

*The*

# Bliss

## CLASSIFICATION BULLETIN

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### ***EDITORIAL***

This issue of the *Bulletin* appears in midsummer, and the Editor aims to make this the regular pattern from now on. Publication has slipped in the past, with the result that each issue, containing the minutes of the Annual General Meeting and the report on the progress of the scheme for the previous year, has only just reached members in time for the following AGM. This is far too late, and the news printed has been very stale. We hope to do better in future – but don't expect another issue of the *Bulletin* in November as well!

### **Alphabliss**

Little by little we are filling in the gaps in the alphabet of classes in the Bliss Bibliographic Classification, second edition.

Class Q, *Social welfare and Criminology*, will have been in the hands of most users for many months now. Comparing it with the 1977 edition is a revelation. It may be taken for granted that the vocabulary has been greatly revised and expanded, but the improvements go far beyond this. The presentation of the schedules follows the style of Classes A/AL and AM/AX and the revised Class J, and the index likewise maintains the fuller, more systematic and clearer style evolved for the most recent classes. There are frequent references in the schedules to other classes, notably I, K and T, and to facilitate synthesis without the threat of further

reclassification in the near future, the outline of the Social Psychology schedule, IN/IQ, is given in an appendix in the form it will take in the forthcoming revision of Class I (much of it derived in turn from Class K).

The Introduction in this edition is not a reprint of the old text with the substitution of new and amended examples, but a very thorough and thoughtful revision of admirable clarity, which will set a new standard for the volumes to follow. The simplification and clarification of the rules for building classmarks will be widely welcomed, with the use of intercalators kept to the absolute minimum – drastic revision of the whole class to eliminate even more of them would have presented existing users with a totally unacceptable (and unnecessary) task of reclassification.

Later in this issue there is an article on the use of the new Class Q by a newcomer to the Association, Kathleen Wright, Information Officer of the Merseyside Probation Service. It is a pleasure to welcome a new member and a new contributor – one from a different part of the country and with an interesting specialized viewpoint.

And Q is followed by R. Class R, *Politics and Public Administration*, was ready to go to the printer at about the same time as this issue of the *Bulletin*. We hope that the volume will be published before the AGM in November. The provisional ISBN is 1-85739-077-6.

The largest single contribution to this issue is Jean Aitchison's extensive review of Class R, which she has generously made available to us. This is not just a review : Jean has linked it to the problems of thesaurus construction, and has included an illuminating comparison with the RIIA Thesaurus, for which Class R was the major source of both terminology and underlying structure.

Class S, *Law*, is finally at the proof-reading stage, and its publication should follow that of Class R after a few months. Provisional ISBN 1-85739-067-9.

### **QBG DTQ — and the AGM & Annual Lecture**

To be quite accurate, QBG DTQ is the classmark for Short courses in social welfare, whereas we are offering a one-day training course in the application of the revised Class Q. This will take place on Thursday, 23 November 1995 at NCH Action for Children, Stephenson Hall, 85c Highbury Park, London N5 1UD. Chris Preddle, Frank Emmott and Ken Bell will conduct the course which will be divided into two parallel streams, for new and experienced users respectively. A leaflet and enrolment form will be sent to all BCA members shortly; information is otherwise available from Ken Bell, 40 Springfield Road, Guildford, Surrey, GU1 4DP (phone 01483 32092). *Please bring this course to the attention of other users (and potential users) – it is open to non-members as well.*

The Annual General Meeting is to be held the next day, Friday, 24 November 1995, at the Library Association Headquarters, 7 Ridgmount Street, London WC1E 7AE, at 2 p.m., and will be followed by the annual lecture : details will be circulated in the autumn.

#### **A.G.C.**

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## **BLISS CLASSIFICATION ASSOCIATION**

Minutes of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Bliss Classification Association held at 4 p.m. on Friday, 25 November 1994, at the Library Association Headquarters, Room A, 7 Ridgmount Street, London WC1E 7AE.

*Present:* Jack Mills (Chair, and Editor of BC2)  
Colette Batterbee (University of North London)  
Ken Bell (University of North London)  
Eric Coates (personal member)  
Tony Curwen (personal member; Editor, *Bliss Classification Bulletin*)  
Ed Dua (Departments of Health and Social Security; Publicity Officer)  
Frank Emmott (Barnardo's)  
John Eyre (University of North London)  
Angela Haselton (Tavistock Joint Library; Treasurer and Membership Secretary)  
Roger Hughes (Economatters Ltd)  
Helen Mackin (Barnardo's)  
Marion MacLeod (Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge)  
Alan Mayne (Classification Research Group)  
Colin Neilson (Science Museum)  
Christina Panagiotidou (University of London Library; Secretary)  
Chris Preddle (NCH Action for Children)  
Keith Smith (Departments of Health and Social Security Library)

- 1 The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Friday, 19 November 1993 were approved with minor corrections.
- 2 Matters arising from the Minutes of 19 November 1993.
  - 2.1 Ken Bell said that it had not proved possible to arrange a course on AM/AX Mathematics, and suggested a one-day course to be held the day before the next AGM. He said he was prepared to be the frontperson for teaching and asked for volunteers to assist him. It was AGREED that the revised Class Q would be covered. Chris Preddle and Frank Emmott volunteered to help with the teaching.
- 3 Progress of BC2: Editor's report.
  - 3.1 Mr Mills commented on his written report, which had been circulated to the meeting. [Appended to these minutes].
- 4 Finance: Treasurer's report.

The Treasurer commented on the accounts for the year to 31 July 1994, which had been circulated to the meeting. [Appended to these minutes, following the Editor's report]. They reflected a decrease in expenses over the year.
- 5 Election of Auditor
  - 5.1 Ken Best was re-elected as auditor. The meeting agreed that a letter of thanks for his valuable work should be sent from the Committee.

6 Publicity

6.1 The need for revision of the information leaflet was mentioned again.

7 Committee elections

7.1 It was reported that Jennifer Buchanan had resigned from the Committee. It was agreed that a letter should be written to her to thank her for her service.

7.2 Ed Dua resigned from the Committee in view of his impending retirement. He was thanked for his years of service on the Committee, latterly as Publicity Officer.

8 Other business

8.1 Eric Coates reported on the 36th Allerton Institute, held at Champaign, Illinois, on 23-26 October 1994, on "New roles for classification in libraries and information networks". He had been invited to speak about the Broad System of Ordering, and although the BCA had not been invited, he spoke about BC2 as well. [His report appears later in this *Bulletin*].

## **PROGRESS OF BC2 IN 1994 : EDITOR'S REPORT TO THE AGM**

### **Development of Schedules and Publication**

**Class AY: Science and Technology (general).** The major part of this class lies in the comprehensive Operations and Agents facets which embody the methods, actions and instrumentation of scientific and industrial research. These facets will then serve as the basis (and often the greater part as well) of the research component in all the sciences and technologies. A significant part of the work on this has already appeared in the medical technology section of Class H; but AY is its homebase.

**Class B: Physics.** Considerable progress has been made in the finalizing of this class. Most of its large research and instrumentation class will appear in AY and the two classes will be published together as AY/B.

