

The

Bliss

CLASSIFICATION BULLETIN

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EDITORIAL

It is very satisfying to be able to report that yet another volume has been published as promised. Class S, Law, duly appeared in August last year (Bowker-Saur, £45.00, ISBN 1-85739-067-9). This is a notable achievement, bringing together in a single fully faceted schedule the whole range of legal topics – jurisprudence, practice and procedure, substantive law, and jurisdictions (international, national and religious). The analysis is detailed and rigorous, while the vocabulary enumerates some 6000 terms, with the possibility of combining these with each other as appropriate and with the full range of national and local jurisdictions drawn from Auxiliary Schedule 2 and also terms drawn from other classes for the law of special topics. It is impossible to put a figure on the number of potential classes. Alternatives

provide for the classification of the law of special topics (for example, libraries or education) with those topics in other classes of the scheme; the alternative for Constitutional law at RF instead of SC being perhaps the most significant of these. Another alternative provides for the needs of libraries dealing with comparative law, by reversing the standard citation order to make National jurisdictions *subordinate* to Substantive law, Practice and procedure, and Jurisprudence, while yet another provides shorter classmarks for small libraries whose stock of works on law is almost entirely concerned with the law of the home country.

This issue of the *Bulletin* brings more reports from Cambridge, one serious and one fairly lighthearted (but having its serious side), and also an appeal from Aidan Baker for volunteers to help in the reclassification of the Haddon Library.

Our series on BC2 Libraries is well served, for as well as the article by Rhona Watson on Jesus College, Cambridge, there is one by Roy Johnson, Librarian of Alcohol Concern. The latter may not say very much about BC2, but it is a riveting study of governmental planning and foresight (or the lack of it), institutional and personal rivalries, and the effect these can have on library services. Mr Johnson is a survivor : he needed to be! He says that his account is a mild and discreet history of those events, naming no names – many if not all of the persons involved are still alive. One day he really should tell the full story for posterity.

The Annual General Meeting is to be held at 2.15 p.m. on Friday, 28 November 1997, at the NSPCC Headquarters, 42 Curtain Road, London EC2A 3NH, and will be followed by an introductory talk and a tour of the library. Details, with a map showing the location of the NSPCC, public transport, etc., will be circulated in the autumn.

The library was described in an article by Sue Mitchell and Gerry Power in the last issue of the *Bulletin*.

We hope to see you there.

*Tony Curwen
Aberystwyth
July 1997*

BLISS CLASSIFICATION ASSOCIATION

The following Minutes of the 1995 AGM were omitted from the last issue of the Bulletin.

Minutes of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Bliss Classification Association held at 2 p.m. on Friday, 24 November 1995, at the Library Association headquarters, 7 Ridgmount Street, London WC1E 7AE.

Present: Jack Mills (Personal member; BCA Chair)

Angela Haselton (Tavistock Library; Hon. Treasurer)

Christina Panagiotidou (University of London; Hon. Secretary)

Jean Aitchison (Personal Member)

Ken Bell (University of North London)

Eric Coates (Personal Member)

Frank Emmott (Barnardo's)

Heather Lane (Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge)

Helen Mackin (Barnardo's)

Marion Macleod (Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge)

Chris Preddle (NCH Action for Children)

Elizabeth Russell (Rowe Music Library, King's College, Cambridge)

Alan Thomas (Pratt Institute)

Martin Williams (Queens'College, Cambridge)

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Tony Curwen, Roger Hughes and Dr Ia McIlwaine (UDC representative).

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Friday, 25 November 1994 were approved with minor corrections and signed as a correct record.

3. Matters arising

A member asked what action had been taken on Item 9.2 (which proposed BCA acquiring an electronic mail address). The Chairman reported that the Committee was considering widening this proposal to enable the BCA to become an Internet provider.

4. Progress of BC2: Editor's report

Mr Mills commented on his written report, which had been circulated to the meeting and would be appended to the minutes. [*Published in The Bliss Classification Bulletin, No.38, 1996*].

5. Treasurer's report

Ms Haselton commented on the accounts for the year to 31 July 1995, which had been circulated to the meeting. There had been a serious decline in membership subscriptions, which had dropped from £979 in 1994 to £687 in 1995. One obvious reason for this was the continuing severe cuts in public service budgets which subscribing libraries and library schools were suffering. She also pointed out the exceptionally large expenditure on computer equipment, adding that this was unlikely to be repeated for a long time.

6. Election of Auditor

Ken Best was re-elected as Honorary Auditor. The Chairman thanked Mr Best for continuing to provide this valuable service and the meeting agreed that a letter of thanks be sent to him.

7. Publicity

The Chairman raised again the problem posed by the very disappointing absence of reviews of BC2 volumes (the excellent review of Class R by Jean Aitchison in the current *Bulletin* being the exception). The meeting agreed that the Committee should make action to remedy this a high priority.

8. BC Bulletin

The Chairman expressed the thanks of the BCA for the continuing excellent work of the Editor, Tony Curwen. He said he thought that the 1995 issue had been particularly good.

9. Training course in BC2

The Chairman reported that the Class Q training course had been held at NCH Action for Children HQ on 23 November [the day preceding the AGM]. Attendance had been disappointing, due to an unforeseen hitch in the publicity arrangements. This was particularly unfortunate, he said, since the course had been extremely well organized and conducted. On behalf of the meeting he cordially thanked the course leaders, Chris Preddle, Frank Emmott and Ken Bell for their unstinting services.

