

The Bliss Classification Bulletin

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No.30, 1988

CONTENTS

Editorial	Page 1
AGM of the Bliss Classification Association	Page 3
Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 July 1987	Page 7
John Campbell	Page 8
The Bliss User Survey 1987-88	Page 11
Blissword Puzzle No.2	Page 18
Additions and amendments to BC2	Page 19

Note: Additions and amendments this year are printed on both sides of the paper, except for the last two pages which duplicate some amendments users may wish to cut out and paste over the original text.

EDITORIAL

When I wrote the Editorial a year ago we had high hopes that the next volume of the Classification -- Class A: Philosophy, Logic, Mathematics and Statistics -- would be in the hands of readers by the time this one came to be written. That this has not happened reflects some of the difficulties we face. Firstly, much of this work is a part-time (not to say spare-time) activity for many of us, not least Colin Neilson, who single-handedly inputs the whole of these schedules to the microcomputer. Secondly, the Committee took a well-considered decision that the schedules should be proof-read additionally by two or three more of their members. As the Classification has grown both in complexity and the size of its vocabulary, the chances of errors creeping in have increased proportionately. The choice lies between publishing classes as quickly as possible -- a quick and dirty operation -- leaving the tidying up to be done later, or delaying publication until we are satisfied that we have a reasonably accurate text, needing minimal amendment. A glance at the list of corrections to Class T listed at the end of this Bulletin shows what can happen if the former course is adopted (not that Class T appeared "quickly", readers will tell me), and why the Committee feels very strongly that new policy is the right one. We shall, however, be looking for ways to streamline and speed up the whole operation. Class A should be published by mid-1989. Illness among schedule-makers and members of the Committee or their immediate families is another factor which is beyond our control but which can seriously upset our plans. Nevertheless, we continue the work with high spirits and optimism.

Hon. Editor, *Bliss Classification Bulletin*: Mr A. G. Curwen, College of Librarianship Wales, Llanbadarn Fawr, Aberystwyth, Dyfed, SY23 3SE

The Bliss Classification Bulletin, No.30, 1988

Attendance at the Annual General Meetings of the Association is always smaller than we would wish. We like to feel that members are interested in the scheme and feel free to question the Editor and Committee and to make suggestions. Moreover, those who do attend have the bonus of hearing a first-class exposition by one of the people who have been directly concerned with the scheme as schedule-makers or users. Jean Aitchison's talk about her use of BC2 in thesaurus construction in 1986 and Vanda Broughton's remarkably lucid account of the problems of constructing a schedule for mathematics last year were outstanding, and both deserved better audiences.

Last year's Bulletin carried an obituary notice of our old friend Clifford Freeman. This year we publish tributes to John Campbell (whose death had taken place shortly before the last AGM and was reported then). He was a remarkable man in many ways; he will be remembered by us as a staunch advocate of the Classification from the first, a valued member and Secretary of the Committee, a hard but practical and constructive critic, and a most generous supporter of the BCA.

The results of the Bliss User Survey are reported in these pages. The response rate was quite good: I know many people hate answering questionnaires, and I do thank all those who took the trouble to reply. Perhaps some of those who did not respond, even when sent a follow-up letter with a stamped addressed envelope, may yet do so: it is remarkable how replies trickle in months later. They are still welcome. Some of the findings were quite surprising: BC2 is *on probation*, to coin a phrase!

Finance continues to be a major preoccupation of the Committee. Our resources are limited, and income from subscriptions and sales, though not negligible, only covers a small part of our expenses. We are, therefore, making a further appeal for funds, and if any members have information about sources we could approach in addition to those grant-making bodies who have supported us in the past, we should be pleased to hear from them.

Finally, an apology for the late arrival of the Bulletin. This is due in small part to the late arrival of some material, in greater part to this Editor's normal state of disorganization, and in large part to his naive belief that the Amendments to Class T could be input and corrected on an Atari ST at home, stored as ASCII text on a floppy disc and "simply" be read from another Atari at work through JANET to our RM Nimbus network (a Cumulo-Nimbus?) + LaserWriter Plus. Life is not as easy as that, and I am sadder and wiser now. However, I trust the end-results are presentable, and that I have not introduced yet more errors along the way. Making these corrections is a tedious business, I know, but it is worth doing: the text of the schedule will be more intelligible without misleading errors in explanations, instructions and examples. Then we can get on with the real business of using the classification.

Tony Curwen

BLISS CLASSIFICATION ASSOCIATION

MINUTES of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Bliss Classification Association held on Monday 14 December 1987, at the King's Fund Centre, London, at 2.15 pm.

