | 14404.45 |
| | | | <u>18128.47</u> |
| | | | 1983 |

BLISS CLASSIFICATION ASSOCIATION

Receipts and Payments Account (Bliss Classification Appeal), Year ended 31st July 1983

RECEIPTS

PAYMENTS

| | | | |
|---|----------|----------------------------------|----------|
| Balance brought forward 1st August 1982 | 0.00 | No payments made during the year | 0.00 |
| Contributions | | Balance in hand 31st July 1983 | 14404.45 |
| J.S. Cohen Foundation for Class A | 8000.00 | | |
| Other contributions | 6214.21 | | |
| | 14214.21 | | |
| Bank Interest (Bliss Classification Appeal Account) | 190.24 | | |
| | <hr/> | | |
| | 14404.45 | | |
| | <hr/> | | |
| | | | <hr/> |
| | | | 14404.45 |
| | | | <hr/> |

P. Boaden
.....
Hon. Treasurer

University of London Library,
Senate House,
Malet Street,
London, WC1E 7HU.

BCA's MICROCOMPUTER

An Apricot microcomputer has been purchased and has been found to suffer from all the disadvantages of a mushrooming technology: problems of compatible programming with our existing equipment, defective information in the user's manual, missing files, optimistic promises of rectification in days which turn out to be weeks, and so on. But at last it seems to be operating quite effectively. It was used to help the final preparation of the big A/Z index to Class K and now is with Eric Coates, who is working on the classification of Technology, as described in later pages.

SUMMARY OF WORK OUTSTANDING AND HINTS FOR INDIVIDUAL HELPERS

The following notes by Jack Mills (JM), circulated at the AGM, amplify the invitation to individuals to help (by contributing vocabulary and practical testing) made in paragraph 5.2 of the minutes of the AGM. They also revise and update (to January 1984) the information appearing on p.7-8 of the 1982 Bulletin.

SCHEDULE CONSTRUCTION: suggested procedures for individual helpers

*Where a need for enlarging the vocabulary is indicated under a class, this would normally be achieved by checking the draft BC2 schedule provided by JM against

- (a) BNB cumulations from 1950 to date;
- (b) any recent thesauri in the subject (especially when these contain a fair hierarchical display);
- (c) any recent special classifications in the subject.

*Where a need for practical testing is indicated, this would normally be achieved by practical classification of some recent titles in the literature from periodicals, abstracting journals and publishers' annotated lists or catalogues, etc. It is important to bear in mind that

- (a) such titles should reflect compound classes (i.e., involving two or more terms derived from different facets or arrays) in order to test the citation order and the requirements for synthesis in the schedule;
- (b) it would not be a test of notation, but of specificity of vocabulary: if fuller notation is called for, this will be provided by JM after the tests;
- (c) because of the time-consuming nature of this work, a very rough figure of 50 titles might be aimed at.

*Whereas practical testing of necessity will be of the full schedule, enlarging the vocabulary might be undertaken by a volunteer in a limited part of a schedule, e.g. ensuring an adequate and up-to-date vocabulary in the Graphic arts within the Fine Arts (painting, drawing, printmaking) or the Mass communications media in the Communications class (Press, Broadcasting).

Classes for which penultimate drafts have been issued

*JM would in addition provide a detailed, up-to-date outline of the proposed final structure if this differs from the penultimate draft in any significant way.

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Class A | Philosophy (in hand) Mathematics (in hand) Statistics & probability - needs enlarged vocabulary and practical testing |
| Class C/CS CT/CY | Chemistry - pure - needs enl. voc. & pr. test. - applied (in hand) |
| Class D/DF | Astronomy - needs enl. voc. & pr. test. |
| Class E/G | Biology, microbiology, botany, zoology (in hand) |
| Class R | Politics (in hand) |
| Class S | Law - needs enl. voc. & pr. test. |
| †Class V | Fine arts - needs enl. voc. & pr. test. |
| †Class W/Y | Language & literature - needs enl. voc. & pr. test.; - needs simplification of alternatives. |