10. Bliss Day Out in Cambridge

The Chairman reported that this had been an outstanding success – well organized, well attended, blessed by fine weather and thoroughly enjoyed by all. On behalf of the meeting he thanked Heather Lane (Librarian of Sidney Sussex College and BC2's latest recruit) and all her colleagues in Cambridge for making the day possible.

11. Committee elections

It was reported that Christina Panagiotidou had resigned as Hon. Secretary. On behalf of the BCA, the Chairman thanked her for her valuable services to the Committee which, he said, had often been performed under difficult circumstances. He also reported the resignation from the Committee of Collette Batterbee and thanked her for her good services. There were now two vacancies on the Committee, and as Heather Lane and Alan Thomas were the only two nominees, they were duly elected by the Meeting. The appointment of officers would be decided at the next meeting of the Committee.

Minutes of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Bliss Classification Association held at 2 p.m. on Friday, 29 November 1996, at the Tavistock Library, Tavistock Centre, 120 Belsize Lane, London NW3 5BA

Present: Jack Mills (Personal member; BCA Chair)

Heather Lane (Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge; Hon. Secretary)

Angela Haselton (Tavistock Library; Hon. Treasurer)

Robin Bonner (Personal member)

Sarah Butler (Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge)

Chris Child (Bishop Grosseteste College, Lincoln)

Eric Coates (BSO Panel)

Tony Curwen (Personal member; Editor, *BC Bulletin*)

Linda Farley (British Association of Psychotherapists)

Geraldine Grounds (National Foundation for Educational Research)

Helen Mackin (Barnardo's)

Marion Macleod (Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge)

Sue Mitchell (NSPCC)

Chris Preddle (NCH Action for Children)

Elizabeth Russell (Rowe Music Library, King's College, Cambridge)

Vicky Sinclair (University of London Library)

Alan Thomas (Pratt Institute)

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Margaret Cranmer (King's College, Cambridge), Angela Upton (NISW), Colin Neilson, Ia McIlwaine (UDC representative), Frank Emmott (Barnardo's), Martin Williams (Queens' College, Cambridge), Duncan Service (SCRE), Hilda Stoddard, Gerard Power (NSPCC), Rhona Watson (Jesus College, Cambridge), and Aidan Baker (Haddon Library, Cambridge).

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Friday, 24 November 1995 were circulated. These were approved with minor corrections and signed as a correct record.

Proposed: J. Mills, Seconded: Chris Preddle

3. Matters arising

Tony Curwen asked about the development of a BCA website. Colin Neilson had been asked to prepare a report, and had volunteered to prepare pages to be mounted on the WWW. Eric Coates asked if there would be any cost to the Association. J. Mills replied that there would be some significant cost if the BCA were to use a commercial provider such as Pipex. The committee would therefore enquire whether Bowker-Saur might administer a website on the BCA's behalf, with a facility to relay messages to the Secretary and the Treasurer. As an alternative, H. Lane and M. Macleod would enquire in Cambridge about possible hosts.

4. Progress of BC2: Editor's report

4.1 Mr Mills commented on his written report, which had been circulated to the meeting and would be appended to the minutes. He emphasised the publication of Classes R and S during the year, and thanked Bowker-Saur for the speed with which schedules had been produced once they had received the camera-ready copy.

4.2 Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge had requested a more detailed outline draft for the Earth Sciences, and this would now form the subject for discussion at meetings of the CRG.

4.3 No further progress had been made on the Fine Arts schedule.

4.4 Vanda Broughton had written to say that she may once again have time to resume work on Class C (Chemistry). After consideration of the problem of chemical compounds, the target is no longer to produce specific notation for each compound, but rather for classes of compounds.

4.5 Interest in the use of BC2 in Japan has continued, with news that several chapters of the Introduction have been translated and were to be published during 1997.

4.6 Mrs E. Russell had been working on a draft schedule for Languages and Literatures. Copies could be obtained on application to the Secretary. The draft in use at Sidney Sussex College had been renotated to fit into the revised outline, using X and reserving Y for the preferred language and literature

4.7 Amendments to the Auxiliary schedules would be published in the Bulletin, particularly reflecting adjustments for Place. Tony Curwen asked whether there were plans to reprint the Introduction and Auxiliaries. J. Mills replied that he had written a strongly worded

letter to Bowker-Saur, stressing the need for this volume to remain in print. A revised edition of the Auxiliaries might be considered.

- 4.8 Chris Preddle congratulated the Editor on the extremely high standard of accuracy in Class S (Law), and said that in his opinion it was the best schedule to date. Helen Mackin asked whether there would be training courses for Classes R and S. Attempts would be made to arrange a course at the next meeting of the committee if Ken Best were able to attend.

5. Treasurer's report

- 5.1 Angela Haselton commented on the accounts for the year to 31 July 1996, which had been circulated to the meeting. She explained that the Appeal and Deposit accounts had now been amalgamated, and that due to reorganisation of the membership year, two years' subscriptions were included in the report. Substantial royalties had been received from sales of Class Q, and the Association's assets were therefore in a healthy state. Acceptance of the accounts was proposed: E.M. Russell; seconded: J. Mills. They were unanimously approved.