Present: Jack Mills (Chair, and Editor of BC2)
Ken Best (Personal member)
Peter Boaden (University of London Library)
Suzanne Burge (OPCS Library)
Susan Bury (Haddon Library, Cambridge)
Keith Cheyney (Haberdashers' Aske's Boys School)
Debbie Cowley (Central Council for Education and Training in Social Work)
Tony Curwen (College of Librarianship Wales)
Ed Dua (DHSS Library)
Jean Garriock (S. Martin's College, Lancaster)
Angela Haselton (Tavistock Joint Library)
Roger Hughes (Commonwealth Institute Library)
Andree Manuel (King's Fund Centre Library)
Marion MacLeod (Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge)
Colin Neilson (ESRC Data Archive)
Chris Preddle (Personal member)
Angela Rennie (Dr Barnardo's)
Elizabeth Russell (King's College, Cambridge)
Mark Sharman (Treasury and Cabinet Office Library)
Hilda Stoddard (Chester College)

Apologies: Jean Aitchison
Madeleine Carrington (Treasury and Cabinet Office Library)
Eric Coates
Douglas Foskett
Jennifer Francis (Hants. Social Services Dept.)
Jean Harding (National Institute for Social Work)
Giustina Ryan (National Institute for Social Work)

1 The minutes of the annual general meeting held on 15 December 1986 were approved.

2 Matters arising

2.1 Susan Bury described the short course on Class T, 'Bliss means business', that was to be held the next day at the Polytechnic of North London.

2.2 The Editor circulated the newly completed schedules for Philosophy to the meeting and described the background to their compilation.

3 Progress of BC2: Editor's report

3.1 The task of producing BC2 was much greater than had been envisaged, and each class much longer. But Class T had been published in January 1987 - a large, complex class, and surely, we could claim, the best classification of Economics and Management that there was.

3.2 Classes 2/9: Intermediate drafts were available, but no new work had been done in 1987.

Class A: This volume would go to Butterworths early in 1988. Philosophy and Logic were completely finished; Mathematics complete except for notation; the compilation of Statistics was finished; Science in general had been drafted. Mathematics had been very difficult to do: little sustained expert assistance and refereeing had been available.

Class C: Vanda Broughton was making good progress in finalising her draft of Chemistry from fourteen years ago. The structure of the draft would be retained, but the building of class-marks for chemical compounds needed to be re-examined.

Classes GR/GZ: Applied biology, a very large class, was fully compiled but not yet notated.

Class J: Douglas Foskett was making good progress with the revision of Education.

Classes R/S: These classes should go to Butterworths in 1988. The draft of Politics was being used by the Royal Institute of International Affairs as the basis of their new classification and thesaurus. International law had been drafted before the rest of S to help the RIIA. Discussions of R and S with the Classification Research Group had been helpful.

Classes U/V: Eric Coates had been much delayed by personal matters, but would complete Technology during 1988.

3.3 In response to a question the Editor said that the large draft of Class B Physics already prepared would be finalised by either Vanda Broughton or Eric Coates when they were free. The revision of Physics was unlikely to affect Chemistry or Technology much. The amendment of published classes was indeed inconvenient to users, but it had not proved possible to publish BC2 in classified order, which would have minimised the problem. Classes appeared in response to demands, funds and personnel resources.

4 Finance and Membership: Treasurer's report

4.1 The accounts and sales figures for 1986/87 were circulated to the meeting.

The Bliss Classification Bulletin, No.30, 1988

4.2 The year had been one of spending, not of income. Much had been spent on a new microcomputer, a new laser printer, programming and program documentation, and schedule production. Appeal funds were coming to an end, and a most generous covenant of £3000 a year had also ended after four years. Subscriptions had been raised in May 1987. The royalties shown in the accounts did not yet include any sales of Class T.

4.3 Invoices had been sent to 110 members in 1987; membership in 1986 had been ninety-nine. New members were nearly all users of BC2; resignations came from nonusers.

4.4 The sales figures showed that the Introduction was out of print and Class J very nearly so. It was agreed that the Secretary would remind Butterworths of their undertaking to keep classes in print. Action: CP.

4.5 The Chairman explained that the Association's apparent financial decline was in reality the expenditure of money raised in the past. A new fundraising appeal would be made in 1988.

