

The

Bliss

CLASSIFICATION BULLETIN

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EDITORIAL

DJF OSKETT whose death on 7 May was reported as these pages were being compiled was one of the most distinguished librarians of his time. Noted for his work in both technical and academic libraries, he was also a major figure in professional councils, and an influential and stimulating thinker and writer. DJF was a great friend and supporter of BCA and BC2, to which he gladly and generously applied his

wide experience and keen intellect. The appreciation by Jack Mills which appears in this issue shows the extent of our debt to him. To his wife, Joy, who was his collaborator in so many ways, we offer our heartfelt condolences.

MOREOVER IT IS FITTING that we are able to reprint the warm tribute paid to Martin Williams of Queens' College, Cambridge, by the Fellow Librarian of the College, Dr Patterson. Martin's death was reported in the last issue of the *Bulletin*, but only very briefly.

“Le mieux est l'ennemi du bien” : GK II and BC2

IVERY MUCH DOUBT if Voltaire had BC2 in mind when he penned these words, but perhaps we would do well to remember Voltaire. Progress is still painfully slow, and one of the greatest problems seems to be a constant striving for perfection, for each intellectual improvement in schedule drafting and technical advance in index generation and preparation of camera-ready copy seems to reveal more and more areas, major or minor, which call for further attention and revision before a schedule is finally sent to our publishers.

True, we need to get it right; but there is a dangerous boundary, very hard to define, between rightness and perfection. In the 1930s the then British Museum Library embarked on publication of a new edition of its General Catalogue, known internally as “GK” rather than “GC” for some obscure reason, starting at the letter A, incorporating all the additional slips from its guard-book catalogues into the main sequence, checking, revising, and finally producing a series of immaculate printed volumes. GK II was going to take a very long time, even if the Second World War had not intervened, and all the while further acquisitions were being added to the collections: there was no cut-off date. In the early 1950s it became apparent that not only would the project become prohibitively expensive but also never achieve completion before the end of the century, if then.

When a halt was called they had reached a point early in letter D, as I recall (they had dealt with CURWEN, anyway). Using a photographic process to interfile additions and create copy in one sequence, the entire guard-book catalogue as it stood at that point was reproduced and made ready for publication. There was a fair amount of editorial input, but of nothing like the quantity and quality which had gone into the preceding volumes. Although the resulting new General Catalogue was perhaps “quick and dirty”, rather inelegant and containing some errors which would have been corrected under the old regime, GK III was complete to the cut-off date, it was usable, *finished* and made available in a relatively short space of time.

There is surely a parallel and a lesson for us here. We must learn when and where to draw a line and abandon endless polishing. We have classes which could and should be prepared for publication quite rapidly, classes for which a sound basic structure and extensive drafts exist, classes for which there is a demonstrable need and which would be widely used, for example, Linguistics and Literature. Our goal and overriding priority should surely be to produce as soon as possible a complete, practical, working set of BC2 classes which is *good*. The *Bulletin* and the BCA web site are available for the publication of necessary interim amendments. Recognising that the absolute *best*, which is perfection, is unattainable, we can then use BC2 as the basis of a greatly improved BC2 Revised (or BC3), complemented by a full index and thesauri. Only that way can we survive, grow and move on.

All this undoubtedly sounds very pompous and opinionated, but I do believe it to be true.

*Tony Curwen
Aberystwyth, July 2004*

BLISS CLASSIFICATION ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Bliss Classification Association held at 2.15 pm on Friday 21st November, 2003 in the Centre for Manuscript and Book Studies Seminar Room, University of London Library, Senate House, Malet Street, London.

Present:

Jack Mills (personal member; *BCA Chair*)
Heather Lane (Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge; *Hon. Secretary*)
Angela Haselton (Tavistock & Portman NHS Trust; *Hon. Treasurer*)
Jean Aitchison (personal member)
Jane Alderson Rice (General Teaching Council)
Vanda Broughton (UCL)
Stella Dextre Clarke (consultant)
Eric Coates (personal member)
Caron Connolly (Dept of Health Library)
Richard Crabtree (ULL)
Tony Curwen (personal member; *Editor, BC Bulletin*)
Phil Defriez (Dept of Health Library)
Frank Emmott (Barnardo's)
Jeremy Larkin (NCH Library)
Marion Macleod (Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge)
Julie Robinson (CILIP)
Robert Rosset (personal member)
Elizabeth Russell (personal member)
Miriam Shaughnessy (Dept of Health Library)
Leonard Will (personal member)