- 5.2 The Treasurer spoke to the motion on the Alliance & Leicester Building Society flotation. There was strong concern amongst the members present at the loss of mutuality, and when put to a vote the motion was unanimously rejected. The Secretary then proposed that section b) be amended to enable the Association's representatives to vote against the proposal. The motion was carried unanimously.

- 5.3 C. Preddle asked that, should the Alliance and Leicester become a public company, the committee should bring the issue of the return to mutuality to the next AGM.

6. Election of Auditor

Ken Best was re-elected as Honorary Auditor. He was thanked most warmly for his work on behalf of the Association.

7. BC Bulletin

The Editor apologised for the thin Bulletin issued in 1996, which had omitted the AGM report and the text of Alan Thomas' talk, which it was hoped, would appear in print elsewhere. The Alcohol Concern Library would be featured in 1997, and the next issue would also include any amendments for the recently published schedules. The Editor thanked all his contributors, and Sue Mitchell and Gerry Powers from NSPCC in particular, and appealed to members for more copy, especially news of email addresses and websites. J. Mills commented that it might be possible to publish an electronic version of the Bulletin via the BCA web pages.

8. Publicity

- 8.1 As the number of reviews received for new Bliss schedules in the professional press has been very low, the Hon. Secretary had written to Bowker-Saur to ascertain how review copies are distributed. The publishers send review copies only on request, so the committee needs to communicate directly with journals to find reviewers. Members were asked to contact the Secretary if they or their colleagues would be prepared to review

schedules on the Association's behalf. Two members of the committee have been asked to prepare a revised publicity leaflet.

- 8.2 Linda Farley asked whether a digest of Bliss could be mounted on the Internet. The committee had intended to include a fairly detailed outline, and Jack Mills offered the possibility of a very detailed mini-edition, but Eric Coates pointed out that even an abridged edition would require a great deal of intellectual effort, which would be better concentrated on completing the main schedules. He also pointed out that Internet Service Providers like Demon offer 5MB of space, which would make a website feasible if no other host were found.
- 8.3 Chris Preddle suggested that a notice of the next AGM be placed in *Catalogue and Index*. It might also be possible to use other groups' newsletters or the *LAR Vacancies Supplement* for publicity.

9. Committee elections

- 9.1 The meeting was asked to vote on the motion that the Editor of BC2 be appointed to the committee ex officio. The Hon. Secretary explained the need to avoid the Editor being ineligible to stand for re-election to the Committee after two terms of office as stated in the Association's constitution. The motion was carried unanimously.
- 9.2 For the three elected posts there had been three nominations: Ken Bell and Tony Curwen, and Vicky Sinclair (co-opted to the committee during 1996) to serve for three years. This left a vacancy for a co-opted member, and Sue Mitchell (NSPCC Library) was duly co-opted to serve for one year from 1.1.97.
- 9.3 Jack Mills thanked the retiring members of the committee, Roger Hughes and Christina Panagiotidou, for all their efforts on the behalf of the Association

10. A.O.B.

- 10.1 Chris Preddle asked how many copies of Class Q had been sold to date. The Hon. Treasurer replied that during 1995, 41 were sold in the UK and 55 abroad, with a further 10 copies sold during 1996 (7 at home and 3 overseas). £168 had so far been made in royalties.
- 10.2 Jack Mills thanked Mrs Margaret Walker for her hospitality in enabling the day's events to take place at the Tavistock Library.
- 10.3 The meeting closed at 3.15p.m.

PROGRESS OF BC2 IN 1996 : EDITOR'S REPORT TO THE AGM

Development of Schedules and Publication

Class AY: Science and Technology in General. This is now complete. Although it includes significant detail on the history of science (which normally means history of science & technology together) and the social relations of science, its most used parts are likely to be the large Operations and Agents facets: these include not only scientific equipment and instrumentation and a wide range of scientific methods and techniques but also systemology and systems theory (including cybernetics). All the individual sciences will now draw on these facets and

making them consistent with and flexible enough to accommodate the special requirements of all these sciences has been one of the particular problems in its design and notation. In some classes (notably instrumentation) it has also been made consistent with equivalent classes in U/V Technology, which Eric Coates is working on.

Class B: Physics. This is now virtually complete, requiring only the finalising of its notation. Classes AY and B will be published together in one volume, and the preparation of the camera-ready copy will soon begin. It should be with Bowker-Saur by the end of the year or very early in 1997.

Class C: Chemistry. Apart from checking the Operations and Agents facets with those developed in AY and B, no more work was done on this class in 1996. But as soon as AY/B is out of the way, the one big outstanding problem (the handling of the vast chemical compounds facet) will be addressed and the class completed.

Class DG/DY: Earth Sciences. The outline schedule produced for this class was considerably amplified and the resulting schedule again discussed at a meeting of the Classification Research Group (CRG).

Class R: Politics & Public Administration. This class was published in May 1996.

Class S: Law. This was published in August 1996. Both Class R and Class S profited from a changed procedure in preparing camera-ready copy. The Editor is now responsible for detailed proof-reading of a volume before sending to Colin Neilson, who prepares the camera-ready copy (including its A/Z index). This has resulted in a much faster procedure after completion of a schedule and introduction. Many thanks are also due to Linda Hajdukiewicz, Commissioning Editor at Bowker-Saur, who ensured the rapid publication of these two volumes after receipt of the camera-ready copy.