5 Ken Best was elected auditor for 1988.

6 Publicity Officer's report

6.1 A successful meeting had been held in February with Butterworths international sales team. A new publicity leaflet featuring Class T had been produced by Butterworths and circulated with journals and to members of AEBIG. Butterworths had also exhibited BC2 at the IFLA conference in August. Future publicity would include a select list of users. The Association's own funds could also be used for advertising. Reviews of BC2 published during the year were mentioned.

6.2 The Secretary reported that the Association had become an organisation in liaison with the Library Association. The longterm purpose of liaison was to achieve publicity and increase awareness of BC2 throughout the library and informations professions. A small stand for BC2 at the IFLA conference had been made available free, and items on the Association and on the classification production programs had appeared in the Library Association Record.

7 BC2 user survey: report by Bulletin editor

7.1 A questionnaire circulated with the 1987 bulletin and sent also to other likely or past users of BC2 had produced quite a good response. Nineteen libraries in the UK were using BC2; twenty were using BC1; six were using the old special schedules for hospital care; two schools

The Bliss Classification Bulletin, No.30, 1988

were using the schools edition. Seventeen former users of BC1 had changed to other classification schemes or had ceased to exist. The reply from H E Bliss's old library in New York, no longer a user, was read to the meeting. The results of the survey would be published in the 1988 bulletin.

8 Jack Mills, Susan Bury, Tony Curwen and Roger Hughes were elected to the committee for 1988-1990.

9 The Chairman paid tribute to Clifford Freeman, who had died in May. Clifford had worked hard for BC2 and for the Association in his professional life and had served on its committee for many years.

The Bliss Classification Bulletin, No.30, 1988

BLISS CLASSIFICATION ASSOCIATION CONSOLIDATED RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st July 1987

1986	RECEIPTS	1987	1986	PAYMENTS	1987
	Balances forward 1st August 1986		178.20	Committee & AGM expenses	228.50
1303.24	General accounts	2113.63	88.72	Stationery & Postage	126.92
17022.04	Appeal account	13050.05		2nd edition expenses	
	Subscriptions			Payments from J.S. Cohen grant	4124.94
25.00	Personal	25.00		Computer equipment & repairs	4981.23
20.00	School	667.28		Work on class T	101.20
704.60	Other institutions		8676.05	Work on other classes	1394.11
8.00	Sales of the Bulletin	00.00		Other payments	117.17
788.20	Butterworth's royalties on 2nd edition	337.85			
86.78	Distribution from M&G (Charibond)	86.80		Balance in hand at 31st July 1987	
2785.80	BCA Appeal contributions	3000.00	1500.00	General current account	58.11
	Interest payments	159.83		General deposit account	2583.93
104.60	Deposit account	986.19	25697.98	Appeal account	6740.52
1273.78	Appeal account	1146.02		Creditors	00.00
75.00	Other receipts	55.00			20456.63
1500.00	Creditors	00.00			
25697.98		20456.63			

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

K. Best
Hon. Auditor
3.12.87

12 Lynwood Gardens
Hook, Basingstoke
Hants, RG27 9DT

Current assets at 31.7.87

1986	1987
800.13	800.13
2113.63	2642.04
13050.05	6740.52
15963.81	10182.69
Marion MacLeod	
Hon. Treasurer	
6 Gilbert Close	
Cambridge	
CB4 3HR	

JOHN CAMPBELL

The death of John Campbell on 30 November 1987, aged 77, not long after the blow he suffered on the death of his wife, was very sad news for BCA, for John had been for many years a sturdy and redoubtable friend of the Bliss Bibliographic Classification, in the use of which he was a pioneer.

I recall very clearly my first acquaintance with him, some time in 1949. Mr Woledge of the London School of Economics had organized a meeting at Chaucer House (the former home of the Library Association) at which the merits of two general classification schemes -- Bliss and Colon -- were to be presented and discussed. I spoke on Bliss and A. J. Wells on Colon. Wells was soon to launch the BNB and it is well known that BNB was to apply a number of significant principles advanced by Ranganathan -- to its great benefit. In this, it anticipated BC2 to some extent. The meeting was well attended and in the lively discussion which ensued I think Bliss appeared to be considered the more promising. This was perhaps because it was more easily digestible and more in harmony with the traditional view of a library classification than the revolutionary cacophony of Colon -- a sort of Elgar to the latter's Stravinsky. In my recollection, however, the most memorable contribution from the floor (and one which advocated Bliss) came from a man with a great shock of hair who overcame a stammer of nervousness by sheer determination and grit which even now sticks in the memory. This was John Campbell.