**Class C: Chemistry.** A great deal of work has been done on this class, most of it directed at the difficult problem of citation order between the numerous arrays by which chemical compounds can be characterized. For example, Furan (C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>4</sub>O) is defined as a 5-membered, heterocyclic organic compound, monoheteroatom (oxygen), unsaturated and aromatic; with seven defining characteristics (all of them significant) there are 5040 different ways of classifying it. The problem in BC2 is not merely to decide the one place where it goes but to ensure that this is a helpfully located place, explicit and predictable even though there are several million such compounds, all different (and thousands more coming along each year). The large vocabulary of compounds in UDC Class 547 proved very useful as a quarry and also in providing a guide to literary warrant. It is hoped that the class will be completed by the end of Spring 1995.

**Class Q: Social Welfare.** Chris Preddle completed his revision and expansion of the 1977 edition early in the year and it should be published in December 1994.

**Class R: Politics and Public Administration.** Proofreading of this large class was completed by late Spring and the camera-ready copy should go to Bowker-Saur this month [November 1994].

**Class S: Law.** Proofreading of this large class is almost complete and camera-ready copy should go to Bowker-Saur early next year [1995].

**Class W: The Arts.** Further work has been done on the general structure of this complicated and controversial class and most of the major problems have now been resolved. Colin Ball is now engaged in the task of filling it out with the detailed vocabulary of the penultimate draft and expanding this to meet the needs of a large modern collection.

**Outline of the whole classification.** The advanced state of the drafts of virtually all classes led to a proposal that an updated and enlarged Outline of the whole of BC2 should be produced to replace the one published in the 1977 Introduction and Auxiliary Schedules. This has now been done and the resulting draft has some 1500 terms. The BCA Committee is now considering what might be done with it

### **Other activities**

The exploration of possibilities of cooperating with UDC, reported at the last AGM, continued. A formal arrangement was suggested by Dr Ia C. McIlwaine (as Editor-in-Chief of UDC) and Alan Gilchrist whereby UDC could make use of the intellectual content of the BC2 schedules to assist the revision of the UDC schedules in return for some financial compensation to BCA. The BCA Committee considered this at a special business meeting and eventually a formal agreement was reached with Ben G. Goedegebuure, Executive Chairman of UDCC (the Consortium which now manages UDC) embodying the general principle described above. Further elements of cooperation were agreed; the Editor of BC2 is now a member of the UDC Editorial Board and BCA will welcome a UDC representative on its Committee.

Eric Coates spoke for BC2 at the 36th Allerton Institute at the University of Illinois in October. The conference was on Classification in libraries and information networks, and it is in the context of the latter that cooperation between the major schemes is being explored. Mr Coates also spoke on BSO (Broad System of Ordering), the general structure of which is closely compatible with UDC.



### **The Bliss Lecture 1994**

Following the Annual General Meeting, Ken Bell, Colin Neilson and John Eyre addressed the question of the future for classification in the next century from three very different viewpoints and opened a wide-ranging, enjoyable (and not unexpectedly totally inconclusive!) discussion with the audience. It proved impossible, however, to reproduce this material in a form which would be satisfactory as an article for the *Bulletin* this year.

**BLISS CLASSIFICATION ASSOCIATION CONSOLIDATED RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 JULY 1994**

1993	RECEIPTS	1994	1993	PAYMENTS	1994
	Balance brought forward 1 August:		54.65	Committee and AGM expenses	390.38
2428.35	General accounts	3809.16	503.73	Stationery, postage & photocopying	27.30
1110.71	Appeal account	<u>1137.43</u>			
		4946.59	111.15	2nd edition expenses:	00.00
	Subscriptions:				
58.00	Personal	86.00	00.00	Computer equipment & repairs	233.97
668.00	Institutional	<u>979.93</u>	78.44	Other payments	335.95
		1065.93			
96.74	Royalties on 2nd edition	40.34	00.00	Transfer to Appeal account	1000.00
54.92	Distribution from M & G (Charibond)	91.54			
1200.00	Donations	00.00			
	Interest payments:			Balance in hand at 31 July:	
			1394.58	General current account	712.45
51.12	Deposit account	32.67	2414.58	General deposit account	3139.59
26.72	Appeal account	<u>18.11</u>	<u>1137.43</u>	Appeal account	<u>2155.54</u>
		50.78			<u>6007.58</u>
00.00	Transfer from current account	1000.00			
<u>00.00</u>	Other receipts	<u>800.00</u>			
<u>5694.56</u>		<u>7995.18</u>	<u>5694.56</u>		<u>7995.18</u>

**Current assets at 31 July 1994**

800.13	Charibond (at cost)	800.13
3809.16	Cash in General accounts	3852.04
1137.43	Cash in Appeal account	2155.54
	Computer equipment (pc:s and printer)	
<u>1925.00</u>	less depreciation @ 20% per annum *	1773.97
		~ <u>1540.00</u>
<u>7671.72</u>	(including replacement printer) *	8581.68
	(excluding replacement printer) ~	8347.71

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.

**Angela Haselton, Hon. Treasurer**  
40c Morpeth Road, London, E9 7LD

**K. Best, Hon. Auditor** 23.11.1994  
30 Cissbury Close, Horsham, West Sx, RH12 5JT

**ALLERTON INSTITUTE 1994**

**report by Eric Coates**

The 36th Allerton Institute was held under the auspices of the University of Illinois Graduate School of Library and Information Science at the Allerton Center, Montecello, Champaign, on 23-26 October 1994. The title of the Institute was *New Roles for Classification in Libraries and Information Networks*.

There were about 100 participants, all but thirteen from the USA. I represented both BSO and BC2; the other UK participants were Philip Bryant from the Centre for Bibliographic Management, Bath, and Ia McIlwaine representing UDC.

The proceedings comprised the following:

- 1 Demonstrations of classification systems (1½ hours)
- 2 Three introductory talks (1 ½ hours)
- 3 Preparing traditional classifications for the future (3 hr 40 m)
- 4 Critical appraisal of the use of classification in the future (7 hr 20m)

Part 1 consisted of computer screen demonstrations of DDC, UDC and BSO. Both UDC and BSO had initial screen problems, which in the case of BSO regrettably left no time to show the BC2 machine-readable specimens. Hard-copy BC2 material was, however, displayed and attracted attention. There was considerable interest in the computer screen displays, which stimulated much discussion between viewers and demonstrators. More time than was available could profitably have been used.

The three talks in Part 2 focussed on two themes. The first was that classification was on the defensive, having been largely overlooked in the burgeoning expansion of IT and also targetted in the search for economies in the recession. The second cited new forms of communication combining computers and advanced telecommunications, as exemplified by the Internet, as a challenge to classificationists to move in response to the already recognized need for some form of knowledge organization in connection with these developments.

Part 3 consisted of half-hour statements on the present situation and future plans of DDC, UDC, LCC, and BC2 with BSO (the last two getting fifteen minutes each). There was a short period allocated for open discussion, largely concentrating on future plans, but not adding substantially to the presentations. Ia McIlwaine noted that UDC is already available on BUBL (the only general classification at present accessible on that system), and mentioned the agreement with BCA regarding the use of the BC2 Class H schedule for medical sciences. In my presentation on BC2 and BSO I took the opportunity to stress that the severest problems of general classifications, arising from the limitless varieties of their users' interests and backgrounds, are not shared by special classifications which operate within contexts or boundaries determined by their subject fields and taken for granted by their users. It was argued that it merely created complexity (or opacity) of overall pattern if one tried to construct a general classification by aggregating a number of special classifications. Reference was made to the overall simplicity (or transparency) of pattern characteristic of both BC2 and BSO. This property of transparency in BC2 is derived from the consistent repetitive application of facet analysis, linked through a retroactive combination procedure with the structured sequence of topics displayed in the schedules.