Classes for which penultimate drafts have yet to be issued

| | |
|-------------|--|
| Classes 2/9 | Generalia - needs practical testing Phenomenon classes (in hand) Communications & control Systemology & cybernetics - needs pr. test. Communication science & technology - needs enl. voc. & pr. test. Recording & reprography (including photography, printing & book trade) - needs enl. voc. & pr. test. Individual & mass communication - needs enl. voc. & pr. test. Information science & technologies } Data processing & computers } Documentation & libraries } - parts need enl. vocab. - all need pract. testing |
| Class B | Physics - needs some additional vocab. & pract. testing |
| Class D | Earth sciences (in hand) Geography " " " |
| Class GR/GY | Applied biology " " " |
| Class L/N | History " " " Archaeology & ancillaries " " " Forms, periods, places (in hand) |
| †Class U | Technology (in hand) |

† The notation is given as originally allocated.

PHYSICAL PRODUCTION OF SCHEDULES

- *For most of the above classes, good quality typed schedules will be sent to PNL Computer Services for inputting. Such schedules should be in a near-final form to minimise the great expense and trouble of extensive editing at the terminal.
- *Any offers to provide typing assistance (e.g. re-typing of corrected drafts to provide good copy for computer input) would be very welcome.
- *Proofreading of the newly typed material before return to JM would be a further considerable help.

* * * * *

Well, it was a happy thought...

**Battle
of Bliss
at BL**

*Column heading from The Guardian,
Monday, 23 January 1984*

 *
 * And an even happier thought: *
 *
 * *John Campbell, founder-member of the Association,* *
 * *constant supporter and advocate for the Bliss* *
 * *Classification, has put us even more deeply in* *
 * *his debt by making a very generous donation to* *
 * *the BCA's funds under deed of covenant. The* *
 * *money will be applied to the development and* *
 * *publication of the science classes at John's* *
 * *express wish.* *
 *
 *

PROGRESS ON THE REVISION OF THE CLASSIFICATION SINCE JANUARY 1984

Class A, Mathematics

Vanda Broughton is working on the classification of mathematics supported by the grant from the John S. Cohen Foundation. We have always regarded this class as the most difficult in the whole of BC2 on account of its degree of abstraction and the large variety of roles which some major concepts can play (making a hard and fast, all-through citation order very difficult to implement).

The work is progressing well and valuable comment has been received from members of the Polytechnic of North London Mathematics Department. For those interested, we print here the provisional structure of facets proposed by Vanda Broughton and used in a massive schedule produced by her for discussion and evaluation. This draft excluded geometry, topology and analysis, but it is hoped that much of the vocabulary will be applicable to these fields as well and that consequently the major part of the facet analysis is now complete.

It should be noted that this outline lists the facets in citation order (instead of the inverted order used in the final schedules).

- (1) Systems, structures (Groups, rings, algebras...).
- (2) Elements, components of the system
 - *Either general notions, e.g. characters, products, etc., or special enumerated subdivisions on a particular system, e.g. integers under number theory.*
- (3) Properties (Ordered, finite, binary...).
- (4) Relations (Functions, representations, transformations...)
 - *A new category which we haven't used before; describes an operation on a structure, the result of the operation, or the relationship between the original and resulting structure, or any combination of these three, the three different roles being almost impossible to separate satisfactorily without extensive repetition of vocabulary and an unwieldy schedule as a result.*
- (5) Processes (Continuation, decomposition...).
- (6) Operations (Classification, addition, integration...).
- (7) Methodologies and operations broadly (Elementary methods, recursion theory...)
 - *General methods and approaches which may be applicable to the whole of mathematics.*
- (8) Products
 - *Technically should appear here, but in the mathematical context seem to be more appropriately collocated with the operation that gives the product, e.g. differentiation - derivatives, factorisation - factors.*
- (9) General considerations and common subdivisions.