At the time, John was at the Chester Beatty Cancer Research Institute, where he used Bliss. Within a year or so I was seeing him fairly regularly, since both he and I were members of the newly formed Classification Research Group from its inception. The CRG arose out of the big Royal Society Information Conference of 1948 and this was a factor in John's attraction to it. John was an active member and I recall the impressive Pharmaceuticals Classification which he made for Allen & Hanbury (he was a chemist by training). This was initially presented as a discussion paper at the CRG and was an early example of a special faceted classification. I also remember seeing John as one of a small (three-member) subcommittee set up to prepare a classification of library and information science and it was on the occasions of sharing part of the journey home with him that I got to know of the wide range of interests he pursued. For example, I made a joking reference to that great layabout Oblomov and in the resulting chat found that Russian literature was a particular interest of John's. (I hasten to add that my own acquaintance with it was relatively casual, made in the more leisured days when I could indulge my fondness for reading novels). I also learned of his interest in the theatre, that his family had once owned a theatre in the provinces and that the actress Judy Campbell was his sister. Another particular pursuit of John's was beekeeping. I've always thought curiosity a useful attribute for anybody working in libraries and I am sure it was a factor leading John into library work.

When I called John a 'redoubtable' friend I had in mind his very practical view of things; knowing that he was a practical rather than a theoretical enthusiast made his advocacy of BC the more telling. Another side to his practical approach was his scrupulousness in professional matters. A good example of this was the fact that having embarked on information work, although well equipped with a Ph.D. in chemistry and substantial experience in scientific information, he thought it only fair that he should qualify himself formally in his new profession. So he studied for

The Bliss Classification Bulletin, No.30, 1988

the LA examinations and became an ALA in 1954. Later he became somewhat disenchanted with the LA, finally leaving it in 1966 or 1967. In the meantime he had become a supporter of the newly formed Institute of Information Scientists when Farradane (another CRG member -- and another chemist) founded it.

In 1971, when Alan Horne left for Canada, John became Secretary to BCA and held that post until 1980. During this time he applied himself to the job with seriousness, meticulous attention to detail and the conscientiousness that marked his approach to any task he undertook. This showed itself also in other ways. For example, he was very thorough in his examination of the penultimate draft schedules of BC2 and made shrewd and helpful suggestions. Another example was the excellent memoir of Henry Evelyn Bliss he wrote for the Introduction to BC2, which he researched extremely thoroughly, communicating extensively with members of the Bliss family. During his period as Secretary, members of the BCA Committee came to appreciate the dry humour which his sometimes rather stern demeanour tended to hide.

In 1984 John placed the Association even further in his debt by a very generous contribution to the appeal which had been launched over the previous two years. This took the form of a covenant and was directed specifically to help completion of schedules in the natural sciences. It greatly assisted work on agricultural and veterinary sciences, chemistry and (to a lesser extent) mathematics.

It is particularly sad that John did not live to see the completion of BC2. When he told me of his decision to make a substantial covenant in favour of the Association he said that he was now convinced that BC2 would be completed in the not too distant future. So it is up to us all to prove his judgement sound, as well as to remember a very good friend.

J. Mills

The following appreciation appeared in *Inform*, the bulletin of the Institute of Information Scientists, No.106, July/August 1988, and is reprinted here by kind permission of its editor and Mr Vickers.

Derek John Campbell

It is with great sadness that we have to report the death of John Campbell, for many years a well-known and much respected figure in the information science profession.

John Campbell originally graduated in Natural Sciences from Cambridge in 1933, and started researching for a PhD in organic chemistry at Imperial College. His research was terminated because of poor health, however, and he was advised to seek work in the country. During the next few years, he had a variety of jobs, including one with the Inter-Services Research Bureau, from 1941 to 1943, where he undertook secret chemical war work. A road accident in 1943 incapacitated him for the remainder of the war.

The Bliss Classification Bulletin, No.30, 1988

In 1945, John went to the University of Nottingham, where he worked on a British Empire Cancer Campaign grant on the nucleic acids of yeast, and obtained a PhD. While pursuing this work during the day, he also took evening classes leading to the Library Association examinations at the Technical College in Nottingham.

In 1948 he became the librarian of the Chester Beatty Research Institute, which later merged into the Royal Cancer Institute. During his time there, John greatly improved and expanded the library. In 1953, he also took over the library of the Royal Cancer Hospital.

In 1955, he moved to Aslib, initially as Assistant Director, and later as a Research Officer. He left Aslib in 1958 to become the Librarian and Information Officer of Leonard Hill Ltd., a pharmaceutical company. From 1961 until his retirement in 1969 he was Information Officer at the Pressed Steel Co. Ltd. During his working life, he published several papers, many of them dealing with classification and indexing.

