

The Bliss Classification Bulletin

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EDITORIAL

Queue here

Another year has passed, and two important classes, R and S, long promised, are tantalisingly close yet still not through the production line.

But Q is here. Chris Preddle has completed his revision of Social Welfare, one of the first classes of BC2 to be published in 1977 and widely used by special libraries in the field. The new volume, *Class Q : Social welfare and criminology. Revised edition 1994*, will be published by Bowker-Saur in December. Its ISBN is 1-85739-121-7; the price will be about £35. Chris deserves the warmest thanks of all members. A user of the Classification, first at Barnardos and subsequently at National Children's Home, he has been a member of the Committee for many years, ten of them as Hon. Secretary (1983-92), and has also found time to undertake this most welcome task of revision (as well as giving much unsung help in the preparation and proofreading of other schedules). He now intends to devote more of his time and energy to other things, claiming that there is more to bliss than just Bliss...

Thomas Mann speaks

No, not the famous German author, but Mann, Thomas, 1948- , reference librarian at the Library of Congress. Beg, borrow or buy *Library research models : a guide to classification, cataloging and computers* (New York : Oxford University Press, 1993. ISBN 0-19-508190-0). The title and subtitle may be a little misleading : the work is in fact a guide to making the optimum use of classification, cataloguing and computers when carrying out research in libraries. A very illuminating and often very disturbing analysis of how people are taught to carry out research in libraries – an indictment of courses in library schools and also courses of bibliographic instruction in other degree programmes – is followed by the author's synthesis in which he makes an impregnable case for the *complementary* use of different methods and

avenues of searching. He demonstrates with numerous examples drawn from his own wide experience the undiminished value – in the right context – of name and subject headings in catalogues with good authority control and the powerfully revealing resource of systematically classified sequences of materials. The naïve belief that they have been made totally superfluous by computers (online information services, full-text searching, etc.) is demolished : the latter *add* to the available resources very greatly, but they do have their own shortcomings, and they may dangerously bolster the weaknesses of researchers who mistakenly believe these things are the up-to-the-minute short cut to everything relevant to their subjects.

Mr Mann writes from the vantage-point of the Library of Congress with its vast range of resources of all kinds, and he takes for granted the use of LC subject headings both in the library's own catalogues and in many commercially published indexes, and also that of the LC Classification. Nevertheless, his experience and observations have a far wider application and deserve to be studied carefully by all of us, not least those who live in a digital dream-world.

So what are you doing in your library?

One of the functions of the *Bulletin* is to give members information about the way the Classification is being used in libraries and information units, to let them share their experiences and discuss the problems they have found and the solutions they have evolved. In its own special way, it is a means of countering professional isolation. The Editor would be grateful for a more generous response to his appeals for contributions. This summer he received one polite refusal from a very busy colleague and one from another who had only just taken up her post and was not familiar with the scheme. But two others did not even have the courtesy to reply to all, assuming they received the letters.

The Editor cannot write accounts of all the libraries himself. The idea of a series of visits is not without its appeal (although in these depraved times when income generation is ranked above all else, he would not be surprised if he were to be charged both for admission and for the librarians' time), but would plainly be impractical for him. All our colleagues – your colleagues – *are* very busy, and are having to do more with less money and fewer staff. Nevertheless, an hour or two spent putting down on paper (or disk) a description of your service and the place of BC2 in it is really not a great deal to ask. It can even prove a good discipline to think about one's service and activities in this way! Likewise, responses to general and more specific questions about the scheme and its development really are needed : those appeals are not placed in the *Bulletin* merely to give a cosmetic impression that the Committee takes note of members' views. A few lines on a postcard with comments, queries or suggestions are always welcome; no one need feel that only a full-blown article is acceptable. It's your *Bulletin*.

A.G.C.

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BLISS CLASSIFICATION ASSOCIATION

MINUTES of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Bliss Classification Association held on Friday, 19 November 1993, at the Department of Health, Skipton House, London SE1.