The following are some examples of index-descriptions derived from the draft schedule (the numbers refer to the facets described above):

- (a) (1) Lattices - Noether - (3) Regular - Local - Small -
(6) Factorization
- (b) (1) Lattices - (2) Ideals - Standard - (4) Congruence
- (c) (1) Sets - Partially-ordered - (2) Chain conditions -
(5) Decomposition - (3) Optimal

Note that the citation of a property (Facet 3) after a process (Facet 5) reflects a general rule that the properties of anything are subordinated to that thing. For this reason the Properties Facet - of any class, not just Mathematics - is sometimes described as a "floating" facet, because its location in a citation chain varies according to what it is qualifying.

Example (c) also shows the use of the property "ordered" acting as a specifier (species-maker) of "sets" to indicate a particular kind of set. This sort of adjustment is frequently found to be necessary.

Class L/O, History, etc.

Derek Langridge (PNL School of Librarianship and Information Studies), with Jane Jennings, the researcher working under his direction, has made considerable progress in settling the structure of this large and important class. The work has been helped by a grant from the Sir John Cassell Fund and the cooperation of the Public Records Office.

Derek Langridge's introductory notes to a provisional draft schedule read as follows:

"Structure of the Comprehensive History Class"

"History is a concrete, not an abstract, form of study. It is not amenable to the strict application of categories and logical division in the way that analytical studies are. The philosophy of history does not provide a consensus for a general pattern. Periodisation varies from country to country, from branch to branch and from historian to historian. Communities change with time. The branches of history do not form mutually exclusive classes: they overlap and can be defined only by emphasis.

"In these circumstances decisions can be based only on practical considerations: the convenience of users and the nature of historical writings. Users concentrating on one branch of history are provided for in the alternative allowing collocation with the related analytical study. For those concerned with history as a whole the commonest unit of study is a particular community over a particular period. The primary division in History should therefore be the Community studied. Most of these are modern nation states, but provision must also be made for communities otherwise defined, for broader studies, such as European and African history and for epochs, such as Ancient, Medieval and Modern in Western history.

"The difficulties of significant periodisation leave the alternative of conventional periods, and the century suggests itself as the obvious unit. Since the exact time span of individual works shows infinite variation the definition of century must be flexible. For example, 19th century, 1815-1914, and Victorian would be synonymous in English history. For works covering periods significantly larger than a century and smaller than the whole history of a community intermediate periods are necessary, such as Medieval, Early Modern, Modern. Exact dates of individual works would be specified to achieve chronological order within any given unit.

"The various branches of history form the major subdivisions for each of these community/period units. In general the detail will be similar to that in related classes such as politics and economics. Specific groups within a community and significant individuals must also be provided for.

"The order of combining parts for the specification of a compound subject is:-
Community/Period/Group/Branch/Precise time.

"Major alternatives will be provided, of course. These will make possible three methods of treating the subject: collocation of the various branches with related analytical studies, e.g. political history with political science, economic history with economics; a completely comprehensive history class; a partially comprehensive history class with distribution of more specialised and technical branches such as history of the arts and intellectual history".

A rough idea of the major elements may be seen in the following provisional outline:

- Area studies
- Travel and description, topography
- History and prehistory
 - Primary documents
 - Secondary documents
 - Study of history
 - Philosophy of history and historiography
 - Auxiliary sciences of history
 - Chronology... Palaeography... Archaeology...
 - Prehistory
 - Prehistoric archaeology
 - Periods
 - Places
 - History (recorded period)
 - Universal
 - (Periods)
 - (Branches of history)
 - *Mainly used under national histories*
 - National character, achievement, legacy
 - Political... Legal... Military... Imperial...
 - Social and economic
 - Religious... Cultural...
 - [etc.]

(Groups within communities)
 Social classes... Religious groups...

(Periods)
**Mainly used under regional and national histories*
 Ancient
 Medieval and modern

(Communities by cultural, ethnic, religious characteristics)
 As Schedule 2, BP/BT

National history
 Western
 [etc.]

Local history
**Alternative to collocating with appropriate national histories*

Biography

CLASS U/V Technology

Eric Coates began work on this massive class in January 1984, supported by a grant from the Leverhulme Trust.