John Campbell joined the Institute in 1959, and from then onwards until beyond his retirement he devoted an enormous amount of his time and energy to it. He served on Council for many years, and was responsible for the first and second remuneration surveys in 1965 and 1968. He was very active on various committees including the Publications Committee, where he played a major part in launching the Institute's Monograph series. He was elected a Fellow in 1964.

Outside his working life, John's wide range of interests included beekeeping, Russian history and literature (he published a translation of Gogol's *The Government Inspector*), and Alpine gardening and plants.

P.H. Vickers

* *The government inspector* / Nikolai V. Gogol ; translated and adapted by D.J. Campbell. -- London : Sylvan Press, 1947

-- [another edition] ; with an introduction by Janko Lavrin. -- London : Heinemann, 1953.
(Drama library)

-- [another edition] 1980 printing. -- (Heinemann plays) -- ISBN 0-435-20963-9

-- [another edition] 1980 printing. -- (Hereford plays) -- ISBN 0-435-22340-2

Derek John Campbell

born 16 September 1910, died 30 November 1987

THE BLISS USER SURVEY 1987-88

We have known for a long time that membership of the Association is not a reliable guide to the use being made of the Classification. Some members are national libraries, others are library schools using the scheme purely for teaching purposes; some are using BC1, some BC2, some the School Library Association abridgement, some the adaptation of the HO schedules of BC1. Former members have left the Association because they are no longer using the scheme, or are using BC1 and feel that the Association's concern with BC2 has nothing to offer them. Some of those who were reported as users in early issues of the Bulletin may never have become so: interest expressed had been over-optimistically interpreted as commitment. At the other extreme, it was suspected that there might be users of BC2 who had never joined the Association and were unknown to us. It was time to make a new census.

The questionnaire was originally sent out in September 1987 with copies of Bulletin No.29. This was followed by a mailing to known or suspected former users whose names had appeared in early issues of the Bulletin. I did not send the questionnaire to former users outside Britain, with a few exceptions. The results flowed and then trickled in for some months, many of them confirming what we thought, and a fair number revealing surprising information.

To trace other users, various guides to library resources in the United Kingdom (e.g. the regional guides of the Information Services Group -- the former Reference, Special and Information Group of the Library Association -- and a guide to medical libraries) were read through to find those reporting "Bliss" in the section for classification used.

A follow-up letter was sent at the end of August 1988 to non-respondents and also to some others who had been identified as actual or possible users (often mentioned by respondents in answer to one of the questions). Nine members and 25 non-members had still not replied at the time of writing. Some of the latter are almost certainly non-users, but there are a fair number I would like to have heard from.

Many of the comments were predictable -- reasons for changing to Dewey Decimal Classification upon merger with other institutions, desire for up-to-date schedules in various classes, frequent apologies for the fact that the scheme has been so adapted that it is no longer much like the original and could hardly be held up as an advertisement for Bliss, and so on -- but some of them were very interesting, and are worth quoting.

Education librarians have been the major users of the scheme in the past. Several colleges, schools and institutes of education are still users, although their numbers have been thinned for a variety of reasons.

[former Notre Dame College] *"The advantages of using Bliss for an academic library specialising in Education were appreciated, but when the Colleges joined forces, two of the three libraries involved were classified by Dewey (16th ed. with amendments) and this was the deciding factor."* (Frances M. Wilson, Deputy Librarian, Liverpool Institute of Higher Education).

The Bliss Classification Bulletin, No.30, 1988

"Several academics have suggested changing to Dewey for the sake of readers and conformity with public libraries; but we argue the brevity and easy arrangement/adaptability of Bliss. As librarians, we like using it. We argued that the first BC2 [= BC1, 1952 edition?] class J was too "tight" and would participate in revision. In 1972 Mr G. Geoghegan tried to gather comments for a revision then; it was a pity others' time scales and work pressures did not allow full attention to that. Until a really suitable modern scheme comes that fits the computer age, Bliss is adequate, often admirably so." (A.G. Howard, Librarian, University of Newcastle upon Tyne Institute of Education)

"The system was changed to Dewey at the request of a new headmistress in 1980. (I had been the librarian for 4 years and it was the first time I had used the Bliss system). I found it very suitable for a school library -- especially an expanding one (it is now quite large). Both systems have their strengths and weaknesses. However, it seems to make sense that schoolchildren learn to use the Dewey system since this is what they will mostly meet out of, and beyond, school." (B. Hopwood, School librarian, Milham Ford School, Oxford).