Present: Jack Mills (Chair, and Editor of BC2)
Colette Battelbee (University of North London)
Ken Bell (University of North London)
Eric Coates (BSO Panel Ltd)
Keith Cheyney (Haberdashers' Aske's Boys' School)
Tony Curwen (Editor, Bliss Classification Bulletin)
Ed Dua (Departments of Health and Social Security; Publicity Officer)
Frank Emmott (Barnardo's)
Linda Farley (British Association of Psychotherapists)
Angela Haselton (Tavistock Joint Library)
Helen Mackin (Barnardo's)
Marion MacLeod (Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge; Treasurer))
Colin Neilson
Christina Panagiotidou (University of London Library; Secretary)
Chris Preddle (National Children's Home)
Elizabeth Russell (King's College, Cambridge)
Clare Sargent (Queens' College, Cambridge)
Miriam Shaughnessy (Department of Health)
Susan Summers (Office of Population Censuses and Surveys)
Hilda Stoddard

- 1 Apologies were received from Roger Hughes.
- 2 The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Friday, 27 November 1992 were approved with corrections.
- 3 Matters arising from the minutes of 27 November 1992.
 - 3.1 Minute 9.1: Ken Bell suggested that a course on AM/AX Mathematics would be very useful. He proposed to try to get a proposal plan and costings for training courses from the University of North London.

Colin Neilson suggested a course on Philosophy and Logic.
- 4 Progress of BC2: Editor's report.
 - 4.1 The Editor commented on his written report, which had been circulated to the meeting. [Appended to these minutes].

- 5 Finance: Treasurer's report.
 - 5.1 The Treasurer commented on the accounts for 1992/93, which had been circulated to the meeting. They reflected a decrease in the membership (mainly by cancellation of subscriptions by non-user libraries) and an increase in the payment of royalties.
- 6 Election of Auditor
 - 6.1 Ken best was re-elected as auditor. The meeting passed a vote of thanks for his valuable work.
- 7 Publicity
 - 7.1 Ed Dua reported that he is going to update the Bliss publicity leaflets.
- 8 Committee elections
 - 8.1 Ed Dua and Angela Haselton were re-elected to the Committee.
 - 8.2 The Chair thanked Hilda Stoddard, who resigned from the Committee, for her many years of valuable service.
- 9 Other business
 - 9.1 The Chair reported the receipt of a proposal from Dr Ia C. MacIlwaine, General Editor of the Universal Decimal Classification, concerning UDC's proposal for using Bliss schedules for the updating of UDC and general cooperation between Bliss and UDC. It was decided that the Committee should look into further into the matter and discuss it at a special business meeting early in the new year.
 - 9.2 Colin Neilson proposed that the Committee should look into an electronic mail address for Bliss. The Chair suggested that the Committee should consider the proposal within the next year.
 - 9.3 Elizabeth Russell proposed a visit to the Cambridge libraries using BC2 this summer. A previous visit was highly successful; the proposal was warmly received.



PROGRESS OF BC2 IN 1993: EDITOR'S REPORT TO THE AGM

Development of schedules and publication

Classes AM/AX: Mathematics, Probability and Statistics. These classes, the most difficult to compile in the whole of BC2, were published in one volume in January 1993.

Classes AY/C: Science and Technology in general, Physics and Chemistry. Work on the finalizing of these classes for publication began in August. Substantial drafts of all three classes have already been prepared, although only Chemistry had been distributed widely in the form of a penultimate draft. Vanda Broughton prepared a detailed updating and revision of the latter a

few years ago and this is the basis of the present work on chemistry. Finalizing of these classes will speed up the completion of Class U/V Technology, which will be entirely consistent with these sciences.

Class Q: Social Welfare. Preparation of a revised and enlarged edition of Class Q (1977) by Chris Preddle is now at an advanced stage and it is hoped to publish it by late 1994. Although a great deal of new material has been incorporated, changes to the notation have been kept to a minimum in the interests of existing users of this class, the most widely used one in BC2.

Class R: Politics and Public administration. This was completed in March. Proof-reading (and many thanks once again to the BCA Committee members who performed this onerous task) and physical production for publication has now been completed and publication should be in early 1994.

Class S: Law. This was completed in August. Proof-reading and physical preparation is proceeding and publication should be soon after that of Class R.

Class W: Art and design. There have been further discussions of this at the Classification Research Group and the main outline of the new class (with a resolution of the thorny problem of the relationships between 'fine arts' and 'applied arts and design') is now settled. It is hoped that Colin Ball will be filling out the detailed vocabulary in 1994 and that the class will be published by late 1995.