Other matters

The International Society for Knowledge Organization (ISKO) is to publish a guidebook 'Universal classification systems', to be edited by Eduard Sukiasyan of the Russian State Library, Moscow. Dr Sukiasyan requested, and has been sent, a comprehensive statement on BC2 for inclusion in the guide.

The Editor is in correspondence with several Japanese librarians who have expressed interest in the progress of BC2. As a result of one correspondence, Ms Yukari Ozawa, a member of the MITA Media Center of Keio University, visited a number of libraries in the UK using BC2, basing her tour on Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge.

Further to suggestions regarding membership of the Internet, the BCA Committee at its September meeting, discussed plans for a Website. Arrangements were put in hand to open an account with Pipex to provide BCA with an e-mail address and Internet pages, to ask Colin Neilson to prepare material for such pages and to maintain the site for a trial period.

19900 ~~Book~~ ~~Unit~~

A faculty library in Cambridge University needs help with reclassification.

The Haddon Library of Archaeology and Anthropology began a project of reclassifying its stock by BC2 in the mid-1970s. In 1991, when we joined the Cambridge Union Catalogue, the project stalled, as the reclassification and the retrospective conversion could not be run simultaneously without tangling each other.

And now there's pressure to complete the job. For one thing, we can't have a library limping between two classification schemes. For another, we're looking to automate our loans procedures, and that will require each book to be equipped with a uniquely-identifying barcode label – most sensibly, the book's shelfmark.

There are some 19,000 books needing to be reclassified. These are mainly in the field of archaeology, but include some older anthropological material. Haddon staff are greatly overstretched. *We need volunteers to help us!* Familiarity with the principles of BC2 would be essential, and so would tolerance for our sometimes idiosyncratic local variations. Most of the work would be using Class K and a pre-publication draft of classes L-O, and some other parts of the classification would be called on from time to time as well.

If you would like to take part in this project, we'd be happy to hear from you. Please contact:

Aidan Baker	tel:	01223 333505
Haddon Library	fax:	01223 333503
Faculty of Archaeology and Anthropology	e-mail:	asb12@cam.ac.uk
Downing Street		
Cambridge CB2 3DZ		

Aidan Baker writes (June 1997):

"... some good news. We are slowly building up funds to *pay* reclassifiers (though the need for volunteer help has to remain pressing as well) and have just received a grant of £1000 from the John and Ruth Howard Charitable Trust. Worth a mention in dispatches?"

If there should be a *surfeit* of such volunteers longing to have unpaid or little-paid experience (but how many library schools are using BC2 in their teaching these days?), I suspect some other libraries in Cambridge would be glad to hear from them! Don't hold your breath ... –
Editor, Bulletin.

BLISS CLASSIFICATION ASSOCIATION

Consolidated Receipts and Payments for the Year Ending 31 July 1996

<u>1995</u>	<u>RECEIPTS</u>	<u>1996</u>
	Balance brought forward at 1 August 1995	
2155.54 ⁽¹⁾	Appeal account	0000.00
3139.59	Deposit account	3394.70
612.45	Current account	209.70
100.00	Societies account	303.10
	Subscriptions ⁽²⁾	
80.00	Personal	180.00
607.13	Institutional	1275.80
78.83	Royalties on 2nd edition	268.91
65.09	Distribution from M & G (Charibond)	48.81
0000.00	Other receipts	
	UDC Consortium	500.00
	Photocopying draft schedule for Sidney Sussex College	21.75
	'Q' Workshop	350.00
	Transfer to Clubs & Societies a/c from Current a/c	300.00
	Interest payments	
34.43	Deposit account	95.68
5.01	Closing interest	N/A
23.64	Appeal account	N/A
3.44	Closing interest	N/A
<u>3.10</u>	Societies account	<u>7.33</u>
<u>6908.25</u>		<u>6955.24</u>

CURRENT ASSETS AT 31 JULY 1996

<u>1995</u>		<u>1996</u>
800.13	Charibond (at cost)	800.13
209.16	Cash in Current account	1046.93
303.10	Cash in Societies account	610.43
3394.70	Cash in Deposit account	3990.38
1966.95	Computer equipment	1573.55
<u>1573.55</u>	less depreciation @ 20% per annum	<u>1258.84</u>
<u>6674.04</u>		<u>9280.26</u>

BLISS CLASSIFICATION ASSOCIATION

Consolidated Receipts and Payments for the Year Ending 31 July 1996

<u>1995</u>	<u>PAYMENTS</u>	<u>1996</u>
319.91	Committee and AGM expenses	172.09
344.43	Stationery, postage and photocopying	301.19
0000.00	Bulletin printing	190.66
1966.95 ⁽³⁾	BC2 expenses (computer equipment)	82.42
370.00	Other payments: 'Q' Workshop	261.14
0000.00	Transfer from Current a/c to Clubs & Societies a/c	300.00
Balance in hand at 31 July 1996		
209.16	General current account	1046.93
3394.70	General deposit account	3990.38
303.10	Societies account	610.43
<u>3906.96</u>	<u>0000.00</u> Appeal account	<u>N/A</u> <u>5647.74</u>
<u>6908.25</u>		<u>6955.24</u>

Notes:-

- 1) The Appeal Account was amalgamated with the General Deposit account in 1995 (see Note 1 in the 1994/95 accounts).
- 2) Subscriptions for 1996 include payments for 1995/96 and 1996/97, taking into account the change of subscription year.
- 3) This figure was incorrectly transcribed as £966.95 in the *Bulletin* for 1996 – *Editor*.