1. **Apologies** were received from Karen Attar, Aidan Baker, Karen Begg, Angela Douglas, Douglas Foskett, Helen Mackin, Chris Preddle, Alan Thomas and Rhona Watson.
2. **Minutes of the previous meeting**
The minutes were circulated. The minutes were **approved** and signed as a correct record.
Proposed: Tony Curwen; Seconded: Angela Haselton
3. **Matters arising**
There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.
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.
 - 4.2 The Editor highlighted the implementation of a consistent structure for the Library and Information Science and Museum Studies schedules and welcomed the adoption of the latter in draft form at the Haddon Library, Cambridge.
 - 4.3 The tightening up of procedures for the production of the alphabetical index has enabled a more rigorous approach to the revision of Class C (Chemistry). The need for a detailed analysis of scientific subjects poses difficulties for non-specialist compilers, but care is being taken to clean up Class C, prior to circulating the final draft for comment. Publication is still envisaged for 2004.

- 4.4 Continued work on Architecture in Class W has created a parallel structure for the subject in Classes U-V (Technology). Class W (The Arts) has been the most time-consuming class to date. The number of alternatives required makes the design more difficult, without obscuring the structure of the schedule proper.
- 4.5 In theory, Class VT-VY (Housekeeping, Recreation and Leisure) should appear at the start of the main Arts class, so the decision has been taken to create this a separate volume, in the hope that it will prove popular in terms of sales. The Editor acknowledged the help he had received on this class from Robert Rosset.
- 4.6 Class W2 (Music). The BCA had decided to investigate the possibility of producing a Music thesaurus to appear alongside the classification scheme for Music. Jean Aitchison had kindly agreed to lead a sub-committee
- 4.7 The Editor expressed his thanks to the BCA Committee and to Eric Coates and Douglas and Joy Foskett. The meeting sent its best wishes to Douglas Foskett for a speedy recovery from his recent illness.

5. Other activities in 2004

- 5.1 A further revision had been made to the BCA's Business Plan during the year. The plan formed the basis for future bids for funding from external agencies.
- 5.2 Mrs Lane explained that Cotangent Computing had delivered the revised production software on 18 November 2003, which would enable Chemistry to be produced. It was anticipated that the software and documentation would be delivered to members of the committee for initial analysis and Paul Coates had agreed to provide support during this phase.
- 5.3 Mrs Lane had held a meeting in Berlin in August with Barbara Fischer, the Editorial Director from K. G. Saur, to plan the production schedule for forthcoming volumes. Leonard Will asked whether anything further had been decided on the production of the schedules on CD-ROM. Saur had been cautiously optimistic that this would be possible for future volumes and had urged the BCA to transmit the schedules for printing as electronic files.
- 5.4 Mrs Broughton reported on her research activities, which had been funded by the AHRB Innovation Awards. A one-year project to test the feasibility of faceted classification as a tool for description and retrieval of digital materials had been successfully completed. The project had produced a good demonstrator in Religion and Fine Arts for the management of citation order control, imposing a default citation order. Much interest had been generated by the project, including 170,000 hits on the web site, which it was hoped would further promote BC2. Mrs Broughton had also been commissioned by the AHRB to produce a faceted classification and thesaurus for managing research projects. A further application for funding had been made for a three-year project to develop BC2 related terminologies for the Humanities, with the intention of disseminating a better understanding of faceted classification.

6. Treasurer's report

- 6.1 Ms Haselton tabled a written report.
- 6.2 There had been an anonymous donation of £300 towards schedule production and the work of the BCA, for which the BCA was most grateful
- 6.3 Expenditure included two large payments for new computing equipment for Mr Mills and for employing Chris Preddle to proofread Class C.
- 6.4 Three further members had joined the Association – The Empire Museum in Bristol, The Greater Manchester Probation Service (users of classes I, Q and T) and Mr Leonard Will as a personal member – bringing the total membership to 69.

6.5 The accounts were unanimously **approved**

Proposed: Vanda Broughton; Seconded: Elizabeth Russell

6.6 Mr Mills expressed the Association's thanks to the Hon. Treasurer for her work during the year.

7. BC Bulletin

7.1 The Chairman thanked Mr Curwen for his work on the Bulletin, which was of a consistently high quality, and invited him to make his report.

7.2 The Editor thanked the contributors to the 2003 edition and noted the inclusion of the draft schedule for Museology. He appealed for copy for the next issue. The deadline would be 1 May 2004.

8. Auditor's election

Ken Best was thanked for his continued help as the Association's Honorary Auditor. His re-election was proposed by Angela Haselton and seconded by Robert Rosset, and unanimously **approved**. Members are asked to notify the Treasurer of anyone who would be willing to act as Auditor in the future.