Other activities

The exploration of ways in which the work of BC2 might be used to help in the revision of the Universal Decimal Classification continues. Dr Ia C. MacIlwaine of University College London and Prof. Nancy Williamson of Toronto University undertook a pilot study in which they examined the medical schedules in Class H to see how its detailed analysis and structure might be used as the basis of a restructuring of Class 61 in UDC. They concluded that such cooperation was feasible and could probably be extended to other classes of UDC. The UDC Consortium (the body which is now responsible for UDC) has shown interest and the Editor of BC2 has had a second meeting with Alan Gilchrist and Ia MacIlwaine to consider what formal arrangements might be necessary were such cooperation to proceed.

Ken Bell (University of North London) was invited to talk about BC2 at a two-day seminar on classification and systems of classification in Milan in August. One purpose of the seminar was to celebrate the translation of Dewey Decimal Classification into Italian. Insofar as BC2 is a rival to DDC and UDC the rivalry would appear to be reasonably friendly and Ken Bell was happy to accept the invitation.

Alan Thomas continues to act as a staunch publicizer of BC2 in the USA. In his capacity as Visiting Professor at the Pratt Graduate School of Information and Library Science he held a seminar on BC2 in March. BC2 also features in several articles and reviews he has written in the American library press.



BLISS CLASSIFICATION ASSOCIATION CONSOLIDATED RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 JULY 1993

1992	RECEIPTS	1993	1992	PAYMENTS	1993
	Balance brought forward 1 August:		157.10	Committee and AGM expenses	54.65
2253.27	General accounts	2428.35	407.03	Stationery, postage & photocopying	
1065.27	Appeal account	<u>1110.71</u>			
		3539.06	76.46	2nd edition expenses:	111.15
	Subscriptions:				
96.00	Personal	58.00	317.05	Computer equipment & repairs	00.00
16.00	School	8.00			
933.55	Other institutions	<u>660.00</u>	166.88	Other payments	78.44
	Royalties on 2nd edition	96.74			
54.91	Distribution from M & G (Charibond)	54.92			
00.00	Donations	1200.00			
	Interest payments:			Balance in hand at 31 July:	
90.09	Deposit account	51.12	449.63	General current account	1394.58
45.44	Appeal account	<u>26.72</u>	1978.72	General deposit account	2414.58
		77.84	1110.71	Appeal account	<u>1137.43</u>
15.00	Other receipts	00.00			4946.59
<u>57.85</u>	Creditors	<u>00.00</u>			
<u>4663.58</u>		<u>5694.56</u>	<u>4663.58</u>		<u>5694.56</u>

Current assets at 31 July 1993

800.13	Charibond (at cost)	800.13
2428.35	Cash in general accounts	3809.16
1110.71	Cash in Appeal account	1137.43
	Computer equipment (pc:s and printer)	
<u>2406.00</u>	less depreciation @ 20% per annum	<u>1925.00</u>
<u>6745.19</u>		<u>7671.72</u>

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.

Marion MacLeod, Hon. Treasurer
6 Gilbert Close, Cambridge, CB4 3HR

K. Best, Hon. Auditor 5.11.1993
30 Cissbury Close, Horsham, West Sx, RH12 5JT

BC2 AND AUTOMATION - SOME PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS

Marion Macleod, Librarian, Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge

The following account was given following the Annual General meeting in November 1993

Fitzwilliam College Library contains some 35,000 volumes, including bound journals, 90% of which are undergraduate level material covering all subjects taught in the University. In 1973 my enlightened predecessor decided to reclassify from a home-made, sort-of-decimal scheme to BC2, which in those days meant [penultimate] draft schedules. 20 years later all stages of reclassification are represented in the Library – from some pockets of the old Fitzwilliam scheme, through BC1 (for English literature), penultimate draft schedules, 'temporary' BC2-compatible, Mills-approved schedules – to published schedules.