Angela Haselton

Honorary Treasurer
40c Morpeth Road
LONDON
E9 7LD

Auditor's Report

I have examined the books, bank statements and other relevant papers of the Bliss Classification Association and find the above statement of accounts to be correct.

Ken Best

Honorary Auditor
30 Cissbury Close
HORSHAM
West Sussex
RH12 5JT

BC2 Libraries

Alcohol Concern's library and information service – a history

by Roy Johnson

In the mid-sixties the Department of Health and Social Security, in response to the rise of local counselling services for problem drinkers, set up a body to represent their interests. This body was called the National Council on Alcoholism, and the local services flocked to become members. The DHSS, seeing that this was good, set up a further organization to represent the alcohol field to the medical profession, which had not, at that time, been terribly responsive to problem drinkers, often regarding them as 'not a medical problem'. This body was the Medical Council on Alcoholism. Through the late sixties and early seventies, the Department managed to set up two further bodies, the Alcohol Education Centre and the Federation of Alcoholic Rehabilitation Establishments. With such a proliferation of national organizations, it is not terribly surprising that a certain amount of rivalry and overlap began to develop among them.

The Department's reaction to the rivalry was to try out a cost-cutting exercise, which involved moving, in 1979, three of the four bodies into one big old building in Belgravia where they would, it was hoped, share resources and information and generally co-operate with each other. Unfortunately, the honeymoon was soon over.

Within a short time, the three organizations were in a state of siege. Petty squabbles about the use of the one word processor in the building (remember, this was 1979!) and who should wash up the coffee cups were a daily occurrence. The three directors no longer communicated any more than they absolutely needed to, and nobody had anything to do with the fourth national organization, mercifully far away on the other side of London. The only channel of communication left was the library.

The Medical Council on Alcoholism had collected books from its inception, and by the time the bodies were co-located, its single shelf had grown to three or four bays, and some useful journal subscriptions were in place. In 1979 they agreed that the collection should be jointly administered by the three bodies, and all new acquisitions jointly purchased. A temporary, part-time librarian was brought in to arrange the books. I never met this lady, but she did a miraculous job – miraculous, because she managed to force a thousand books on alcohol problems into the confines of the Barnard Classification for Medical and Veterinary Libraries, 1956 edition.

The decision to appoint a permanent 'joint services' librarian to oversee the collection brought me to their door in 1980. By that time, things were already in a bad state, but I was not aware of this. I had no grounding in the alcohol field, having come via the libraries of the London School of Slavonic and East European Studies, the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons and an obscure quantity surveying practice, so I was a little surprised that nobody had a lot to say to me. I was left for many days on end, purchasing, cataloguing, scanning, writing my current awareness bulletin and assisting the occasional visitor. I had an entire floor to myself, and saw other staff only at coffee time. The penny dropped at a library meeting, attended by representatives of the three bodies. I was a channel of communication between them, and, as such, was regarded with suspicion. I kept my head down and got on with my work.

By 1982 things were so bad in the alcohol field generally, that the Department commissioned an independent body to investigate the work of the four national organizations, to find out just what was going on. That report recommended that they be closed down and replaced by one body, the 'National Agency on Alcohol Misuse'. In 1984 it was born, but under the snappier title of 'Alcohol Concern'. The demise of the vanquished was messy and long-winded. All but four of their original staff went their own ways. For some years I have been the only 'original' left. The Medical Council on Alcoholism decided not to lie down and die, as it had its own funding, separate from its Department grant, and it demanded its original book collection back, plus a third of all items published during the period of co-location. I imagine that not many librarians have had to sit on the floor with an adversary, bargaining over which books are to go and which are to stay. It was devastating, and the collection was slow to recover.

(The Medical Council on Alcoholism still exists – with name unchanged – funded by the Royal colleges of medicine. The bad old days are long since past, and I am happy to say that relations between the two organizations are now both friendly and fruitful).

Since those gloomy days, Alcohol Concern has developed all the areas previously owned by its predecessors, and is now a better body than they ever were. I carried on developing the library and information service single-handed for about eight years, until we could afford a full-time information officer. The staff now consists of two information officers, a library administrative assistant and myself as librarian. We have occupied five premises at various times, but are now settled in Southwark. We currently deal with, on average, 600 enquiries a month.

Alcohol Concern is a limited company with charitable status, deriving most of its funding from the Department of Health as successor to the DHSS. The Department is our pay-master, but not in direct everyday control of us. Obviously there is a delicate balance to be maintained, as always in such situations.