9. Committee elections

9.1 The posts of Hon. Treasurer and five further vacancies had arisen. Angela Haselton was nominated as Hon. Treasurer and was elected unopposed. Nominations for re-election were received for Jean Aitchison, Richard Crabtree, Tony Curwen and Frank Emmott. Julie Robinson was nominated as a new member of the committee. As there were no further nominations at the meeting, all were elected as ordinary members of the committee by unanimous vote. Mr Curwen was asked and agreed to continue as Editor of the BC Bulletin. Elizabeth Russell had expressed willingness to be co-opted and this was agreed unanimously.

9.2 Mr Mills explained that the duties of the committee were not particularly onerous and encouraged the wider membership to consider standing for election in the future.

10 A.O.B

10.1 The meeting was unanimous in its warm congratulations to Mr Mills on being awarded an Honorary Fellowship of CILIP.

10.2 The attention of members was drawn to the existence of the lis-BCA discussion list hosted by JISCmail. Details on joining the list are available at <http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/lists/LIS-BCA.html>

10.4 Mr Mills thanked Richard Crabtree for organising the venue and for agreeing to host the meeting. As there was no further business, the meeting closed at 3.15 p.m.



Annual General Meeting 2004

The details of this meeting are not available at the time of going to press. It is probable that it will be held in the Senate House Library, University of London, on either 19 or 26 November. Members will be notified by mail and LIS-BCA. The Committee is always looking for new members from active BC2 users anywhere in the UK – being in London or Cambridge is not a prerequisite! Please contact the Secretary if you would like to be more involved in our work.

BLISS CLASSIFICATION ASSOCIATION

Consolidated Receipts and Payments for the Year Ending 31st July 2003

RECEIPTS

<u>2002</u>	Balance brought forward at 1st August	<u>2003</u>
6820.23	Deposit account	7199.64
1710.80	Current account	798.55
373.63	Reserve account <i>(formerly Clubs & Societies account)</i>	374.74
	<i>Subscriptions</i>	
130.00	Personal	140.00
502.82	Institutional	315.00
40.81	Royalties on 2nd edition (Bowker-Saur)	21.60
38.66	Distribution from M & G (Charibond)	51.53
146.50	Alliance & Leicester share dividend	99.75
1150.00	Payments from June 2001 Workshops	0.00
	<i>Donations</i>	
200.00	Anonymous gift	300.00
110.00	Supply of out-of-print schedules	35.00
	<i>Interest payments</i>	
32.91	Deposit (Nationwide) a/c	34.89
<u>1.11</u>	Reserve a/c <i>(ex Clubs & Socs. a/c)</i>	<u>2.35</u>
<u>11257.47</u>		<u>9373.05</u>

Current Assets at 31st July

<u>2002</u>		<u>2003</u>
800.13	Charibond (at cost)	800.13
798.55	Cash in Current account	605.67
374.74	Cash in Reserve account <i>(formerly Clubs & Societies account)</i>	377.09
7199.64	Cash in Deposit (Nationwide) account	6303.28
	412.50 Computer equipment ⁽¹⁾	
	<u>82.50</u> less depreciation @ 20% per annum	
<u>330.00</u>		<u>0.00</u>
<u>9503.06</u>		<u>9502.99</u>

⁽¹⁾ The value of the computer used for BC2 production has depreciated to a level where it is no longer an asset to the Association and is excluded from the accounts. It was replaced by an upgraded second-hand machine.

PAYMENTS

<u>2002</u>		<u>2003</u>
419.75	Committee expenses	198.40
442.30	AGM expenses	405.55
25.10	Stationery, postage and photocopying	35.06
0.00 ⁽¹⁾	Bulletin printing	117.00
147.39	BC2 expenses (computer equipment, printer paper, publicity)	1331.00 ⁽²⁾
1850.00	Payment to University College London for summer workshops 2001	0.00
Balance in hand at 31st July		
7199.64	General deposit account (Nationwide)	6308.28
798.55	General current account	605.67
<u>374.74</u>	Reserve account <i>(formerly Clubs & Societies a/c)</i>	<u>377.09</u>
<u>8372.93</u>		<u>7286.04</u>
<u>11257.47</u>		<u>9373.05</u>

⁽¹⁾ 2002 Bulletin printing payment made in 2002/2003 financial year.