In January 1989 we began automation, using LibBASE, a housekeeping system developed by Churchill College Library. Part of this process involved inputting back stock in short entry form, a job which took almost three years. We then copied some 26,000 short entries to floppy disk and sent them to the University Library for uploading onto the Union Catalogue. (I say more about the Union Catalogue in the next paragraph). At the same time we were cataloguing new books on a prompted MARC program, batching them in 500's, copying to floppy disk and sending them for uploading also. In January 1991 we began cataloguing new books directly onto the Union Catalogue but still keeping a shortish-entry catalogue (called BORRSTOK) on our p.c., which is the basis of our loan operations, stock-checking, etc. Readers have access to the Union Catalogue (and therefore to our stock) via two terminals in the Library and, indeed, via any terminal in Cambridge which is connected to the system.

The Union Catalogue of Departmental and College Libraries now has over 60 members, most of whom began, like us, by inputting back-stock in short entry form. The University Library is anxious that these entries be upgraded to full MARC records. In the normal course of events I might not have bothered – no time, no staff, life is too short. However, when Class A-AL : Philosophy & Logic appeared in 1992 it seemed logical to recatalogue as we reclassified.

Through the University's VAX computer, Union Catalogue members have access to the CURL database in Manchester (a collection of the catalogue records of the university libraries of Edinburgh, Glasgow, Leeds, London, Oxford and Cambridge, plus BNB and LC records). We can match our bookstock and download our chosen records to Cambridge University Library's In Progress file, where they await editing.

We took the old classified catalogue cards (representing books acquired before 1989) and did CURLing sessions as and when we had the time. The hit rate for Philosophy & Logic (and for Mathematics & Statistics which were done in the summer of 1993) was virtually 100%. Of course, some of the CURL libraries' records are better than others, but libel laws prevent me from stating in public whose records I think are rubbish.

While we were CURLing Philosophy & Logic, I took classes A-AL from our BORRSTOK file and copied them to a new file, RECLASS, and added a new field, NEWCLASS. Taking successive bunches of books off the shelves (e.g. one day Aristotle and his commentators, two weeks later, say, eighteenth century French philosophy, and so on), I assigned new classmarks, entered them in the NEWCLASS field, re-indexed on the new classmarks and

printed out the relevant portion. If satisfied that this new order made sense, I printed new shelf labels and embarked on upgrading our Union Catalogue entries by editing the chosen CURL records and deleting our old short entries.

The University Library actually has a program whereby you can overwrite your short entry with your chosen CURL record, but this means scrutinizing an unmanageable pile of computer printout to find the 10-digit record number of your old entry and typing it in at the choosing-a-CURL-record stage, and proved to be more trouble than it was worth.

When all these steps were completed – and it didn't take as long as I'd feared to upgrade the short entries – I erased the CLASS field from the RECLASS file, renamed NEW-CLASS to CLASS, deleted records with classmarks A-AL from BORRSTOK and appended RECLASS with its new classmarks. This was an overnight job for our p.c.

Making a RECLASS file for Philosophy & Logic worked well, because the basic order of the penultimate draft had not changed much in the published version. But with Mathematics I have had a problem. Along with King's and Queens' College libraries we were using a draft Jack Mills had made some ten years ago and which had been notated by a former classification assistant at King's. For reasons I know are right, Jack has fundamentally rearranged the order of the branches of Mathematics; most drastically, Analysis (at AW) now follows Geometry, Differential Geometry and Topology, which it used to precede in the draft. There is also the problem of Applied Mathematics. When we first reclassified using the draft schedule, our Maths expert insisted we interfile pure and applied maths books, and I made an arbitrary decision to use '3C' to indicate 'Applied'. You can't easily do this kind of thing with the published schedule. There *is* a third least-preferred alter-native to do so, but I found it unworkable, so I have put Applied Maths at AWY – the second least-preferred alternative.

All this meant that taking discrete bunches of books off the shelves, assigning classmarks, and printing out relevant bits of the file RECLASS did not work. We were forever printing sections of the RECLASS file to see how the new order looked. In the end I resorted to the old classified catalogue cards (fortunately not thrown out after we had done a CURL-ing session on them), wrote out new cards for books acquired after December 1988 and played the well-known reclassifier's game of shuffle-card.