A considerable amount of the ground-clearing and laying down of the basic structure had already been done by Coates and his colleagues in the Broad System of Ordering*. BC2 users who would like an overview of what the general structure is likely to be should consult the BSO schedules (with which the much less detailed outline published in the Introduction to BC2 is largely compatible). BSO's Technology class (600) beginning on p.73 gives a fair idea; it must be remembered, however, that BSO is a broad system of ordering, and the final BC2 schedules will not only differ in details but be far more detailed.

A serious handicap at the moment is the absence of a finalised schedule for Physics (Class B). A fairly advanced draft has been produced but not yet issued as a penultimate draft. The microcomputer BCA has bought is being used to help the preliminary ordering of a physics vocabulary. "Classificatory fragments" have been culled from the definitions in a recent dictionary of physics and input to the microcomputer, which generates a printout from them, showing a large number of "chains" of varying length, e.g.

Angular momentum/Angular impulse
 Rotation/Angular momentum

A small program will be developed so that where the first field of one chain is identical with the last field of another chain, the two will be amalgamated to form a more extended chain, e.g.

Rotation/Angular momentum/Angular impulse

As many "analets" (little analyses) are built up, so hierarchies can be extracted. This method has obvious affinities with the system of inductive classification advocated by J.E.L. Farradane.

* BSO : Broad System of Ordering : schedule and index. - 3rd revision / prepared by the FID/BSO panel: Eric Coates, Geoffrey Lloyd, Dusan Simandl. - The Hague : FID ; Paris : Unesco, 1978. - (FID Publication ; 564)

Schedules proper are being developed systematically within the general framework and preliminary ones have been made for those areas of general application to all technologies which will file first and be "drawn down" for retroactive qualification of later special technologies. These areas of general application include Instrumentation, Systems engineering, Control systems engineering and Computer technology.

The most generalised aspects and manifestations of some of these conceptual areas will appear in earlier classes of BC2. Systemology and Information processing, for example, will appear in the numeral classes at the very beginning. Since the penultimate draft for the latter is being prepared, the concurrent work on the Technology schedules affords a good opportunity for ensuring that there is complete concordance between a general concept and its technical applications.

* * * * *

BC2 AND INFORMATION RETRIEVAL SEARCH STRATEGY

One argument for the effort involved in developing BC2 has been that the combination of Bliss's original carefully considered main class order, with its easily communicable theoretical basis (gradation in speciality), and the rigorously structured internal reorganization producing a comparably communicable and predictable pattern (although in a different way) together provide a detailed map of knowledge which helps librarians or information officers to find their way around large and often strange stores of information. It therefore constitutes a valuable instrument assisting the searching process, whether the files searched (or their indexes) are in classified or alphabetical subject order and are manually presented or computerised.

This argument finds some support in the comments made by B. Hjørland of the Royal Library (Det Kongelige Bibliotek), Copenhagen, in an article which appeared in Social science information studies, v.4, nos.2&3 (April/July 1984), p.143-148, entitled Psychology and information search strategy: "information output overload". In considering the role of psychology in information science he has this to say of BC2:

"The kind of information science research which I have found most useful in connection with the problems of searching (and of course indexing/classification) is the principles of faceted classification developed among others by J. Mills in the second edition of the Bliss bibliographic classification. In the subject areas I am familiar with (mainly psychology, education and psychiatry) this system gives a much more exact and useful categorization of the concepts than the major bibliographic thesauri themselves (e.g., Thesaurus of psychological index terms and Thesaurus of ERIC descriptors). The kind of theoretical development presented in the second edition of Bliss could - if it were applied by the major bibliographies - considerably increase the performance of information retrieval systems in the behavioural sciences. But this has little to do with the psychology of the user, although some psychological aspects may exist".

THE CONTRIBUTION OF JACK MILLS TO TEACHING AND RESEARCH

On the occasion of the retirement of Jack Mills, Reader at the PNL, we wish to acknowledge his outstanding work in the School of Librarianship and Information Studies.