⁽²⁾ This figure includes the purchase of an upgraded second-hand PC for BC2 production and payment for assistance with proof-reading and is reflected in the reduced balance totals

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

PROGRESS OF BC2 IN 2003: Editor's report to the AGM

Design and Compilation of Schedules

Classes 2/9 Communication, documentation, library & information science, museology, etc. A detailed draft schedule for Museology, prepared by Aidan Baker, Liz Russell & Heather Lane, formed the basis for a productive meeting of the CRG (Classification Research Group). This ensured that the Museology class would be fully consistent with the LIS component of 2/9. The new schedule is now being applied at the Haddon Library in Cambridge. Following this, another CRG meeting considered the changed structures & emphases of library science now compared with those reflected in the Penultimate draft for the subject distributed in the late 1970s.

Class C Chemistry. In last year's report we optimistically assumed that this class would go to the publisher in 2003. However, the greatly improved procedures (incorporated in the new software) for producing a simplified and highly consistent A/Z index have exposed a number of faults in the schedule. We have previously noted the exceptional difficulties posed by this complex class and its vast vocabulary, so perhaps this situation is not so surprising. These faults are now being corrected; this is time-consuming – hence the delay in delivering the camera-ready-copy (crc) to K.G Saur. The BCA would like to acknowledge here its indebtedness to Eric Coates, who has worked extremely hard in developing the format for the new A/Z indexes and has been crucial in exposing & resolving the faults disclosed.

Class U/VS Technology. Eric Coates, the author of this (the biggest single class in BC2) would almost certainly have finalized his schedules in 2003 had it not been for the work he has put into the A/Z index to Class C and the resolution of the weaknesses it exposed. It will be the next class to be published after Chemistry and will keep up the momentum BC2 is beginning to achieve in the area of science & technology.

Classes VT/VY : Housekeeping (VT/VU) and Recreational arts (VV/VY). The decision to publish these two classes in a separate volume was taken by the BCA Committee after considering several potent advantages it would bring. There are strong conceptual advantages in locating these two classes in the position they will have (linking the material-productive class of Technology with the services-productive classes of housekeeping (which includes corporate housekeeping, hotels, etc) and recreations (which include tourism). Both classes are virtually complete now.

Class W The Arts. This very large class is now in the last stages of tightening-up (a crucial and time-consuming element in finalizing the crc). A very challenging class conceptually, The Arts demand a more than average provision of alternatives and an effort has been made to simplify and streamline the presentation of these (several of which have already been applied by the Cambridge colleges).

Class WQ/WS Music. Publication of this as a separate volume was decided some time ago; it is hoped that it will be ready to be published immediately after Class W in general. Because it will be a relatively short and compact class, it has been suggested (by Douglas Foskett and others) that we make it experimental in one feature by including a presentation of the schedule vocabulary in thesaurus form. This would use the hierarchies and their extensively-labelled relationships as the basis of the connective structure of the related terms.

Reprints. Our publishers, K.G. Saur, hope to issue two much-wanted reprints of BC2 volumes to accompany the publication of Class C: the Introduction & Auxiliary Schedules, and Class K Society.

Other Activities of BCA in 2003

The development of BC2 entails numerous other tasks in addition to the production of the schedules. The dominant one in the past two years has been the production of new software; this is now virtually complete and BCA would like to register here its appreciation of the outstanding skill and patience brought to the task by its consultant Paul Coates.

Other tasks performed by the hard-worked officers and members of the BCA Committee include the management and auditing of its accounts, the management of the publishing program itself and relations with our publishers, participation in research projects in which BC2 schedules are used and tested, various publicity activities (including the organizing of short courses, production of leaflets, management of the BC2 website and the publishing of a most excellent annual Bulletin).

An exceptional feature in 2003 was the production by our Secretary, Heather Lane of a draft Business Plan for BC2, in which we will seek to secure some form of institutional support for the manifest tasks mentioned above. These different tasks will be reported on briefly by the Committee members mainly concerned.



Charity begins at home ...

BLISS CLASSIFICATION ASSOCIATION members in Cambridge continue to find interesting new uses for BC2. Do you recall Marion MacLeod's imaginative job classification scheme for the files of her college's Development Office ("Jobs for all", *Bulletin*, No. 41, 1999)? Clare and Aidan Baker, like the rest of us, are deluged by charity appeals, all year round, but they resist the temptation to treat it all as junk mail, consigning it to the waste paper basket. Instead, they consider it as carefully and as fairly as they can. Aidan writes:

You might be interested to know of an additional use that Clare & I have found for Bliss at home: the sorting of charity appeals. We can only respond to a few of the appeals we get, and we do that four times a year, when one of our regular standing orders to Charities Aid Foundation has gone through.