A final word – about subject indexes. I have steadfastly refused to clutter our Union Catalogue MARC records with LCSH, as a result of which the University Library Automation Officer thinks I'm mad. For years we have been trying to train our readers to use our own subject index. It was once a card catalogue until we found time to type it into a text file on our word-processor and print it out, so that it is now in a ring-binder. When I have accumulated, say, ten additions I make the alterations to the text file on the word processor and reprint the relevant pages. Incidentally, I have noticed that readers use the subject index much more in its page form than they did when it was on cards. But the problem of searching online by classmark remains.

Queens' College Library has made a valiant attempt to overcome the University Library's inability, or unwillingness, to provide the facility to search by classmark by putting their Bliss classmarks in a 650 field, but this is not a wholly satisfactory answer for Bliss-using libraries in Cambridge. If anyone can come up with a suggestion which we can sell to the University Library we shall all be most grateful.

CAMBRIDGE UNION CATALOGUE OF DEPARTMENTAL & COLLEGE LIBRARIES

Full entry (OPAC view)

Author: Riley K. F. (Kenneth Franklin), 1936-
Title: Mathematical methods for the physical sciences : an informal
treatment for students of physics and engineering/ [by] K.
F. Riley
London; New York: Cambridge University Press, 1974
xv, 533p; 24cm
Location: {Fitzwilliam College] AWY [Ril] (5 copies)

S to abandon and start new search
L = LONG format M= MARC format R= restart list
E = EDIT this record K= COPY record N= next record

Full entry (MARC format) (Editor's view)

1 RECORD= 5450324448
2 001 00 \$a0521098394
3 001 00 \$alc73089765
4 008 00 \$as1974\$ben\$pW\$leng\$no
5 015 00 \$aCU\$k020000144782\$l0\$mo
6 015 00 \$a500421-5
7 035 00 \$AWY [Ril] (5 copies)
8 100 10 \$aRiley\$hK. F.\$kKenneth Franklin\$c1936-
9 245 10 \$aMathematical methods for the physical sciences\$ban informal
10 treatment for students of physics and engineering\$e[by] K.
11 F. Riley
12 260 00 \$aLondon\$aNew York\$bCambridge University Press\$c1974
13 300 00 \$axv,533p\$c24cm

S to abandon and start new search
L = LONG format M= MARC format R= restart list
E = EDIT this record K= COPY record N= next record

Short entry (OPAC view)

Title: Suma Cervantina
London, 1973
Other entries: Avalle-Arce, J.B.-ed
Riley, E.C.-ed
Location: [Fitzwilliam College] XPO [Cer/Sum]

Short entry (Editor's view)

1 RECORD= 5450190433
2 015 00 \$a516656
3 035 00 \$aXPO [Cer/Sum]
4 245 10 \$aSuma Cervantina
5 260 00 \$aLondon\$c1973
6 700 11 \$aAvalle-Arce\$hJ.B.\$yed
7 700 11 \$a Riley\$hE.C.\$yed

Result of a CURL search

```
q*Type search key(s) :=
* (eg. WRIG,SPYC WRIG,SPYC,1987 A=SMITH,J C=SOCIETY T=ATOMS D=1984
* (Enter END to finish, ? for HELP, * for truncation, + to add term)
guck, nonl, 1983
guck, nonl, 1983* Element 1: AU/TI/DATE Acronym search : GUCK,NONL AND K008A IS LI
KE 1983
* 8 matches found
* 1 Nonlinear oscillations, dynamical system/0387908196/      us 1983 Edi o:o*
* 2 Nonlinear oscillations, dynamical systems and bifurc      us 1983 Cam b: *
* 3 Nonlinear oscillations, dynamical system/0387908196/      us 1983 Gla e: *
* 4 Nonlinear oscillations, dynamical systems and bifurc      us 1983 Lon o:o*
* 5 Nonlinear oscillations, dynamical system/0387908196/      us 1983 Oxf o:1*
* 6 Nonlinear oscillations, dynamical system/0387908196/      us 1983 Oxf o:1*
* 7 Nonlinear oscillations, dynamical system/0387908196/      us 1983 Lc 1:+*
* 8 Nonlinear oscillations, dynamical system/0387908196/      us 1983 Lee o:1*
*Select number, or press Q to quit
```

Fitzwilliam College Library : listing of 'Short entries' by class from BORRSTOK file