"System started many years back by the then Librarian. Today most of our stock is supplied by the Belfast Educ. & Lib. Board. -- They are "Dewey"! -- We re-process books to suit our shelves & catalogue: good for pupil experience: bad if we need stock in a hurry. I sometimes wonder if we could change 'overnight'; ! might it be more suitable & practical?" (R.W.S. McMurray, Teacher Librarian, Royal Belfast Academical Institution)

"I inherited the Bliss system, & although I like some aspects of it, certain areas have become v. dated. The School Lib. Assn. advised me to change to Dewey. The main advantages are that most public libraries use it; I can get help from the local County Library, & it is more adaptable to computerisation, being numeric. I wish you had sent me this about 6 years ago!" (Mrs B.M. Threlfall, Librarian, St. Swithun's School, Winchester)

The notion that numeric notations are inherently more suitable for and amenable to computerisation takes a lot of squashing. There are respected American library science researchers who plainly believe that hierarchical searching = expressive decimal notation, and the idea is not unknown in this country too.

Several health service and social services librarians appended comments and pleas.

"Bought copy of 1980 H Schedules (Mills & Broughton) but little useful for us. So many new (or re-named) concepts in NHS management & planning, e.g. Quality assurance, Community care, etc., meanings of which change emphasis or even definition with "re-structuring", that are difficult to fit in logically. Here, I've kept all class'n as simple as possible. We even find DHSS class'n too complex for our needs, although in theory it should be ideal, because mostly same publications." (Mrs E. M. Bartholomew, Management Librarian, North Western R.H.A., Manchester)

The Bliss Classification Bulletin, No.30, 1988

"We also have access to DHSS-DATA Thesaurus which is based on Bliss, where the terminology is more up to date than the Q schedule; we find ourselves wondering whether to use the DHSS classmark (which may not be listed in the Q schedule) or whether to make up our own combinations using Q. We often plump for the ready-made DHSS classmarks but perhaps we shouldn't!" (Jennifer A. Francis, Librarian, Hampshire Social Services)

"We intend to base our use of the classification on the DHSS-DATA Thesaurus." (S.R. Scotney, Senior Administrative Assistant (Information), Leicestershire Social Services)

"I am interested to hear of anyone who is using the DHSS-DATA Thesaurus for setting up an internal database -- and also interested in the likely date of publication of classes 7-9" (Gwen Giles, Librarian, West Midlands R.H.A., Birmingham)

"I planned to change to the 1977 ed. when the DHSS Library did. In the event I was deterred by the extent to which they modified it for internal reasons. This was unfortunate for small NHS libraries like myself who might have benefitted from a degree of centralised classification.

"Now I am considering the degree to which classification is necessary in relation to the indexing and retrieval available on a computerised system. This will influence my decision to change to the newer edition." (D. Enid Leonard, Librarian, Oxford Regional Health Authority)

Oxford R.H.A. has been using BC1 and the King's Fund modifications (how many versions of the HO schedules were issued, incidentally?) One has to sympathise with Enid Leonard's regrets. Like several others in her field, she was caught twice over: first, BC2 was a total recasting, bearing little resemblance to BC1 or the HO schedules, and second, the DHSS library became a test-bed for the new edition, using draft schedules, but without the resources to reclassify to the definitive version of the new edition in due course. Their working drafts were also used for the classmarks in DHSS-DATA Thesaurus, so the lack of standardisation looks set to continue. Her second point is a much wider one which deserves extended discussion: what is the point of classification in a computerised information retrieval system? There are good reasons, but this is not the place to argue them.

Finally, a voice from the place where it all started:

"Henry E. Bliss was a librarian at City College Library for forty years. We used the preliminary schedules which, I understand, are very different from the published schedules. We changed to the Library of Congress Classification in 1967 for reasons of economy; since Library of Congress records are widely distributed and come with the LC classification number, using them eliminates the need for original classification of every item. About one-third of our collection is still in Bliss. We would like to reclass these books, but have no definite plans for doing so at the moment." (Laurel E. Franklin, Head, Catalog Division, City College Library, CUNY, New York)

All these comments were welcome, as were many offers of help. These were often concerned with areas for which BC2 schedules have been published -- for example, parts of Class Q -- but this augurs well for the future. It is as important to keep the scheme up to date as to complete the publication of the new edition, even if the former is our immediate priority.