With regard to BSO, the close convergence in outline with BC2 was noticed only when schedule construction had already proceeded some way after a tortuous start. Like BC2, BSO is faceted (though implicitly) throughout, uses non-hierarchically expressive notation, and

(usually) retro-combination. Although the styles of notation and the ways of presenting procedures for combination in the two schemes may appear to suggest a lack of close affinity, the end results in terms of structured schedules are for the most part similar. There has been active cooperation in developing the two schemes. The less detailed BSO, now brought to a state of completion, subject to necessary continuous updating, has been useful as a working shell aiding the construction of the more elaborate BC2, while in the other direction the fully developed BC2 schedules have been useful as a check and also as a guide always to be taken seriously in working out the BSO schedules.

Part 4 comprised seven sessions in which panels of four to seven participants made individual five-minute statements to trigger discussion. These sessions were successful in getting people talking, and were the most valuable part of the conference.

### **General and personal observations**

I last visited the USA to discuss classification in 1961, when the idea of facet analysis was received with respectful reserve and zero enthusiasm. It was pleasantly surprising to find that this had all changed, and that it now seemed to be taken for granted on all sides that facet structures in classification were highly desirable. Some historians have suggested that it takes 30 years for a new idea to percolate down to common knowledge. Maybe this applies also to common knowledge within a professional discipline. There seemed to be general agreement that the established general classifications needed renovating and that facet structures were part of the answer. There was much emphasis on the need for classifications to be yoked up with thesauri, but I doubt if there would have been support for the proposition that classifications are *basic* to the construction of thesauri. My further thought on this is that the desire for thesauri is related to the observation that users, while relatively ready to try to navigate within a single file, balk at passing to a second structured file in the process of interrogating a classified catalogue. Hence it may be that indexes to classification schedules will be superseded in future by alphabetical thesauri bearing a classification notation on each entry. There was great emphasis in the discussion on the need to design classification schemes for the user, rather than for the classifier. This was scarcely news, but the DDC editor agreed that this criterion had not been followed in the past but would be a principle to follow in future. I was moved to point out that in BC2 and BSO schedule construction, paramount importance had always been accorded to the ultimate user, whose needs were only marginally different from those of the classifier. Equally it might well be appropriate to spell out for the classifier alone some details of underlying structure which could be a distraction and an irrelevance to the user confronting an unfamiliar system.

A cynic might feel that the conference was overmuch preoccupied with reinventing the wheel. A more benign view might be that at last everyone was looking in a direction in which progress might lie. However, the signs that someone was getting down to the nitty-gritty of what is implied, for instance, by user studies, were not much in evidence. The conference was designedly orientated to the future, but there was not much disposition to analyse in detail the shortcomings of the reigning systems which make renovation so urgent.

Several suggestions were made to the effect that facet analysis might be used in the drafting of multiple-choice-cum-dialogue questionnaires and menus. In this connection a participant apparently representing Mosaic Graphical Interface for Networks stated that BSO seemed to be the kind of general classification that her organization was seeking. Another suggestion sought to promote the use of general classification in the educational field, both in relation to curricula and presentation in teaching. Most participants seemed to think that classification for retrieval needed to be combined with computer-aided word-match techniques. Another contributor thought that classification systems as we know them were insufficiently dynamic



for the Internet and would be superseded by computer-generated clustering methods. There did not seem to be a very strong sense at this conference of the respective roles of words on the one hand, and concepts on the other, in relation to the retrieval process.



The post brought the Editor a letter from **Alan R. Thomas**, Visiting Associate Professor at the School of Library and Information Science, Pratt Institute, New York City ("Our Man in America"), in which he sent details of yet another publication in which he spreads the gospel of Bliss. This is *Classification: options and opportunities* / Alan R. Thomas, editor. (Binghamton, NY : Haworth Press, 1995. ISBN 1-56024-709-6), and is one of the series of monographs also published simultaneously as issues of *Cataloging & classification quarterly*. ISSN 0163-9374 (in this instance, Vol. 19, nos. 3/4).

The focus of the volume is the question of options and alternatives in classification schemes, although it starts with an important section on basic considerations on classification design. In addition to editing the publication, Alan has also contributed three articles, namely the introduction "Exploring the Armamentarium", "Blissful beliefs: Henry Evelyn Bliss counsels on classification" and "Bliss Classification update". Derek Langridge is another contributor ("Alternative starting points in classification").

On the same theme is Alan's paper "Options in the arrangement of library materials and the new edition of the Bliss Bibliographic Classification" which he contributed to *Cataloging heresy: challenging the standard bibliographic product... / edited by Bella Hass Weinberg*. (Medford, NJ : Learned Information, 1992. ISBN 1-56024-709-6).

Alan also asks us to note two published corrections:

1. Bliss Bibliographic Classification, 2nd edition: principal features and applications. *Cataloging & classification quarterly*, 15(4), 1992, p. 3-17;  
errata: 16(4), 1993, p. 138.
2. Bliss regained: the second edition of the Bliss Bibliographic Classification. *Wilson library bulletin*, 67(7), March 1993, p. 56-57;  
corrigendum : 67(10), June 1993, p. 10.

Alan went to the USA for one semester in January 1990 and is still there. However, he writes that he "will return to the UK ere long". We are greatly indebted to him for his tireless one-man campaign on behalf of the classification, ensuring that it does not become forgotten in the land of its birth.

\*\*\* And in return, here is something for Alan and his old colleague Eric Stone, BCA's first Hon. Treasurer:

*"I would like to acknowledge Eric Stone and Alan Thomas - teachers in the library school I attended 30 years ago - each of whom changed my professional life"* - Michael Gorman in his preface to the book noted on page 27 of this Bulletin.

## **CLASS R : POLITICS AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION**

**Reviewed by Jean Aitchison**

### **Background**

Class R Politics and Public Administration<sup>1</sup> is the latest volume to appear of the second edition of the Bliss Bibliographic Classification, (BC2), edited by Jack Mills and Vanda Broughton, which, with the support of the Bliss Classification Association, has been in course of development since 1977.

The first edition of the Bliss Bibliographic Classification appeared between 1940 and 1953, the result of a lifetime of study by its compiler, H.E. Bliss. It was notable for its carefully-planned main classes, alternative places, short notation and some synthetic qualities. The second edition takes the original shell of the first edition, and within each class the schedules are designed on facet principles. The plan is to produce BC2 in separate parts for individual main classes, each with its own introduction, schedule and index. The total work will consist of 22 volumes, 11 of which have now been published<sup>2</sup>. Schedules for several other fields are in draft form.

In spite of limited financial resources and minimum publicity, BC2 has gained a reputation for rigorous facet analysis of concepts and relationships and for an up-to-date and specific vocabulary.

The strengths of BC2 have recently been acknowledged, in that it has been proposed as a model for the revision of UDC. A progress report by McIlwaine and Williamson on a feasibility study for restructuring the Universal Decimal Classification (UDC)<sup>3</sup> recommended that the UDC be reorganized into a fully-faceted system accompanied by a thesaurus, and that insofar as possible, the restructuring of the UDC should be based on BC2.