To paraphrase our mission statement, Alcohol Concern 'works both to reduce the costs of alcohol abuse and to develop the range and quality of helping services available to problem drinkers and their families'. The library and information service exists to support these aims. We produce a current awareness bulletin, a research roundup quarterly, a range of factsheets and educational packs, and offer as complete a library service as we can, and we also sell books, currently holding around 140 titles. We scrapped the Barnard scheme some years ago in favour of Bliss, for no better reason, I must confess, than that the new information officer had worked with it before and was familiar with it. I haven't had reason to be sorry. We began computerization with Cardbox software, but recently had an influx of money which enabled us to consider more flexible systems; we now use InMagic, and have about 5,500 records on the database. We have a website, at [http:// www.alcoholconcern.org.uk/](http://www.alcoholconcern.org.uk/) , on which you will find much information including the bookshop stocklist.

I'm afraid classification was always my weakest subject at library school. I never envisaged having to classify an entire library from scratch, but have now done so. There was no point in using the Barnard numbers as any guide at all. My first decision had to be how to deal with a subject which can be medical or sociological, depending upon interpretation, and often both at the same time. Books on treatment methods and general texts are the most difficult, as they are often a mish-mash of medicine and social work. Most of the books in the library, therefore, fall into classes H or Q, and, through a subjective decision on my part, books which cut across the divide usually end up in Q. I've needed to invent new subdivisions and bend the rules

considerably to make the scheme fit the subject, but we now have a library which works for us, although classification purists may well tear their hair out upon seeing it.

This library is open to all visitors, and that includes Bliss enthusiasts. All that we ask is that you phone us in advance to let us know the day you'd like to visit. This is necessary, as we have seating for only about four visitors at one time.

Roy H.W. Johnson is Librarian, Alcohol Concern

Alcohol Concern, Waterbridge House, 32-36 Loman Street, London SE1 0EE
Tel: 0171-928 7377 Fax: 0171-928 4644 Website: <http://www.alcoholconcern.org.uk>
Registered charity No. 291705 A company limited by guarantee Registered in London No. 1908221

The views expressed in this article are those of the author, and do not necessarily represent those of Alcohol Concern or the Department of Health.



BC2 Libraries:

Quincentenary Library, Jesus College, Cambridge

by Rhona Watson

Jesus College was founded in 1496. The College decided to celebrate the 500th anniversary of its foundation with the building of a new library and computer centre, one which would be adaptable to any future technological changes. The architects of the library are Evans and Shalev. They have designed a library that is not only functional and easy to work in but also one which is beautiful.

The old (War Memorial) library was built just after the Second World War (adapting a set of rooms which a student had accidentally set fire to). The library ran out of space – both seating and shelf space – about fifteen years ago, even though it had been expanded to include two rooms on other floors. The library was housed in an old part of the College with listed building status, which meant that further expansion in that area was difficult. Installing new computer wiring would be another problem (the library still used the old two-pin plugs).

I arrived in March 1993. The library was understaffed, underfunded and not yet computerized. It used its own classification scheme, which was easy for the students to read, but hopeless for browsing (e.g., N.10.400, where N = History, 10 = Modern European History, 1500- , and 400 = 400th book on the subject to have arrived in the library). Various subjects had had their classification schemes updated (some using different homemade schemes), but the majority of subject areas had outgrown their usefulness as the library had expanded.

My first main task on taking over the library was to catalogue the books on the computer. It was planned that I could complete this in time for the move to the new library, so that we could then 'go live' with a computer borrowing system. We have now moved in and the books have been catalogued on the computer, and so the next task is the reclassification of the library.

During the year preceding the move my assistant and I studied classification schemes, arriving at a shortlist of two, Dewey and Bliss. I was familiar with Dewey, having worked with it in my first post, but had not used Bliss since my library school days. I found that many libraries in Cambridge used either Dewey or Bliss. I was pleasantly surprised that Sidney Sussex library (our closest college neighbour) was also beginning to reclassify and had chosen Bliss. Heather Lane, the librarian at Sidney Sussex, had been using Bliss for six months before I had to make my decision on which scheme to choose.

I came to the conclusion that Dewey was going to be the easier and more familiar system to implement, but that Bliss was the better system and, with some initial effort, would be the scheme most suited to our library. I was able to use Heather's work at Sidney Sussex as a test case, and resolved that, if she had no major problems in implementing Bliss, I would recommend Bliss for my library. Heather approved Bliss, and so when I presented my library committee with examples and the outline scheme from both systems, I recommended Bliss and it was chosen for our new library.

We moved into the library on 13 November 1995 and started the reclassification in January 1996. Heather has been very helpful and we were lucky to have Liz Russell who has volunteered to assist us one day a week. (*See the following article for Liz Russell's account of her activities – Ed.*) The College has also employed Alex Perkins for three years to help with the reclassification.

When we moved into the new library we put sections of books in Bliss subject order to save having to move the books about later. We decided to classify one subject at a time, and to put any new books that arrived in the old scheme, if that subject had not yet been reclassified.

We decided to start with Education. We have relatively few books on education, and it was a published 2nd edition class. After Education came Psychology (again a small subject and one that was fairly easy to do), and then we started on Society. As 'Social and Political Sciences' – taught together at Cambridge – had a single classmark in the old scheme, we did Politics next and then Social Welfare. Then came Philosophy (as the new K classmark for Society clashes with our old K classmark for Philosophy) and Mathematics. I completed Economics and Management, whilst Alex did Religion. I then moved on to the Biological subjects and Alex and Liz have started on English. The rationale has been to complete the published 2nd edition subjects and then tackle the other ones. We have found it easier for one person to be responsible for a subject as this reduces the chance of mismatching classmarks.