The Bliss Classification Bulletin, No.30, 1988

The most surprising discovery, resulting from replies to Question 7 (Do you know other users of the classification?), is that there is a significant body of users among the probation services in Britain. Greater Manchester, Merseyside, West Midlands and West Yorkshire Probation Services are all BC2 users, as is the Association of Chief Officers of Probation (for its database). There are unconfirmed reports of yet more.

I shall try to keep this file of information current, so if any reader has information about past, present and especially new users, please let me know.

Tony Curwen

USERS AND FORMER USERS OF BC

The following listing is divided into three sections: *Current Users*, *Former Users*, and *Unconfirmed Usage*. Those members of the Association who are library schools, national libraries etc., and personal members (bar one) have been omitted. The questionnaire was not sent to non-members outside Britain, Europe and the United States (except City College and the School of Theology at Claremont, which were known to have been users).

Editions of the scheme are denoted by the following conventions:

- BC1 = 1940 and "2nd ed" 1952-53 (H.W. Wilson)
- BC2 = 1977- (Butterworth)
- Abr = 1967 abridged edition (School Library Assn.)
- HO = various health sciences and services schedules
(Ministry of Health, King's Fund ...)
- * = significantly adapted

N.B. While most librarians are happy to deal with enquiries from other users and potential users, and many would actively welcome professional contacts with other users, there are some who regret that they cannot deal with enquiries about their use of the classification, for one reason or another. Please respect their wishes. Their institutions are indicated by X in the right hand column.

CURRENT USERS

Jean Aitchison, Consultant -- for thesauri		BC2	
Association of Chief Officers of Probation			
-- for database		BC2	
Bangor Normal College = Y Coleg Normal	BC1*		Abr
Barnardo's		BC2	
Birmingham University Education Library	BC1		X
Bishop Grosseteste College, Lincoln	BC1		
Bristol Univ. Dept of Extra-Mural Studies			Abr*
Long Ashton Research Station	BC1* BC2		
Burmah Oil Trading Ltd	BC1		X

The Bliss Classification Bulletin, No.30, 1988

Cambridge Univ. Dept of Zoology, Balfour Library	BC1			X
Fac. of Archaeol. & Anthropol., Haddon Lib.		BC2		
Fitzwilliam College		BC2		
Institute of Criminology, Radzinowitz Lib.	BC1			
King's College		BC2		
Canterbury College of Art	BC1			
Central Council for Education & Training in Social Work, London		BC2		
Centre for Study of Religion & Education in the Inner City, Salford		BC2		
Charlotte Mason College, Ambleside	BC1		Abr	
Cheshire County Council Research Library		BC2		
Chester College		BC2	Abr	
Children's Society, London		BC2		
Commonwealth Institute, London	BC1			
Coventry City Council Social Services Dept		BC2 (draft Q?)		
Department of Health & Social Security HQ		BC2 drafts*		
Durham Univ. College of St Hild & St Bede	BC1			X
East Anglian Regional Health Authority			HO	
Glasgow Univ. Dept of Postgrad Medical Educ		BC2		
Greater Manchester Police Training School [took over premises and library stock of former Sedgley Park College of Education]	BC1		Abr	
Greater Manchester Probation Service		BC2		
Haberdashers' Aske's Boys' School, Elstree	BC1	BC2	Abr	
Hampshire County Council Social Services Dept		BC2		
Hull University, Brynmor Jones Library, Education Library	BC1		Abr	
Institute of Psychiatry, London	BC1			
Keele University, Education Library	BC1*			
Lancaster University Library	BC1*			
Leicester University, School of Education	BC1*			
Leicestershire County Council Social Services		[under consideration, based on DHSS-DATA Thesaurus?]		
London University Library, Senate House	BC1			
Lothian Health Board, Edinburgh	BC1		HO	
Manchester Education Committee, Educ. Lib.	BC1*			
Merseyside Probation Service		BC2		
Multicultural Development Service, Mark House School. London E17		BC2		
Museum of Mankind, London	BC1*			
National Children's Bureau, London	BC1			
National Council for One-Parent Families, London		BC2		
National Council for Voluntary Organisations, London		BC2		
National Foundation for Educational Research in England & Wales, Slough	BC1			X
National Institute for Social Work, London		BC2		
National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, London		BC2		
Newcastle upon Tyne Univ. School of Education	BC1			
North Western Regional Hospital Authority	BC1		HO	
Office of Population Censuses & Surveys		BC2		