The published and draft schedules are also important as a source of terms, structure and relationships for thesauri in broad or specific subject fields. This is because the facet structure is compatible with the postcoordinate nature of the thesaurus. The Bliss Classification Association encourages this use of BC2, so long as due acknowledgement is made in any publication which results.

### **History of Class R Political Science**

A penultimate draft of Class R Political Science appeared in 1983. In this draft the schedules of the first edition of the Bliss Classification (BC1) were revised and extended, many new concepts were introduced and some subject areas omitted. Systematic faceting was introduced throughout the schedules. The draft was circulated and the feedback received was taken into account when preparing the final version of Class R, which is now being published.

### **The subject field, scope, coverage and problems**

In a comprehensive and clear Introduction to the schedules the editor, Jack Mills, defines the scope of politics in the classification, discusses the main problem areas and explains the decisions taken to deal with them.

The scope of Class R is defined as "The exercise of politics in the state or in aggregates of states and in the power relations between them."

Among the problems discussed in the Introduction is the treatment in the classification of the concepts of 'State' and 'Government'. The terms are often used synonymously with that of politics in general. The editor explains that it was decided to treat the state as "virtually coterminous with the whole class of 'Politics'", although making a place for the literature considering the state as a concept per se under Political Theory. However, 'Government' is distinguished as a separate concept, having a more precise usage, limited to the subjects of legislation, administration and adjudication as functions of state. It appears in the schedule before particular political institutions, as shown below:

RDX	Political systems, political institutions (general)
RE	. Government
	. . <i>Subsystems in government</i>
RGV	. . Representation & elections
RH	. . . Electoral system
RHL	. . . . Political parties
RI	. . . Legislative systems
RJ	. . . Executive government
RK	. . . Public administration
RLY	. . Judiciary
RMB	. Forms of state

The concept of 'International relations' is also considered in the Introduction, and its treatment in the classification explained. The term is somewhat ambiguous. It sounds like a process, and is regarded as such in the classification, but a process dependent upon a world political system. It is therefore placed as the first of a sequence of political systems of decreasing scale, starting with the complete world system, through regional systems, empires, blocs, etc. to individual nation states:

RDX	Political systems, political institutions (general)
RO	. International relations, world political system
RQM	. . International political systems
RQO	. . . Regional political systems
RQP	. . . Imperialist systems, etc.
RQWB	. Groupings of states, supranational groupings
RQX	. . Language affiliation groupings
RRG	. . Western bloc groupings
	<i>etc.</i>
RRW	. Non-state nations
RRY	. Nation states, individual countries

Another problem discussed in the Introduction is how to deal with historical period in relation to political systems. In the 1983 draft, historical period was always to be cited immediately after the Nation State, before other political phenomena. In the final version, taking account of feedback from the circulation of the draft, period is always to be cited after any political phenomena under Nation State or elsewhere, so as not to scatter these phenomena under different periods of time.

*Example:* Nineteenth century French legislative systems

The order of concepts in this subject is:

France: Legislative systems: Nineteenth century

and not : France: Nineteenth century: Legislative systems

In the 1983 draft, the concept of Political Parties was regarded as a separate form of subsystem under Political Systems, and placed after Judiciary, but in the published version, it is located under Representation and Elections. The argument for this change is that Political Parties "may be regarded as institutions whose primary function is to gain and exercise governmental power. In most cases, they do this as agents of the representation process and the electoral system is the central medium through which parties seek to be accepted as representative of the political community".

As in the penultimate draft, Law is not generally subordinated to Politics. Constitutional Law and International Law are located under Law, with the argument that the former is an integral part of public law and the latter has a status in law of jurisdiction. However, provision is made in Class R for locating the law of special political subjects with the subject, for example Electoral Law RHF goes under Electoral Systems RH.

Much space in the Introduction is given to the discussion of the treatment of Public Administration in relation to Politics. While recognising that Public Administration may be regarded as an independent discipline, and giving this option as an alternative at RU/R Y, it is stressed that the preferred place for the subject should be within Politics as "theoretically, public administration is purely the implementing of the policies and decisions made by the legislative, executive and judicial branches of government".

Public Administration is found in Class R following immediately after Executive Government, where the political aspects of the executive give way to the managerial and administrative institutions of government.

RE	Government
	. <i>Subsystems in government</i>
RJ	. . Executive government
RK	. . Public administration
RKB Q	. . . Organization & management
RKI	. . . Public services, organization of administration
RKI Q	. . . . Management of services
RKJ	. . . Administrative departments
	. . . <i>Forms of administration by level of government</i>
RL	. . . . Central government administration
RLR	. . . . . Devolved government & administration
RLR X	. . . . . Regional government, provincial government
RLS	. . . . . State government & administration
RLU	. . . . . Local government
RLY	. . Judiciary

Generally in BC2 a public administration department or agency functioning in a specific field goes with that field, whether it be education, health, social security, etc, but a limited number are thought to be "so essential to the total apparatus of public administration that they are most

helpfully regarded as agents of the general processes" and are kept with Public Administration. A department concerned with finance, such as Her Majesty's Treasury in the United Kingdom, is given as an example. Class R also makes the fine distinction between management of public services at RKI Q and the management of the department itself, 'internal management' at RKB Q.

Politics contains general processes and properties which parallel sociological terms (appearing in Class K Society), such as power, leadership and conflict, which occur in Class R at RB Politics & Society. Some of these terms have several nuances which are carefully distinguished in the classification. Power for example may occur generally at RBG M Interaction in Politics under Political Behaviour, but it also features at REB GM under General Properties and Processes in Government, with the definition "Power relationships within government", and at RGE Powers of Government under Special Properties and Processes in Government, that is power exercised through formal institutions. These include Sovereignty, Separation of Powers, etc. and more specifically, Extra-legislative Powers of Legislatures, RIQ P, and Executive Powers RJG E, etc.

Finally, the Introduction discusses inexact terminology, which occurs as a problem throughout the political science field as it does in other social sciences. Examples of ill-defined terms quoted in the Introduction include "Left-wing" "Right-wing" and "Democracy". In Class R concentrated effort is made to clarify meaning by careful analysis of concepts and their relationships and by the addition of notes and definitions. Typical examples of definitions are given below:

- RGW      Representation  
\* Principle whereby preferences of many persons are translated into decisions made by one person or group speaking and/or acting for them, whether as representatives or delegates.
- RHMB     Machine politics, party machine  
\* Operating in the interest of leaders (bosses) rather than the electorate.

### **Faceted structure**

As in all the subject fields so far covered by BC2, facet techniques are used for analysis. Within the subject field, construction proceeds in six steps, each step depending on the preceding one. The steps are: (i) ordering terms into broad facets; (ii) organising the terms in each facet into specific arrays; (iii) deciding citation order (between facets and arrays); (iv) deciding the filing order (of facets, of arrays); (v) adding notation; (vi) adding an alphabetical index.

The main facets are

Political systems:

Defined by place, period and by other characteristics, such as distribution of power.

Political subsystems and institutions:

e.g. legislative system, executive system, administrative agencies, political parties.

Social entities:

e.g., social classes, ethnic groups, age groups, individuals, family.

Processes and properties

e.g. communication, political behaviour, leadership, socialisation, political attitudes, conflict.

Operations on political phenomena:

e.g. forecasting, planning, interpreting and policy making.