We started on English because Sidney Sussex College needed to begin that section (being further ahead than we are, they don't have many other sections left to complete). The Librarians from Sidney Sussex and Jesus got together with Liz and we worked out a different schedule for languages. We have moved American and Commonwealth authors further down the sequence of Y to make room for future centuries of English authors. The other major change is for the 'Classics' (i.e. Greek & Latin) section where we felt that it should logically come at the beginning of the sequence of languages just after linguistics.

Another change I have added is for journals. We have relatively few journals in the library (approximately one for each subject, apart from Law, where we have about twenty-five) and so we decided to incorporate the journals at the end of each main classmark sequence. We have done this by using the letter Z, e.g. *Carolina Biology Readers* is EZ Car, where E = Biology, Z = Journal and Car = the first three letters of the author or corporate body or journal title. Similarly, *Shakespeare Survey* is YZF Sha, where Y = English, Z = Journal, F = Shakespeare (from YF) and Sha = the first three letters of the journal title.

The students and other users of the library have not made many comments on the reclassification so far. I am hoping that this means that they have not been inconvenienced too much by the change itself. Some people have noticed and favourably commented on the browsing capability of the new scheme. We hope that when we reclassify the larger and more muddled sections this will be more obvious. Most of the comments note how good the new labels look. (My other library assistant, Angela Masters, works hard with the laser printer and guillotine). A few students have complained about the long classmarks, and asked where their section has moved to (students never read notices).

I have been very lucky with the support for Bliss workers in Cambridge. There are so many of us that CamBUG (Cambridge Bliss Users Group) has been formed, and we now have an excellent network for exchange of views and experience, answering queries and solving problems. In conclusion, I should like to thank Heather for her help and advice and Liz, Alex and Angela for their hard work in implementing Bliss in the Quincentenary Library.

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Jesus College Website

The college home page is to be found at <http://www.jesus.cam.ac.uk/>

An overview of the library services is at <http://www.jesus.cam.ac.uk/libguide.html>, Jesus College Quincentenary Library Guide 1996-97. This gives all the essential information for users – opening hours (24 per day, term and vacation!), ordering and borrowing of books, library rules, etc., and also a history of the Old, War Memorial and Quin-centenary Libraries.

More library web pages are being developed : watch this space (or better still, theirs).

Cambridge Postscript from a Peripatetic Classifier

by Elizabeth Russell

Since being made redundant in my mid-fifties from my post of Classification Assistant at King's College Library in June 1955, I have become a voluntary classifier to three Cambridge college libraries which are converting to Bliss. This I find challenging and exciting after working in the same college library for nearly twenty years, though there are mornings, as I step off the bus, when I feel some affinity with the European coach tourist, who said, "If this is Thursday, it must be Belgium". So far I've managed not to head off in the wrong direction!.

I'm maintaining my connection with **King's College** by working in the **Rowe Music Library** on a special collection, Alec Hyatt King's books, periodicals, pamphlets and programmes, over 600 items, all concerned with Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Many of the works are in German, and at least a third of those in Gothic type. Guidance to this is not readily available in the modern reference books in the library, but a 1930s *Teach yourself German* came to the rescue. This therefore is a particularly interesting application of Bliss to an extremely specialized collection, and the Music Librarian, Margaret Cranmer, and I have been most grateful for the scope of the Common Auxiliaries, particularly of form, in sorting the collection into logical order. I have to be Jill-of-All-Trades, cataloguing, classifying, typing, labelling (acid-free!), minor repairing and shelving. So is this the last word in Bliss special librarianship? Please tell the *Bulletin* editor if you know a better one. On completion of the books and before tackling his boxes of ephemera, I have diverted to help in the classification of the Reserve Collection of rare books, applying Bliss to 17th, 18th and 19th century books, involving much consultation of reference books and giving continuing thanks for Grove and Eitner. For some of the books in the Mann Collection, so wide were his interests, forays are necessary to the Main Library Reference Collection.

Working at **Sidney Sussex College** brings a special pleasure, as it has a slight family connection, two of my husband's cousins having been students there. The college is very town-centred, always on view (being opposite Sainsburys), but little is really seen of its life behind the walls. This year it is making itself better known as it celebrates its Quatercentenary, including hosting the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh to lunch in Hall on 8th March (the royals having spent the morning opening Jesus College Quincentenary Library, of which I have more to say below). The library isn't very large or very new, but has recently been refurbished to hold about 45,000 volumes, has sensibly given computers a room of their own on the first floor, and always seems a very welcoming place. I divide my time between using pencil and rubber to classify, so far mainly Economics, and jumping straight into the computer age by typing in the penultimate draft schedule for W/Y Language and Literature, to produce a more readable copy for local users than the white/ purple/pink version. I have also completed a version with all the amendments made by King's College Library, mainly by Graham Howorth, who came as Classification Assistant from that home of Bliss, the former Polytechnic of North London. Currently we are steaming through English Literature and Modern Languages, improving our working schedule as we go.