The Bliss Classification Bulletin, No.30, 1988

Oxford Regional Health Authority	BC1		HO
Oxford Univ. Exeter College	BC1		
Merton College	BC1		
Pitt Rivers Museum & Dept of Ethnology & Prehistory, Balfour Lib.		BC2*	
University College	BC1		
Reading University, Education Library (may be physically merged into main university library shortly = Dewey)	BC1*		
Royal Belfast Academical Institution	BC1		
Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh	BC1*		
Royal Institution of Great Britain, London	BC1		
S. Martin's College, Lancaster	BC1	BC2	
Sandwell School of Nursing, West Bromwich		BC2	
Scottish Health Service Centre, Edinburgh (Management Services Group, Common Services Agency for the Scottish Health Service)	BC1		HO
Scottish Health Service Common Services Agency, Trinity Park House Lib., Edinburgh	BC1*		HO*
Tavistock Joint Library, London		BC2	
West Midlands Probation Service, Birmingham		BC2	
West Midlands Regional Health Authority, Birmingham		BC2	
West Yorkshire Probation Service, Wakefield		BC2	
Whalley Range High School (Upper), Manchester			Abr
Zoological Society of London	BC1*		
Belgium -- Bibliothèque Publique de Manage	BC1*		Abr

FORMER USERS (BC1, Abr or HO)

- Birmingham Polytechnic. Anstey Dept of Physical Education, Sutton Coldfield -- closed and disbanded
- Book Trust (formerly National Book League). Book Information Service. Mark Longman Library taken over by British Library, August 1987. To be reclassified to Dewey.
- British Coal Utilization Research Association, Leatherhead -- organization disbanded. (BC not used at British Coal, Coal Research Establishment, Stoke Orchard, Cheltenham)
- Cambridge University. Dept of Experimental Psychology. -- BC1 used for a short period about 30 years ago.
- City of London College -- merged into City of London Polytechnic.
- Froebel Institute -- BC1 used until 1980. Merged into Roehampton Institute of Higher Education [= Dewey]
- I.M. Marsh College Library -- BC1 to 1976/77; now merged into Liverpool Polytechnic [= Dewey]
- Institute of Cancer Research. (Chester Beatty Research Institute, Royal Cancer Hospital). BC1 from early 1950s to 1985 -- now N.L.M. Classification.
- Institute of Hospital Administrators -- used HO schedules several years ago. (subsequently Institute of Health Services Administrators, now Institute of Health Services Management -- with no library service at all)

The Bliss Classification Bulletin, No.30, 1988

Lady Eleanor Holles School, Hampton, Middlesex -- now Dewey
Linnean Society of London -- reclassifying to U.D.C.
London University. Royal Holloway & Bedford New College.
 Royal Holloway College used BC1 until 1984;
 Bedford College used it in part until 1970.
 Combined college = Dewey, except that BC retained for music.
Milham Ford School, Oxford: BC 1951-1980 -- now Dewey.
Notre Dame College: BC1 1962-1980 -- now merged into Liverpool
 Institute of Higher Education [= Dewey]
St Swithun's School, Winchester -- Abr; changing to Dewey
Sedgley Park College of Education -- institution closed, but
 premises and library stock taken over by Greater Manchester
 Police Training School: see list of Current Users.
Sheffield University Institute of Education: BC1 1950-83 -- now
 merged into main university library [= Dewey]
Norway. Universitetsbiblioteket i Oslo. Social Sciences Dept:
 BC1 until about 1982.
U.S.A. City College Library, New York: Bliss's original draft
 scheme used until 1967; now Library of Congress.
U.S.A. School of Theology at Claremont, California: BC1 used
 until 1974; now Library of Congress.

UNCONFIRMED USAGE

Birkbeck College, London
Bridlington School, North Humberside
Carlisle Diocesan education Committee
Coopers Animal Health Ltd., Berkhamsted
Devon Probation Service
Durham University School of Education
Exeter University School of Education
Goldsmith's College, London
Greater Glasgow Health Board
Homerton College, Cambridge
King's Fund Centre, London
Malvern Girls' College
Merton College, Oxford
North West Thames Regional Health Authority
Nuffield Centre for Health Service Studies, Leeds
Oakham School (see article by Anthony J. Eare [sic; i.e. Earl] in
 School Librarian 22(1), 1974, 18-22)
Priory Upper School, Lewes
Sevenoaks School
Stretford Grammar School for Boys
Welsh Water Authority
Worthing High School (see article by Marguerite Ruhl in *School
 Librarian* 17(2), 1969, p.138-142).

Some of these institutions are B.C.A. members; some are almost certainly users of the scheme; some are very doubtful. Any reliable information (preferably from the institutions concerned!) will be most welcome.