Agents of process (other than of government narrowly):

e.g. political activists, pressure groups, political movements and conferences.

Common subdivisions:

Two of these (place and time) define political systems and in this role are part of political systems, but they still function in the subsidiary role usual to common facets.

### Arrays within facets

The terms within the main facets are grouped into arrays, which usually reflect several different principles of division. For example, under War, types of war are grouped into arrays according to stated principles of division, such as origin, geographic scale, etc., as illustrated below:

RO	International relations
RPI Y	. Forms of international relations
RQE	. . Disputes & crises (international affairs)
	. . . <i>Elements and stages in conflict</i>
RQH	. . . . War, armed conflict, hostilities, wars
	. . . . <i>Types of war</i>
	. . . . . <i>By origin</i>
RQK B	. . . . . War by mistake, accidental wars
	. . . . . <i>By degree of involvement</i>
RQK E	. . . . . Proxy wars
	. . . . . <i>By geographic scale</i>
RQK G	. . . . . Limited wars, local wars
	. . . . . <i>By weapons systems</i>
RQK R	. . . . . Conventional wars
RQK X	. . . . . Nuclear wars, atomic wars
	<i>etc.</i>

### Citation order

This is the order in which elements of a compound subject, whether taken from different facets or from different arrays, are cited when being combined into a precoordinated classmark or term string. For example, a decision has to be made as to which of the three concepts Extremism, Political parties and USA in the phrase 'Extremism in political parties in the USA' should be cited first, which second and which last. Whichever order is chosen, some subjects will be scattered because of their subordinate position in the combined classmark or word

string. A good citation order assures that the subordination and scattering is made as acceptable as possible for a particular subject field, and that the order is always predictable.

In Class R the facets are cited in the following order:

Primary facet	RM/RT	Political systems
Second-cited facet	RE/RL	Subsystems of political systems
Third-cited facet	RDI/RDW	Social entities
Fourth-cited facet	RB/RDF	Processes and properties
Fifth-cited facet	RAX/RAY	Operations
Last-cited facets	R2/RAT	Common subdivisions

This gives the preferred order for the three concepts in the example above, as follows :

(1) RY *USA* (2) RHL *Political parties* (3) RANO *Extremism*

As to the citation order within facets, i.e. between arrays, "there are no general principles", but the rule of citing the more 'concrete' concept first might be applied. Another rule which may be used is to arrange for the latest concept in a chronological sequence to be cited first, as for example in the facet Schools of Western Political Thought, RAC.

Establishing a helpful citation order is essential if precordinated classmarks are being created for books on shelves, printed bibliographies, etc. However, a citation order is of less significance if the classmarks (or their term equivalents) are to be used postcoordinately, that is, entered as separate entities at the indexing stage but searched for in combination.

### **Filing order**

The facet filing order is "the order in which the individual facets (each one containing a block of different classes) file one after the other"

In BC2 the schedules are "inverted", that is the facets file in an order which is the reverse of the order in which they are cited when compounding terms. This means that the primary facet, Political Systems, files last, the second-cited facet next, and so on. This order preserves a consistent general-before-special sequence of classes.

The case is the same within each facet, the first cited array filing last, the second-cited array coming next and so on.

By studying the inverted filing order of the facets and arrays below it is possible to deduce the citation order, which is the reverse of the filing order:

R	Politics
RAT R	. Political processes
RBI C	. . Conflict in politics

RDX	Political systems
RE	. Government
	. . <i>Subsystems in government</i>
RH	. . . . Electoral systems
RHL	. . . . . Political parties
RHL BI	. . . . . Conflict
	. . . . . <i>Types of parties</i>
RHM GX	. . . . . Splinter parties
RHM Q	. . . . . Right wing parties

It can be seen that Political Systems and Subsystems would be cited before Political Processes and its subdivisions and that in the array under Types of Parties, Right Wing Parties would be cited before Splinter Parties.

### **Alternative treatments**

A feature of the BC2 schedules is its provision for alternative places to the preferred arrangement. As already noted above, the preferred place for Constitutional Law is in Class S Law, but there is an alternative place in Class R at RF. Public Administration is preferred collated with Executive government RJ at RK/RLC, but there is a place for the concept as an autonomous class, following Political Science and Politics at RU/RY. The preferred place for International Law is at SD as a particular jurisdiction, but there is an alternative place at ROF.

### **Notation**

The BC2 notation is fairly short and its prime function is "simply to maintain the order of classes", and not to express the hierarchy. For example, in the array under International Security below, only the classmark for Policy, reflects its subordination to the term above.

RPV	International security
RPV AXP	Policy
RPW	Arms control
RPY C	Collective security
RPY E	Regional security
RPY G	Alliances

This type of non-expressive notation, although hospitable to the insertion of new terms, is a disadvantage when used in machine searching, as it is not amenable to truncation. For example, a search on the classmark stem for International Security, RPV\*, would not retrieve all its subclasses, but only Policy at RPV AXP.

The non-expressive notation can also confuse the user, making it more difficult to grasp the hierarchy of the schedules, when this depends mainly on the pattern of indenting of the terms, without much assistance from the classmark structure.



The notation consists mainly of upper case letters and a few numbers. A space is left after three characters in the classmark, which helps to break up the printed block. The BC2 notation is synthetic and also retroactive, meaning it is possible to qualify any class by adding any classmark occurring earlier in the schedules, minus its initial letter, directly to the classmark concerned.

For example, in the display below, the enumeration of subclasses under RI Legislature and Legislation begins only at RIH Y

RBQ	Organization and management in politics
RGC	Accountability in government
RGV	Representation & elections
RHJ	. Constituencies
RI	Legislature & Legislation
RIH Y	. Membership of legislature

*\*This is the first enumerated subclass in RI*

All the classes preceding RI may be added directly at RI (minus their initial R) without clashing with enumerated subclasses special to RI, as shown below:

RI	Legislature & legislation
RIB Q	. Management of legislative business
RIG C	. Accountability of legislature
RIG V	. Representation and elections
	. . (Constituencies)
RIH J	. . Legislative districts
	... ..
RIH Y	. Membership of legislature

To allow for the addition to RI of facets and arrays from earlier classes, namely RA/RH, the notation RI to RIH X must be reserved, and the first enumerated class must begin with a letter later in the alphabet. The letters available for enumerating subclasses special to a class are progressively reduced, the further down in the filing order the class is located. This could be a restriction, but presents no problem to the purely ordinal notation, because further special subclasses may be accommodated by using the next available non-expressive notation. For example:

RIL	Legislative committees
RIL M	. Chairpersons
	<i>*The first enumerated subclass of RIL</i>
	... ..
	. <i>Types of legislative committees</i>
RIL U	. . Subcommittees
RIL Y	. . Ad hoc committees
RIM B	. . Standing committees
RIM D	. . . Joint standing committees

If two classmarks share the same two initial letters, as a rule both these letters are dropped when adding from earlier classes. For instance, in the example below, when Government Policy RJA XP is combined with Executive legislation RJS I to form Executive Legislative Policy RJS IAX P, the letters RJ in RJA XP are dropped. For example:

RJ            Executive government  
 RJA XP     . Government policy  
 RJS B      . . Executive action  
 RJS I      . . . Executive legislation  
             . . . . (Policy)  
 RJS IAX P . . . . .Executive legislative policy

Another method of synthesis is to use a particular letter (or number) as an "Intercalator" to introduce or indicate a set of classes inserted as a particular point in the schedules. This may be used to introduce terms from the Auxiliary schedules, from other classes in Class R, or from classes outside Class R. An example of the latter is:

RLM G     Public finance administration  
             \*Add to RLM letter H/S following TN in TNH/TNS

This allows the whole of Public Finance in class T Economics TNH/TNS to be inserted here.