%ADB [Arm]/Armstrong,AH/An introduction to ancient philosophy. (3rd ed)/London/1957/500019
%ADB [Cor]/Cornford, FM/From religion to philosophy: a study in the origins of Western speculation/New York/1957/500002
%ADB [Irw]/Irwin,T/Classical thought/Oxford/1989/101449
%ADC [Bur]/Burnet,J/Greek philosophy: Thales to Plato./London/1964/500023
%ADC [Cai]/Caird,E/The evolution of theology in the Greek philosophers. (vol 1)/Glasgow/1904/500024
%ADC [Cai]/Caird,E/The evolution of theology in the Greek philosophers. (vol 2)/Glasgow/1904/500025
%ADB [Cor]/Cornford, FM/Before and after Socrates/Cambridge/1932/500026
%ADB [Cor]/Cornford, FM/Before and after Socrates/Cambridge/1950/500027
%ADC [Gut]/Guthrie,WKC/A history of Greek philosophy. (vol 1)/Cambridge/1962/500032
%ADC [Gut]/Guthrie,WKC/A history of Greek philosophy. (vol 2)/Cambridge/1965/500033
%ADC [Gut]/Guthrie,WKC/A history of Greek philosophy. (vol 3)/Cambridge/1969/500034
%ADC [Gut]/Guthrie,WKC/A history of Greek philosophy. (vol 4)/Cambridge/1975/500035
%ADC [Gut]/Guthrie,WKC/A history of Greek philosophy. (vol 5)/Cambridge/1978/5000362
%ADC [Gut]/Guthrie,WKC/A history of Greek philosophy. (vol 6)/Cambridge/1981/500037
%ADC [Gut]/Guthrie,WKC/The Greek philosophers from Thales to Aristotle/London/1950/500031
%ADC [Ris]/Rist,JM/Eros and Psyche: studies in Plato, Plotinus, and Origen/Toronto/1964/500044
%ADC 33 [Jac]/Jackson,H ed./Texts to illustrate a course of elementary lectures on the history of Greek Philosophy. (2nd ed)/London/1914/500039
%ADC 6WAI [Wes]/West,ML/Early Greek philosophy and the Orient/Oxford/1971/500046
%ADD [Bar]/Barnes,j/Early Greek philosophy/Harmondsworth/1987/500021
%ADD [Cor]/Cornford,FM/Principium sapientiae: the origins of Greek philosophical thought/Cambridge/1952/500028
%ADD [Kir(2)]/Kirk,GS, et al./The Presocratic philosophers: a critical history with a selection of texts. (2nd ed)/Cambridge/1983/500040
%ADD [Mou]/Mourelatos,APD ed./The Pre-Socratics: a collection of critical essays/Garden City, NY/1974/500042
%ADD PL/Heraclitus| Kahn,CH ed./The art and thought of Heraclitus/Cambridge/1979/501349

Fitzwilliam College Library : page from subject index

	joi-ju
Joinery: building	U 984
Joint stock companies, <u>see</u> Corporations	
Joseph II, <u>Emperor of Austria</u>	MKA [Jos]
Joshua, Book of: commentaries	PM RJ
Journals, <u>see</u> Periodicals	
Juarez, Benito	NT 7F [Jua]
Judaism	PL
Jude, Epistle of: commentaries	PM XT
Judges	
criminal law	SOG GK
law: general	SGG
U.S. law	SSG GK
Judges, Book of: commentaries	PM RK
Judgment: psychology	IHQ
Judgments: law	SF NB
Judicial procedure	
comparative law	SY FE
English law	SFE
Judicial review	
comparative law	SYP FC
English law	SP FC
Judiciary	SGG
Jugoslavia, <u>see</u> Yugoslavia	
Julius Caesar, <u>see</u> Caesar, Caius Julius	
Jungian psychology	IAO
Junior schools	JM
Jurassic geology	DIE
Juries	SGH
Jurisprudence	SA
English law	SFA
Islamic law	SZ QA
U.S. law	SS FA
Justice: jurisprudence	SA QM
Justices of the Peace	SGG
Juvenile	
<u>see also</u> Adolescents, Children	
Juvenile delinquency	QT
Juvenile justice	QTF

In the words of the master : excerpts from the writings of Henry Evelyn Bliss

As students at library school, most of us were introduced to the theories of H.E. Bliss and given an idea of the salient features of his scheme, either very cursorily or in rather greater depth. However, it is probably true to say that we studied Bliss at second hand, through the medium of lecturers' hand-outs and the digests to be found in standard textbooks.