The point of using Bliss is to enable us to compare like with like; also, to a degree, though this is vitiated by the presence of at least one 'catch-all' class, to see if there are any areas of particular need as shown by a particularly high number of appeals. We classify the appeals by a broad, single-letter outline of the scheme. I considered using Class Q for the purpose, but I thought that the scheme as a whole would be simpler to explain and remember, and would be more apt for accommodation of, e.g. environmental charities. Class Q serves as the 'catch-all' class I mentioned just now.

The choice of charities is made by concentrating on a particular area of the schedule. If there is no obvious reason for favouring any particular area, then we start with the letter following where we stopped last time. For example, we did A-H this time round, so we'll start next time with Class I – Mencap, National Schizophrenia Foundation, &c.

Our system has been evolving over the years, and I don't think we've ever done it the same way twice. But we've used Bliss several times now, and the idea of working through Bliss occurred to me over the weekend. I hope that here we've got something that will tie all the other ideas together.

This is a great idea. How about a Bliss-arranged directory of charities too? – *Editor*.

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

Officers and Members of the Committee 2004

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Mrs Heather Lane, *Hon. Secretary*

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Mrs Jean Aitchison (*Personal member*)

Mrs Vanda Broughton (*University College London; UDC Observer*)

Mr Richard Crabtree (*University of London Library*)

Mr Frank Emmott (*Barnardo's*)

Miss Marion MacLeod (*Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge*)

Ms Julie Robinson (*CILIP*)

Mr Robert Rossett (*Personal member; Shell International*)

Mrs Elizabeth Russell (*Personal member; c/o Mrs H.E. Lane, Cambridge*)

Prof. Alan Thomas (*Personal member*)

Observer from UDC Consortium:

Dr Ia McIlwaine

Douglas John Foskett, 1918-2004

The death of Douglas Foskett from cancer is a great loss to the besieged profession of librarianship in general, to the study and practice of classification, a central activity of that profession, and to BC2 in particular – three steps of a mini-hierarchy which Douglas would have appreciated.

Others are better fitted than the writer to honour Douglas's considerable achievements in the wider field (particularly in that of comparative librarianship) and this friend's acknowledgment will confine itself largely to Douglas's contribution to the area with which readers of the *Bulletin* are most concerned.

I first met Douglas in about 1950, at a meeting organized by Mr Woledge at the London School of Economics in which A.J. Wells and I spoke about the Colon Classification and Bliss respectively. Wells was the launching editor of BNB and I had recently installed the Bliss Classification in a big college library. Both systems were outsiders in the library classification stakes; but both were attracting growing attention in those early days of that great swell of interest, then just beginning, in problems of organizing knowledge and information. The meeting was quite lively and one thing I remember from the questions session was John Campbell's declaring that it seemed clear to him that most people's money would be on Bliss – at least it was comprehensible! This was no reflection on Wells, whose horse was much darker and more difficult to sell, and of course, Dr Campbell would say that, wouldn't he? – he was using Bliss at the Chester Beatty library. He was to become the greatly respected Secretary of the BCA Committee.

Not long after, with the formation of the Classification Research Group (CRG), I was to see Douglas quite regularly. CRG was founded (at the instigation of the Royal Society, no less) to study the problems of organizing scientific and technical information. Nearly all the members at its inception came from special libraries and information centres and Douglas was one such, working at the time at the Metal Box Company, where he was developing innovative methods of services to users. But Douglas, like a few others of us (Wells, Palmer, Eric Coates and myself) had begun in public libraries and this was probably a healthy thing for the CRG. Discussion at CRG was always lively and Douglas's robust and sometimes caustic comments were a typical part of them.

It quickly became apparent that, despite Campbell's opinion, the fundamental theory that was to drive CRG was Ranganathan's rather than Bliss's, although Farradane's highly individual inductive approach provided a strong complementary current. In this climate Douglas was soon to produce a faceted classification for packaging and then another for Occupational Safety & Health for the WHO. In the 1960s Douglas moved to the University of London Institute of Education Library. Although a fair number of Institutes of Education were using Bliss (i.e., the original Bliss), Douglas understandably sustained his faceting fervour and produced the London Education Classification. This was, I believe, the first example of that happy collaboration between Joy, Douglas's wife (herself a librarian), and Douglas which was to continue later to the great advantage of BC2. It's worth noting also that the installation of the Fosketts' new scheme was conducted largely by a group of students from the Polytechnic of North London School of Librarianship, under the direction of another BC2 stalwart, Derek Langridge – probably the purest Ranganathanite of them all.