How many of the synthesised classes should be enumerated in the published schedule is another problem discussed in the Introduction. While acknowledging that it is not necessary or possible to list all potential compound classes, many do appear listed in the schedules. There is one occasion, however, when it is essential to enumerate the synthesised class-name and that is when the new concept has its own particular name, differing from the earlier class name.

Examples:

*Threat indicators*

R63 2       Research in politics  
 R63 V      . Investigation procedures  
 R66 L      . . Indicators, indexes  
             . . . . .  
 RBI C      Conflict in politics  
             . (Indexes)  
 RBI C66 L . Conflict indicators  
 RBI C66 LS . . Threat indicators

*Mayor*

RJ            Executive government  
 RJK V      . Presidents  
             . . . . .  
 RLU        Local authorities  
 RLU J      . Executive  
 RLU JKV . . Mayor

### **Alphabetical subject index**

The subject index is constructed using the principles of chain indexing. An entry may be qualified by its immediate broader class, which helps to define it, but is never qualified by one of its subclasses.

*For example:* Index entries for Military dictatorship RML W

Dictatorship RML  
Military dictatorship RML W

but not

Dictatorship  
Military RML W

The selection of terms from the schedule is largely automatic. The program includes rules for deleting "anti-chain" entries.

### **Practical classification**

In the Introduction, the steps in classifying a document are explained and examples are given of the analysis and classification of 21 documents. The first step is concept analysis, when the indexer sets out the main concepts using his own words or the language of the document. The words are then set out in correct order to form a chain, before being translated into classmarks. These are at first shown as separate entities, divided by spaces, but are later joined together to show the standardized form for a precoordinated classmark in which a space is given after each 3-character block.

*Example:*

Title: The doctrine of subsidiarity in the European Community

Chain: European Community (RRP) - Devolution (RLR) - Ideology  
(Subsidiarity) RAN

Classmark: RRP LR AN (RRP LRA N)

Comments: Ideologies dependent on a particular concept (here the belief in delegation of powers via devolution or decentralization) are represented by the simple addition of the general concept of ideology.

### **Multiple entries in a classified catalogue and postcoordinate use**

The disadvantage of a single-entry system for compound classmarks is that only the first-cited element has all its literature collected together. The literature on the second, third and subsequent elements are "scattered to an increasing degree". It is suggested in the Introduction that a multiple-entry system could be used as an alternative, in which "each element is systematically brought to the front of a separate entry thereby collecting together the literature on that particular element". It is recommended that a classmark string be constructed having

the classmarks for the elementary elements linked together by hyphens. The order of the elements would then be rotated, for example:

RRP - RLR - RAN European Community - Devolution - Subsidiarity  
RLR - RAN - RRP Devolution - Subsidiarity - European Community  
RAN - RRP - RLR Subsidiarity - European Community - Devolution

If the classification were used in a postcoordinate system, the classmarks, or their term equivalents, could be inserted in the classmark or descriptor field as separate, independent entities, that is, not in a precoordinated string of any kind.

### **Applications in thesaurus construction**

Class R has been used as a basis of terms and structure for thesauri, either where politics is a peripheral field, or as one of the main subjects of a thesaurus, as is the case in the Royal Institute of International Affairs Library Thesaurus (RIIA Library Thesaurus) <sup>4</sup>, devoted to "all aspects of international relations, diplomatic, political, military, economic and financial, and also on the political and economic conditions in individual countries, in so far as they have a direct bearing on external relations".

In the RIIA Thesaurus it was necessary to use not only class R as a source of terms and structure for the main field of Politics, but also Class T Economics and Management of Economic Enterprises and Class S Law to cover the two other main fields of the thesaurus, Economics and International Law. In addition, other classes of BC2 were drawn upon to cover marginal fields impinging on the main fields, such as Class K Society, Class H Anthropology, Human biology, Health sciences, Class P Religion, etc.

As the final version of Class R was not available in 1986 when work on the thesaurus began, the penultimate draft was used. This differs in some respects from the published volume, and these differences are therefore reflected in the thesaurus. For example, Peacemaking comes under Peace, and Arms control under International Security in the published volume, but both come under International Conflict in the draft. The Arms control section in the published version is far more detailed than in the draft, and gives the non-preferred option of keeping all Arms control literature together, as is done in the RIIA Library Thesaurus.

It is interesting to see how modifications were made to Class R to suit the needs of a particular library. This meant that occasionally, the structure of the schedules was modified, new terms added and sections expanded.

For example, in the RIIA Thesaurus there is a structural change in that Political Science is divided into Politics and International Relations. Politics includes Political Processes and Political Systems, and International Relations is regarded as being synonymous with International Political Science, and hierarchically one step below Political Science, rather than a subdivision of Political Systems.

Two sections of Class R are not used in the RIIA Thesaurus. The first is RD Entities in Internal Politics, including Collectivities and Groups, such as Communities, Cultural Groups, and Social Classes. Instead these concepts are found in the Society section of the thesaurus. The second is the Grouping of States in Class R (from RR to RT). Instead, there is a separate section, outside Political Science, based on the Auxiliary schedule: Place in BC2. Terms from

this common Place schedule may be combined with terms from any subject field in the thesaurus.

An example of a more specific modification is that Government in the RIIA Thesaurus is equated with Executive Government at RJ in Class R whilst the broader concept of Government, at RE in Class R, defined as "the institutions of government and the attendant processes of management direction and control", is treated as a near synonym of Political Systems.

In the International Relations section of the RIIA Thesaurus there is an example of the addition of a new term. It was found necessary to create the term Foreign Relations, with a precise meaning and reserved for "international relations of countries, regions, blocs and organisations", to distinguish it from the broad and rather general term of International Relations. Foreign Relations in the RIIA Thesaurus includes Foreign Policy, Foreign Services and Diplomacy.

Examples of sections of Class R which were enlarged to cope with the literature in the RIIA Library include Arms and Armaments and Arms Control. Also, throughout the thesaurus, there was the addition of names of specific organisations, conferences, agreements, etc., not always enumerated in Class R.

On the whole the wealth of detail in the Class R schedules was more than enough for the needs of the RIIA Library, and the problem was frequently more one of selection of the more relevant terms for the thesaurus from the terminology available, than how to incorporate new concepts.

To convert the Class R schedules into the format needed for a thesaurus classified display, (also known as a systematic display), from which an alphabetical thesaurus could be derived, required careful editing.

First, the form of terms had to be controlled to ensure that the meaning of terms was not ambiguous when taken out of the context of the schedules. For example, the term Cooperation at RBG under Political Relations appears in the thesaurus as Political Cooperation, in order to distinguish the term from the broader term Cooperation, the related term Economic Cooperation and the narrower term International Cooperation. However, there are many more terms in a precise and unambiguous form suitable for a thesaurus in the published edition than in the draft.

Second, scope notes taken from the schedules were preceded in the thesaurus by the abbreviation 'SN'.