The following excerpts are reprinted here to give readers a chance to discover – or rediscover – Bliss's own distinctive style, a blend of the scholarly and the poetic, and, we hope, the urge to read Bliss's books for themselves. Libraries and media and technology have moved on since his day, and the frequent mention of books and card catalogues and the absence of any reference to computers and other techniques of information storage and retrieval give an impression that his work is now hopelessly out of date. This is dangerously misleading : with very little re-interpretation and expansion, it will be seen that his message is still highly pertinent today.

THE VALUE OF CLASSIFICATION FOR LIBRARIES

Books differ in manifold diversity, in matter and in manner, in infinite variety and in complicated relations. They retrace worn paths; they blaze new trails; they run wild over frequented fields or in regions hitherto unexplored; they climb the heights; they plumb the deeps; they delve; they discover *bonanza* mines; they take winged flight into the empyrean. How can the librarian bring such wayward creatures into the bonds of organization? How shall he bind these intertwining vines to the trellis of classification?

Yet this must be done, the librarian says. The educator and the scientist agree that data and subject-matter must be classified; each study and every book must organize its subject-matter. There must be organization of knowledge, thought and purpose. It must be functional, but it must first be structural. It should be as free as possible, but it must be coherent and stable; else our whole scientific and educational undertaking would crumble in confusion.

...

Classification by subjects should indeed subordinate the more special subjects to the respective general subjects. There results a more consistent collocation of closely related subjects for convenience in reference and research. Books arranged in small groups in some order can be located more readily than in extensive arrangement, provided the groups have correlative notation and an alphabetic index to that order. ... Then classification, together with a corresponding classified catalog or a *shelf-list*, may afford readers a more comprehensive survey of the resources of the library. Librarians may by comparison with other catalogs or bibliographies strengthen their collections by selection and acquisition. ...

But there are librarians and educators who deprecate the value of bibliothecal classification. They argue that, knowledge being relative, while interests and studies are various and intricate, structural classifications are likewise relative and transitory, and that the requisite groupings of books are occasional. Most users of libraries, they say, have little regard for classification, and most public libraries have little need for it. Classifying in conformity with scientific and educational systems, and reclassifying, involve more expense than is justified. What is true in these arguments we admit. But most libraries *are* classified, because most librarians *do* believe in classification. Unsatisfactory tho these makeshifts be, they *do* serve needs. Scientists continue to classify their scientific matter; students partition their fields of research; and general readers want groups of books on groups of subjects. Librarians, serving these interests, envisage a problem that calls for their best efforts toward a workable solution.

THE PROBLEM STATED AND CONSIDERED

Let us now consider some of the well recognized features of the problem. The books and pamphlets are to be classified by subjects, general and special, by aspects, and topics, by languages, by historical periods, by nationalities, by geographical regions or localities, etc. The forms of literature are to be classified distinctively, and the several forms of arranging or compiling subject-matter in books of information (by librarians termed "classification by forms"). Then books of larger size are to be shelved separately, and probably pamphlets. Historic antiquated books are to be segregated, and "dead" books stored apart, or discarded. Within the classes the more recent books may well be brought together, or all may be arranged by date, or period, or by evaluation, or for convenience; or they may stand as usual in alphabetic order of their authors' surnames.

This familiar recital shows that our problem presents, even thus far, complexity enough to enlist the abilities of the expert and the talents of the artistic. But our adventures have just begun. It is not enough to provide a classification; we must keep it moving and growing. No static structure can satisfy the needs of these dynamic vital interests; a plastic system, adaptive as well as expansible, is requisite for the ever changing developments. To set up a rigid structure, however adequate at the time, is the ponderous blunder of the conservative.

The groups of books must be adjustable to the shelves, and the shelves must of course be adjustable to the size of the books and of the growing classes. Even the plan of the building should have some regard for the probable requirements of the increasing collections and their classification. New classes must be provided for everywhere. The schedules will need revision and alteration. The notation in the schedules and wherever placed on books, catalog-cards, shelf-labels, and elsewhere, will have to be altered correspondingly.