After an apprenticeship in public libraries Jack Mills' professional life began in earnest when he was appointed librarian at the City of London College in 1948. He was faced immediately with the problem of an effective subject organisation for a college library. The problem foreshadowed the nature of his subsequent career; the solution demonstrated his allegiance to principles and analysis, rather than to administrative convenience. In his own words, he was appalled by the inadequacies of Dewey and looked for the best alternative. This he judged to be the Bibliographic Classification, even though it was available only in the 1936 outline plus part one of the full edition. He wrote to Bliss and assisted him in completing the second volume. This first serious encounter with the world of classification was therefore essentially practical and so was his first published article on the experience of applying the Bliss scheme in a college library.

1950 saw the publication of his F.L.A. thesis on the Bliss and Colon Classifications and the beginning of his lecturing career, part-time at the North-Western Polytechnic. In 1952 he was appointed full-time lecturer in charge of classification and cataloguing for the recently established School of Librarianship, a duty which he performed for the next ten years. At the time there was little precedent for the contents or methods of a course in modern classification and few suitable textbooks. His achievement during this decade was to set a standard for the teaching of classification theory and practice that permanently established both his own reputation and that of the School. It was an example that can have no superior in the experience of British library schools, and few equals. 1952 also saw the beginning of the Classification Research Group, a very informal organisation of people with very practical aims. He has been a member throughout its existence, and chairman since the retirement of Bernard Palmer.

The main publications of this period serve to underline the highly practical nature of his work: much needed guidance of a systematic method in the 1955 L.A.R. article on chain indexing; concise and comprehensive instruction both on the use of U.D.C. and the construction of classified catalogues in the Guide to U.D.C. of 1963; analysis of a predominant problem of the time in the Dorking conference paper of 1957 on the classification of a subject field. Less directly practical, but probably more significant and influential was the Modern outline of library classification (Chapman and Hall, 1960) which expounded modern classification theory and used it to lay bare the anatomy of the general schemes.

1962 to 1965 was a period of secondment as Deputy Director of the Aslib-Cranfield Research Project. This provided an intensive experience of research work. It was very much a pioneering investigation, the results of which are still a major source of information on indexing efficiency and a subject of debate. In 1965/6 he performed another pioneering and missionary function in exporting the modern tradition of classification to the U.S.A. The opportunity was provided by the vision of the first Dean of Maryland's library school, but continuation of the tradition there to this day must be due in no small measure to the impression made by J.M. in that first year.

During this year he also began work on a training programme for indexers in the notorious ERIC system, acted as a consultant to the American Geological Institute, and produced one of the very few first-class U.D.C. schedules, for seismology.

In 1966 he resumed his full-time post at North-Western Polytechnic, now as Reader in the department with a responsibility for developing research activities. This was a challenge that he met with his usual energy and thoroughness. In a short time the department had the most flourishing research section in the Polytechnic. Apart from the administrative responsibility for everything, J.M. played an active part in such projects as the Intermediate Lexicon, the Classification of Library Science, the Construction Industries Thesaurus and the programmed instruction in subject analysis and indexing.

Interest in the Bliss Classification had continued since the earliest experience: from 1962 he was editor of the Bulletin and from 1970 of the Second edition. This is a massive task that has progressively claimed more of his time in recent years. It was evident twenty years ago, when the new universities were starting up, that a modern, detailed classification scheme for academic libraries was desperately needed. It should have been promoted by the British Library, who needed it for their proposed open-access extension; it should have been supported by the whole library profession. Instead there was a response of administrative expedience on the one hand and apathy on the other. It is greatly to the credit of PNL that they have given support where the profession has failed in its duty, but the greatest praise is due to Jack himself; that in such unpropitious circumstances he has never wavered in his course. He would be the first to acknowledge the assistance he has received from research workers, from colleagues and from the C.R.G., but it is his own part in the operation that is crucial. Few have the knowledge and technical expertise required, fewer still have the single-mindedness and strength of character to continue year after year and class after class. Some of these classes are already published, many are nearing completion, but there will be no real retirement for J.M. until the final volume is sent to press.

D.W. Langridge

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