Third, synonyms found in the schedules and additional ones were added beneath the preferred terms prefaced by the abbreviation UF (use for).

Example:

*Classified display:*

MXL      06 Oligarchy  
            SN Rule by small self-interested and unrepresented elite. (BC2)  
            UF Patrician states

*Alphabetical display:*

Oligarchy MXL  
SN Rule by small self-interested and unrepresented elite. (BC2)  
UF Patrician states

Patrician states  
USE Oligarchy MXL

Fourth, a "-" was added in the margin against all terms associatively (RT) related to the term above in the display and not hierarchically related (BT/NT), so that these relationships might be differentiated in the conventional alphabetical thesaurus to be generated from the systematic display.

Example:

*Classified display:*

MEK 08 Political opposition  
MEK.D 09 Dissidence  
10 (Persons)  
MEK.D3 - 11 Dissidents

*Alphabetical display:*

Dissidence MEK.D  
BT Political opposition MEK  
RT Dissidents MEK.D3

Dissidents MEK.D3  
RT Dissidence MEK.D

Political opposition MEK  
NT Dissidence MEK.D

Fifth, cross-references were added to broader, narrower and related concepts, elsewhere in the systematic display. Cross-references such as these do occur occasionally in Class R, but need to be added systematically in thesaurus creation.

Example:

*Classified display*

MEK.D 09 Dissidence  
10 (Persons)  
MEK.D3 - 11 Dissidents  
\*BT Victims of repression MIR.B  
... ..  
MIR 09 Repression  
10 (Victims)  
MIR.B - 11 Victims of repression  
\*NT Dissidents MEK.D3

*Alphabetical display*

Dissidents MEK.D3  
RT Dissidence  
\*BT Victims of repression MIR.B

Victims of repression MIR.B  
RT Repression MIR  
\*NT Dissidents MEK.D3

Lastly a notation was added, which, unlike the BC2 notation, is semi-hierarchical in character, in order to make it partially amenable to machine searching, and has ranges of notation to express broader concepts but expressive notation at lower levels.

Example:

N/P	02 International relations
	... ..
NP/O	04 International security
	... ..
NW	06 Defence
	07 (Policy)
NWB -	08 Defence policy
NWB.D	09 Strategic advantage
NWB.L	09 Deterrence policy

It was not necessary to make the notation retroactive or to introduce intercalators for classmark synthesis, since terms and classmarks in the RIIA Library are used in the main postcoordinately, and placed as separate entities in the appropriate fields for retrieval in any required combination at the search stage. Classmarks are used precoordinately for shelving of books and reports, in the form of strings of separate classmarks joined by colons.

Synthesized concepts listed in the Class R, such as Judiciary Powers RLY GE, synthesized from RLY Judiciary and Government Powers RGE were accepted during the compilation of the thesaurus as compound terms. Where new concepts cannot be expressed by the combination of separate classmarks they will be enumerated as compound terms in the classified display. The notation, however, has some synthetic feature, in that classmarks 2/6 from the General Section of the thesaurus may be used throughout the classified display to indicate, for example, Persons 3A, Organizations 4, Research 5C, etc. in the manner of Common Subdivisions in BC2.

### **Summary**

Class R Politics and Public Administration could become a model for future classification systems and thesauri in the field of politics. This is likely for a number of reasons. First, it is outstanding in its logical structure, created by careful facet analysis of the subject field, and within which concepts and their relationships are displayed with clarity and consistency.

Second, the terminology is detailed, specific and up-to-date. The vocabulary includes over 3,000 terms. Third, yet another strength of the classification is its potential to use synthetic devices to combine existing classes with others within politics or within other BC2 schedules, to create new classes as required. This ensures that the classification is always hospitable to new concepts and terms and can be readily updated.

Lastly, since its synthetic, facet structure is similar to that of a thesaurus, the classification may be used as a basis for thesauri in which politics is either the main field or a marginal one. Some editing may have to be done to convert the classification to a thesaurus format, but this is a minor, clerical task and well worth the effort, in order to acquire the rich store of terminology and detailed relationships provided by the Class R classification schedules.

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## **USING Q IN MPS**

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### **SETTING THE SCENE**

For the past four years I have been running a library and information service for the staff of Merseyside Probation Service. The main aim of the service is to provide documentary materials to assist decision making at all levels within the organisation. In practice, this means producing a regular current awareness bulletin, providing an SDI service to specialist officers, offering an enquiry service and purchasing reference books and directories for use in the fifty office locations throughout Merseyside.

The library is a one person operation so I do everything from writing abstracts and desk research to stamping books and sticking on labels. I do have some support from an admin assistant but, nevertheless, time is at a premium.

When I took up the post my priorities were (1) to find out and understand what the probation service does and (2) to maintain and develop the current awareness and enquiry services, (3) to introduce a more reliable circulation control system and (4) to set up a computerised database.



I paid little attention to the classification scheme, relying upon the excellent subject index my predecessor had produced. Although I had worked in a number of special libraries the Bliss Classification scheme was new to me and references to "intercalators" and "retroactive synthesis" were not encouraging.

As there are no commercially produced databases whose coverage matches the information needs of probation staff, one of the most important tasks of the information officer is to index journals. This is done using the Probation Thesaurus, developed and updated by the Information Officers Group of NPRIE (National Probation Research & Information Exchange).

Classifying books and reports has assumed lesser importance because (1) the collection is relatively small, although large enough to need to be organised in some way, (2) all material is indexed using subject keywords, and (3) few, if any, of the library's customers come to browse in the library. The majority of requests, whether for specific items or for literature searches, are made by telephone. The only person who needs to be able to find their way around the library is the information officer.

But small collections grow, reaching a point where a broad classification number is no longer helpful as a shelf mark. Not having the time to develop the classification scheme, in those sections where greater specificity was needed the material has been subdivided into pamphlet boxes within the broad classification number. For example, the Probation section (QL) consists of probation/inspection reports; probation/race issues; probation/Merseyside Probation Service; probation/aims and objectives; probation/green and white papers; and so on. Not a very sophisticated system, perhaps, but it does have the merit of reflecting the nature of the literature. While it can cope with the majority of reports, it cannot cope with them all so there is an expanding probation/miscellaneous section. A similar difficulty exists in other sections of the library. I hoped to find a solution to this problem in the revised edition of the Q schedule.

#### INITIAL REACTIONS TO THE NEW Q

Opening the new edition I turned to "probation" only to find it was no longer at QQL but had, inexplicably to me, been moved to QRD "probation practice" and QRE "probation services". Then I moved to the part of the schedule dealing with child abuse, another large section within the library. At least that was still where I expected it to be (QJJ J) but it had now been greatly expanded and included child protection (QLJ JD); women perpetrators (QLJ JGL JN), and child sexual abuse (QLJ KH). Even ritual abuse (QLJ KM) was included. I quickly closed my newly purchased copy of the Q schedule with gloomy thoughts of reclassifying the entire library. Wanting, however, to see the full extent of the changes, I reopened it and began a more methodical review of the revisions. I had only just begun when the 'phone rang : an inquiry about breach proceedings (now QQE Q, whereas previously I had used QQF E).