My third college library is **Jesus Quincentenary Library**, where I sit with my pencil and rubber on a lavender chair at the coffee table in the comfortable and elegant white, lavender (officially 'evening iris') and silver office cum staffroom, and classify by Bliss. Can this be the ultimate in luxurious Bliss, or minimalist librarianship? Most of the time I don't even have to help collect the next batch of books from the shelves, so I feel it is just as well that the college covers a lot of ground space – the library being at the far end – and the library contains

staircases, both straight and spiral (and all lavender carpeted!), or I might find myself with a real weight or laziness problem. I try to get my main exercise by fairly frequent trips out to a terminal in the entrance hall to check Bliss classmarks in the University's Union Catalogue, though one is now within reach of my right arm, but not often free. It's interesting to see the variations, mainly caused by using draft schedules, or the unanimity, which one turns up. I do believe that most of the time the librarians' minds are working the same way in their subject analyses, which is a relief. But I can't say that I have much relief or pleasure in the Library of Congress Subject Headings which are imposed by the University Library's Union Catalogue, and I do miss my King's College Subject Index terms which are not shown in the entries.

This summer I'll be adding a fourth library, **Queens' College**, which was Blissified by Clare Sargent [see *Bulletin* No.32, 1990 – *Editor*], by giving some occasional help, mainly with Language and Literature, to her successor. And No! – I am not trying to get myself into the *Guinness Book of Records*.

P.P.S. Some thoughts on the vagaries of the Cambridge colleges' feeding status —

King's – Being an ex-para-academic member of staff, the college maintains my membership of High Table, while I am working voluntarily for it. This gives me free lunch of excellent choice and quality in the Wilkins' mock-Gothic Hall, where I may sit where I like.

Sidney Sussex – I'm provided with a free lunch in the charming Baroque Hall, but all the library staff sit in a reserved section on the Balcony of the Hall. This gives us a good view, particularly of High Table, but involves carrying a loaded tray up and down a steep and narrow stair. We do all eat the same, generally uninspiring, food.

Jesus – I consider this a real return to the Dark Ages, as staff pay for a subsidized lunch of not very good quality, and the Fellows have a different menu from staff and students. I can sit anywhere in the body of the splendid and recently repainted Hall, but I found sitting by myself, away from my professional colleagues, and toying with a baked potato and cottage cheese soon palled, and it is only a ten minute walk to King's!

Elizabeth M. Russell

peripatetic Bliss classifier (formerly Assistant Librarian, King's College, Cambridge)



Liz Russell's experiences at King's College Library were described in two articles, *Bliss is't to be in King's* (with Julia Wilkinson) in the *Bulletin* vol. 6, no. 4, January 1979, p. 9-12, and *King's Bliss update 1987* in no. 29, 1987, p. 13-14.



The Bliss Classification Association
an association to develop and promote the
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(Registered Charity no. 270580)

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Back Page Snippets

Publicity

New promotional leaflets about BC2 and the Association have been prepared by Angela Haselton and Marion Macleod. These are *not* intended for use as library guides, but give basic information about BCA and the scheme for interested persons who may be considering (re)classification of their collections. One leaflet describes the aims of the Association and incorporates an application form for membership, while the other gives a brief introduction to the scheme with examples drawn from various classes.

For more information please contact Angela Haselton at the address overleaf.

Caught in the Web

Web pages for BC2 libraries in Cambridge are growing in number and interest.

Sidney Sussex College now has an impressive collection – start at www.sid.cam.ac.uk/library/webleaf.htm – while the Balfour Library has created its first page, A Library Guide, at www.zoo.cam.ac.uk/balfour.htm

Damned dots

Birkbeck College, London, discontinued its use of BC1 from July 1996 and adopted the Dewey Decimal Classification.

(Question: who recorded whom as saying "I could never make out what those damned dots meant" and what were those dots?)

Farewell ...

... to Susan Mitchell, who joined the Committee this year, and was co-author of the article on the NSPCC Library which appeared in the last issue of the *Bulletin*. She has recently been appointed to a new (non-Bliss) post, in which we wish her every success, while regretting that we must lose her so soon.

The Committee ...

... will therefore be looking for new blood to fill vacancies. If you – or any members of your staff – have a keen interest in classification and would like to play a part in promoting and developing the scheme, please contact Heather Lane (address overleaf).

The mice will play?

Please do not let the college cat into the library. (Library rules, Jesus College).

Aids to classifiers

Colleagues in general, especially academic, libraries have been using the old 1970s draft of the literature schedules while waiting impatiently for work to be completed on them. Who really needs them? – the growing number of published classes show that the classification increasingly meets their needs, as shown by the following elegant examples :-

The Abbot PFEC, *The Betrothed* KQUR, *The Idiot* IUOL, *Persuasion* KGPI, *The Waste Land* TKVKES, *Crime & Punishment* QSAFEE, *Vanity Fair* TXXP9JPYRE, *Children of the New Forest* KNM8EGSR, *Eyeless in Gaza* HVDOKC8OPT, *The Faerie Queene* KYIONAF, *Heart of Midlothian* HUH8ESK, *Widowers' Houses* QKOWHT, *Citizen of the World* ROEDON, *Two Gentlemen of Verona* KNASLR8IVD, *The Vicar of Wakefield* PSE3FDW8EPEL, *Pride and Prejudice* PYPL9HPYQD, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* HTMLJNSDMXPRDH8FE ...