At the Institute, Douglas developed a strong interest in the relations between education and classification. He explored the writings of L.S. Vygotsky, L. von Bertalanffy (for systems theory), Joseph Needham and J.K. Feibleman and wrote a number of articles on classification and integrative levels. This was of particular interest to BC2 workers, since integrative levels may be seen to be a more developed version of the Comptean theory of gradation in speciality which was the most distinctive feature of the original Bliss and continues to be an important

feature of BC2. Another major work Douglas produced in the 1960s was *Classification and indexing in the social sciences*; this forms one of an impressive trio published by Butterworth, all by CRG members (with Brian Vickery's *Classification and indexing in science*, and Derek Langridge's *Classification and indexing in the humanities*). In all his writings Douglas displayed his very clear, strong and simple style, most appropriate for the educationist he was. In the 1970s Douglas became Goldsmith's Librarian, University of London. A substantial part of the University Library's total collections was (and still is) arranged by the original Bliss, which did not displease Douglas. It is fitting that Douglas's wide-ranging work was acknowledged in 1993 by a festschrift *Libraries and information services: studies in honour of Douglas Foskett*, published by the Institute of Education. Earlier recognition by his profession resulted in his election to serve as President of the Library Association in 1976; he was awarded the OBE two years later.

In the 1960s Douglas had been a prime mover in raising funds to support research, via CRG, into a new general classification. For various reasons, including the massive development of computer information processing, this plan was never realized. By a strange coincidence, the need for a new edition of Bliss was maturing at much the same time. As we all know, the only way this could be done well was by drastic internal restructuring according to a clear and consistent set of rules. It is no surprise that the resulting product came to be seen as the realization of what CRG had had in mind for a new general classification. Equally, it is no surprise that, after his retirement in 1983, Douglas (and Joy, of course!) turned their considerable energies to helping the realization of this project.

The first big contribution they made was to produce a revised edition of Class J Education. They then proceeded to spend a great deal of time collecting and sifting and analyzing large vocabularies in various classes currently being finalized for BC2. These included Class EV Environment, several parts of U/V Technology (including Packaging, Food & drink technology, Transport technology, Military science & technology), VT/VV Housekeeping technology, VW/VY Recreative arts and Class W The Arts. Douglas's contribution to Class VW/VY included, for our use as a quarry, a detailed classification of cricket which he had made for the MCC (with some help, no doubt, from Derek Langridge, a fellow enthusiast).

So we will 'turn down an empty glass' for Douglas (to quote Omar Khayyam, for whom Douglas always had a soft spot) and remember him with affection and gratitude.

JM

The Editor writes:

About thirty years ago, when I had a year's leave to study for my MA in Library and Information Studies in the University of London, I found that Douglas was to be my supervisor. His reputation had preceded him and I was both pleased and also a little apprehensive. It proved to be a most rewarding experience. As Librarian of the Institute of Education he was immersed in the field of comparative education, and this he naturally extended to studies of comparative librarianship. "Juxtaposition is not comparison!" was his cry. By this he meant that the mere compilation of long lists of things showing what they had in common, however useful, was but a preliminary tool: to make a true comparison of any worth we had to look more deeply to find the social, political, cultural and other factors which might explain why similar – or dissimilar – situations had arisen in comparable contexts.

He set high standards for himself and his students. If I did not always come up to his expectations, he never appeared to hold it against me! He certainly taught me a new discipline and showed me how to give shape to my rather woolly notions. In this last decade and more I have particularly valued our contacts in connection with BC2: his (and Joy's) contributions for the *Bulletin* and the phone chats and correspondence in connection with them, and encounters at Bliss meetings. The wit and wisdom and friendship of Douglas Foskett will be greatly missed.

AGC

Martin Williams

[The untimely death of Martin Williams was noted in the previous issue of the Bulletin. The following appreciation, which was published in Queens' Record 2004 and also in Cambridge University Libraries Information Bulletin no. 54, is reprinted here by kind permission of the writer, Dr Ian Patterson, Fellow Librarian, Queens' College, Cambridge].

Martin Williams, who died in June 2003, came to Queens' as College Librarian in October 1995. He came as a relatively inexperienced librarian, having started out in life as a nurse, working in Peterborough. Despite enjoying that and being good at it, nursing did not fulfil all Martin's intellectual needs, and in his thirties he went to the University of Warwick to take a degree in Classics. He followed this with a qualification in librarianship, and took up his first post in the library of the Cambridge Classics Faculty. It was after several happy years there that he moved on to Queens' to take charge of the Libraries. He was responsible for the day-to-day running of the recently redesigned and refurbished War Memorial Library, the (primarily undergraduate) Working Library of the College, and also for the Old Library, a collection of some forty thousand titles, including medieval manuscripts, fine bindings and some incunabula.