Several days later I tried again. Despite the encouraging remarks in the introduction about the small amount of reclassification created by the revisions a quick (very quick) comparison between the old and the new seemed to suggest that in this library a large proportion of the stock would move. I noticed the following changes: pre-sentence reports (QDD V to QQE P); prisoners' families (QKW QR to QFB EW); AIDS (QMQ R to QMS SUQ Q); crime prevention (QOE R to QOK); bail support (QPH EV to QPH 8RF). These are in addition to "probation" which I've already mentioned and the development of "management" at Q ATQ.

I should mention here that the Q class as I inherited it does not use the initial Q, so, in this library, material on children, for example, is classified at L rather than QL. I have seen no reason to change this.

#### RECLASSIFYING USING THE NEW Q

Browsing through the schedules can only give a superficial view of the classification scheme, so I decided to reclassify the child abuse section using the revised schedule. My approach to reclassifying is to look at a section at a time. This enables an item to be placed in relation to the other material. You are more likely to be consistent in your use of classification numbers. It's not an approach suitable for large libraries with a large input of new stock but it does work well in a small library. I am still in the process of reclassifying the section but so far I am pleased with the transformation from a mass of books and reports to clearly identified subgroupings. The LJJ section has shrunk to a manageable size. For the first time I can produce, using the class number search facility on my information retrieval software, a listing of the child abuse inquiry reports the library holds. I was initially disappointed not to find a class number allocated to the sexual abuse of boys, as one is provided for the sexual abuse of girls : the amount of detail enumerated at QLJ KH (and elsewhere) can give a misleading impression of completeness when it is in fact only illustrative.

Although I was happy with the greater subdivisions, I did have reservations about using some of the longer class numbers e.g., QLJ KHJ NGM LTV (adult women survivors of childhood sexual abuse). In practice, however, I found that I actually needed to use very few of these. One of the practical implications of using longer class numbers was the need to amend the structure of the database. When it was set up three years ago the class numbers used were relatively short so allocating ten digits to the class number field seemed generous. I have now increased this figure to twenty. This is the first time I have reclassified a substantial amount of material on a computerised catalogue and have found it a very easy process as compared to amending a card catalogue. If only I had the facility to print out new spine labels.

#### USING Q IN A PROBATION SERVICE LIBRARY

At first I found the abbreviated class numbers used in the library quite straightforward to apply. However, as my understanding of the work of the probation service, and of the Bliss classification scheme, has grown, the more perplexed I have become. The revised schedule has increased, not decreased, my uncertainty.

There are some problems concerning terminology. In the revised edition QRD has been allocated to probation practice and QRE to probation services. Within the probation service the phrase "probation services" is usually used to mean probation services as organisations and not "forms of help" as in "social services". Consequently I am unsure of what the distinction is between probation practice and probation services.

Probation practice is commonly understood as consisting of supervision of offenders; report writing; throughcare; groupwork; working in prisons; and family court welfare work. (The term civil work was abandoned some time ago). Only the most general of items could be satisfactorily placed at QRD, or QRE, with the majority of the items being dispersed elsewhere. So, for example, groupwork at QDN, pre sentence reports at QED P and supervision at QFE H and so on.

The obvious solution to this dispersal of material on probation practice would be to use the facility for building class numbers. If this was done groupwork with offenders (QRD N) would be comfortably placed in probation practice. Following the citation order rules, however, the other material on groupwork would be distributed according to the "people in need" rule unless it was a general text on groupwork in which case it would remain at QDN. In practice, this would not be helpful as my library users generally seem to be more interested in the "method of helping" than in the "people in need". So at present I can direct users to one self contained section when they ask "what have you got on groupwork?" rather than guiding them to a large number of small sections.

I would create a similar problem if I adopted QRN V for drug misuse by offenders rather than simply using QNV. Library users interested in drug misuse by offenders will also be interested in methadone, syringe exchange, heroin etc. Special librarians need to take account of their users interests and try to balance these against their own professional knowledge and skills.

Pre-sentence report writing and community based supervision are both aspects of probation practice but in the Q classification they appear under penology/punishment of offenders/correctional services. It would not seem logical to build a class mark by combining, for example, QR (offenders) and QQF EJ (supervision) as the concept of supervision necessarily implies the object of supervision, that is the offender. A community sentence is an intervention applied only to offenders so adding QR must be superfluous.

The classification schedule treats probation work as both a correctional service and a form of social work. This confusion is, however, only a reflection of the tension between the welfare model and the justice model that exists within probation practice itself. Until this is resolved, probation libraries using the Bliss classification scheme will appear to be collections of material on disparate activities rather than a coherent literature.

**Kathleen Wright** is a graduate of Liverpool University, and studied for her Postgraduate Diploma in Librarianship at Liverpool Polytechnic. She has held a variety of posts in libraries both special and academic, and in other organizations, including that of Deputy Librarian at the British Institute of Management, and was Assistant Librarian at West Cheshire College of Further Education prior to taking up her present position in January 1991. She completed a part-time MA degree in Library & Information Management Studies at Manchester Metropolitan University in 1993.



**For your bedtime reading** — *Future libraries : dreams, madness & reality / Walt Crawford & Michael Gorman.* – Chicago : American Library Association, 1995. – ISBN 0-8389-0647-8

This concise book is full of clear thinking and much wisdom about the *complementary* strengths and weaknesses of printed and digital media as sources of information, considered from technical, social and economic viewpoints. The book is alive and well, and so are libraries, if librarians will only believe in their worth. *“The debate about the future of print is not about print-on-paper versus electronic technology... it is about reading and the best means to read. To state a simple, central theme of this book : Reading is important to the individual and to society, and print-on-paper is best for sustained reading leading to the acquisition of knowledge.”*

Read it yourselves – and make sure that digital enthusiasts read it too.

## **News from Cambridge**

### **CamBUG**

The enthusiastic and enterprising users of BC2 in Cambridge have recently set up an informal group for discussion about classification matters and the dissemination of information about local practice.

The Cambridge Bliss Users Group – CamBUG – held its first meeting on 23 March at Sidney Sussex College Library and was attended by ten librarians from nine college and departmental libraries in the University. Their second meeting was held on 22 June.

They hope to meet three times a year, and intend to organise training short courses and library visits, and to pool their revisions and adaptations of the BC2 schedules (particularly the penultimate schedules) and make these available to the Editor of the classification and other users.

Anyone interested in joining the Group, or wanting further information, should apply to Mrs Heather Lane, Librarian, Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, CB2 3HU (phone: 01223 338852; fax: 01223 338884; email: [hel20@cam.ac.uk](mailto:hel20@cam.ac.uk))

### **A day of Bliss in Cambridge**

*Not to be missed!* — CamBUG are planning to hold a day of visits to departmental and college libraries for anyone interested in Bliss. The proposed date is Wednesday, 13 September, and a detailed programme will be circulated shortly. Anyone wishing to obtain a programme and booking form should contact Heather Lane at the address given in the previous paragraph.

### **Hail ...**

In the last issue we were pleased to announce the addition of Sidney Sussex College to the list of Cambridge libraries using BC2. This year we can welcome another, Jesus College, with its librarian Rhona Watson. Jesus College has a new library building. The stock has been recatalogued and will be reclassified by BC2.

### **... and farewell**

Homerton College, which used the first edition of the Classification is, we regret to say, being reclassified to Another Scheme. (The report did not mention the number of decimal places to be used). We commiserate with them - and wonder whether the same action would have been taken if the publication of BC2 had been a great deal further advanced.