The classification of the books on the shelves is the organized, objective product, dependent on the schedules and notation and correlative to the shelf-list. If the notation is applied permanently to the books, the difficulty and cost of alterations is thereby increased, comparatively more than on the cards of the catalogs and the charging-system. Economies of funds and of hours must be considered; but let us also consider the mental economies of the users of libraries.

Abilities must be considered too – the capabilities of catalogers and classifiers to classify books by schedule and index, and to adapt their classifications to external standard classifications; and the abilities and willingness of readers and students to follow the complexities of classification, notation, and cataloging. These modes of library economy, so complicated to librarians, should be as simple and clear as possible to the familiar public and to the unfamiliar scholar with his special point of view.

One recognized economy is coöperative cataloging and classifying, which we will treat later as a special problem. This would depend on standardizing adaptive classifications for the several types, or classes, of libraries, general or special.

In the preceding paragraphs the ground has been prepared for a summarized statement of the problem : how shall a system of classification for libraries be provided to serve most uses and best interests with maximal convenience and efficiency, with requisite economies, and within the capabilities of the classifiers and of the users of the libraries? Aspects of this problem have in its halting history been outlined and discussed, but no satisfactory solution has so far been found.

Answers to the questions comprised in this problem will be presented in the following chapters, treating of the principles of classification for libraries, the relations of the classification of books to the classification of knowledge, the methods of schedulizing, of devising and economizing notation, of classifying and reclassifying collections, grouping and re-grouping books for various uses, and of coöperation for economy and efficiency.

From: The organization of knowledge in libraries and the subject-approach to books / by Henry Evelyn Bliss. – 2nd ed., rev. and partly rewritten. – New York : H.W. Wilson, 1939. – Chap. I: The problem of classification for libraries.



The personal touch

Would the reader like to follow my father into his library? – a scene of unparalleled confusion – windows rattling, paint in great request, books in every direction but the right – the table – but no, I cannot find terms to describe it ...

Once, when we were staying at Trowbridge, in his absence for a few days at Bath, my eldest girl thought she should surprise and please him by putting every book in perfect order, making the best bound the most prominent; but, on his return, thanking her for her good intention, he replaced every volume in its former state; 'for', said he, 'my dear, grandpapa understands his own confusion better than your order and neatness'.

From: The poetical works of the Rev. George Crabbe : with his letters and journals, and his life, by his son. – London : John Murray, 1834. – 8 v. Vol.1: The life of the Rev. George Crabbe / by his son.



Sidney *who?*

We welcome the library of Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, and its librarian, Heather Lane, who has adopted BC2 for the reclassification of the collections there. We hope to have more news from that quarter. Watch this space...

Solution to Blissword Puzzle No.5

A	T	L	A	K	P	2		H	T	L	A	S	A	T
	Y		R		T		J		L		G		M	
Q	J	U	I		P	R	F	S	M	F	R	S	9	4
	5		G		F		M		J		D		M	
K	I	T	G	N	P			K	N	M	T	X	E	N
	M				J		I		Y		E		N	
H	R	S	Q	T	H	K	F	R		T	G	K	G	Q
			K				M				8			
I	J	P	G	D		J	K	T	H	F	M	3	I	Q
	V		O		T		X		T				V	
T	V	T	V	U	B	F			Q	S	Q	E	R	T
	R		E		U		A		S		T		S	
P	Y	W	Q	S	R	B	F	H	N		A	J	W	S
	F		K		A		L		D		S		4	
T	V	N	T	R	N	T		K	Y	O	W	N	G	O

And finally,

the Editor apologises for this issue which is both thinner than usual and also later than usual (and for the lack of another puzzle). It is his intention that the next and ensuing issues should appear very much earlier in the year, partly to spread the workload, and partly to ensure that the Annual Report is in the hands of those who cannot attend the Annual General Meeting much sooner.

The appearance of another issue of the *Bulletin* in the first half of 1995 should not, however, be interpreted as a sign that we are going over to a twice-yearly publishing cycle. Not yet!

A.G.C.