It must have been quite a daunting task: he had not previously had responsibility for a historic collection such as Queens' Old Library and there were major tasks to confront in the Undergraduate Library as well. But undeterred by the difficulty or magnitude of the jobs in front of him, he set about getting things done. He familiarised himself with the Old Library catalogue, and its history, and rapidly became very knowledgeable, and an expert guide. He was a constant source of information and expertise for casual and scholarly enquirers alike, and welcomed visitors researching rare texts or aspects of the Library's past, and did valuable work in identifying books for conservation. Meanwhile, downstairs in the Working Library all sorts of things needed to be done. The most important was the reclassification of the books, and then the installation of a computerised borrowing system, both of which he successfully carried through. He didn't know much about computer systems at first, but he set about learning with his usual wry patience and cheerfulness. Miraculously, he seemed always to be on hand to deal with student queries, despite the hundreds of other things he was doing. In fact, he was always willing to do anything and everything, and do it with interest and with care. He began the long and rather tedious business of reclassifying the books uncomplainingly, leading from the front, taking the task on, mastering it and carrying it forward, as he did later with the computerisation. Today's undergraduates, and the College Fellows, have good reason to be grateful to him: he did a lot to shape the library environment they take for granted.

When I became Fellow Librarian a few years ago, Martin took on the additional job of educating me with tact and kindness. Almost every week he would show me some query he had received from somewhere in the world, asking for some recondite or bizarre piece of information drawn from one of the manuscripts or from one of the thousands of books in the collection, and then explain how he had set about answering it. Old Members of the College, too, would write in from time to time, too, with questions which could sometimes seem rather trivial or distracting. But Martin always replied to all queries equally, and always dealt with them with cheerfulness and aplomb. He dealt just as well with the current students, moderating the exasperation he must sometimes have felt with his quirky good humour. Like all librarians, he had to do battle from time to time with students who thought the Library was a good place to eat burgers, or cake, or to drink coffee, or to listen to Walkmans, or to make phone calls, but I never saw him really cross. He was never confrontational, but always effective. Something about the slightly ironic, slightly amused tone with which he used to explain the rules made most people want to uphold them. He worked very hard to ensure that the Library functioned well and to make it a pleasant place to work in.

Occasionally I caught glimpses of Martin's other passions, such as opera or travel. Indeed he was so talented that I almost came to expect regular revelations of new interests and abilities, as on the day he casually mentioned that he'd started giving piano lessons again, or that he'd been learning more Latin. His illness came tragically early and deprived us at Queens' of a fine and well-liked colleague.

IAN PATTERSON

The Bliss Classification Association's Annual Lecture 2003 took the form of two papers on aspects of thesauri in relation to BC2, given by Philip Defriez and Jean Aitchison.

Bliss-based information management at the Department of Health

Philip Defriez

Department of Health

This paper describes the variety of ways in which Bliss is used in the Department of Health (DH) including:

- Thesaurus development and Bliss
- Use of Bliss as a classification scheme
- The Department of Health Taxonomy
- Government wide initiatives

History of the DH thesaurus

The first edition, using Bliss as a primary source, was published in 1985, and updated in 1993. In 2000 a subset of the thesaurus with new health care management terms was published. Then the third edition of the full DH thesaurus, incorporating this subset, was published in 2002.

The thesaurus is comparatively large and wide in scope with over 17,000 preferred terms.

Using Bliss as a source for constructing thesauri

Benefits

- Structural control across a wide field
In addition to the core areas of Health and Social care, terms were required for areas such as Politics, Equipment and Buildings. Bliss covers all subjects and provides a helpful structure.
- Valuable source of terms
Bliss is a good starting point for selecting terms in a subject area.
- Guidance on relationships
As well as the hierarchical structure provided by the classification scheme, synonyms, related terms and even scope notes are suggested by the Bliss schedules.
- Aid to updating
Requirements for updating the thesaurus may already exist in Bliss.

Problems

- Gaps in coverage
This is not such a problem now as most of the schedules have been completed but other sources were used for the first edition in 1985.
- Repetition of concepts
In a classification scheme concepts can appear in different places but may not always have the same meaning. In a thesaurus any distinction in meaning must be made explicit.

- **Imprecise terminology**

In a classification scheme the context for a term is clear and may help to define its meaning. In a thesaurus its meaning must be made explicit independent of context (*see* Indicators below)

- **Compound terms**

Classification schemes, even faceted ones like Bliss, tend to have high levels of pre-coordination. Compound terms resulting from this may need to be split or ‘factored’ (*see* Specifiers below)

Some features of the thesaurus

- **Hierarchical relationship**

Diseases
 . Cardiovascular diseases
 . . Heart diseases
 . . Vascular diseases
 . . . Stroke
 . Digestive system diseases
 . . Liver diseases
 . . . Hepatitis
 . Immunologic diseases
 . . Acquired immune deficiency syndrome

This is a typical example of a hierarchy of terms which are related generically, derived from Bliss classification structures.

Where terms legitimately occur in more than one place they appear in the thesaurus in ‘Polyhierarchies’, e.g.

Acquired immune deficiency syndrome
 BT Acquired diseases
 Immunologic diseases
 Notifiable diseases
 Virus diseases

This is a common feature in the DH thesaurus

- **Indicators**

These are used to manage imprecise terminology, e.g. homographs, where the same word can mean two different things, e.g.

Arrest		Georgia		Earth
SEE Heart arrest		SEE Georgia Europe		SEE Planet Earth
Police arrest		Georgia USA		Soils

- **Compound terms – Pre- or Postcoordination?**

- **Specifiers**

Student nurses USE Nurses [AND] Students

It is important to establish rules to decide which terms are going to be split or ‘factored’ and which to retain. Some of these appear in ISO 2788 and some will be developed to suit the subject area or requirements of the library.

At DH the following terms were factored:

- Combinations of different People types, e.g.
 Juvenile offenders USE Offenders [AND] Young people
- Combinations of People and Social conditions, e.g.
 Children at risk USE Children [AND] Vulnerability
- Combinations of People and Disabilities, e.g.
 Disabled people USE Disabilities [AND] People
- Combinations of People and Diseases, e.g.
 Diabetics USE Diabetes [AND] Sick people

These terms were not factored:

- People-related services, e.g.
 Children's wards
 Old people's homes
 Women's health services
 Female accommodation
- People-related care, e.g.
 Child care
 Geriatric nursing
- Diseases and services, e.g.
 Arthritis units
 Coronary care units
 Cancer hospitals
- Diseases and care, e.g.
 Diabetic care
 Drug addiction treatment

The two principal reasons for not factoring these terms are:

- Some of the terms are in common usage, e.g. Child protection or Child care
- Some of the terms have Narrower terms which cannot be syntactically factored, e.g. Quality assurance in health care has a Narrower term *Clinical audit*

Current uses of the DH thesaurus

- DH Library database
- COIN and POINT on DH website (derived from library catalogue)
- DH-Data on DataStar hosted by Dialog
- HMIC (Healthcare Management Information Consortium) database on CD-ROM and the Internet

Use of Bliss as a classification scheme

- 'Impure', in-house version is used for documents filed by subject:
 - Books
 - Reports

Bliss is not used for:

- Government series
- Journal articles
- Electronic documents
- Press releases

Alphabetical keyword display in the thesaurus:

Management information systems

TRH H

SN The use of information from computer databases to assist management function

UF Executive information systems

BT Information systems

NT Financial information systems

RT Management

Note that the Bliss class mark (TRH H) is attached to the term.

The thesaurus also has a section for Bliss class marks listed alphabetically with the keywords attached to them, e.g.

HM	Hospitals
HMB	Hospital staff
HMB R	Hospital clerical staff
HMD	Hospital buildings
HMF	Hospital supplies and equipment

What are the functions of bibliographic classification?

- Indicate the subject content of the document
- Provide a shelf order for browsing
- Provide a notational link between the catalogue and the shelves

A few years ago the future need for bibliographic classification schemes was questioned by some. In an age of electronic documents and computer based indexing systems all three of these functions might no longer appear to be relevant. However, in recent years designers of corporate web based systems are returning to classification techniques to manage their information. Often these are referred to as 'Taxonomies'.

The DH Corporate Taxonomy

Why use a taxonomy?

- Information overload
Users need relevant and precise information – quickly.
- Limitations of free text & search engines
Natural language causes problems. It is now recognised that the computer cannot do all the work and there is a need for control and human input.
- User behaviour
Users in the main do not use Boolean logic. Indeed a recent AltaVista survey showed that 20% of users failed even to enter one term!

Working definition of the DH Corporate Taxonomy is

"A mechanism providing a consistent language across the Department to support navigation and the search for information"

Possible applications of the Taxonomy are:

- Intranet
- Directory
- Records Management
- Library database
- Information Assets Register
- CHIP (Care and Health Information Portfolio)
- Content Management System

Main features:

- Consistency
- Flexibility
- Interoperability
- Combines content & organisational functions

Processes:

- Construction
- Consultation
- Customisation
- Continuing development

Current project work:

- Deconstruction of DH thesaurus
- Building high level hierarchies
- Establishing general content categories for 'Top terms'

The first draft of the taxonomy, containing about 2500 terms, is now complete.

Future project work:

- Identifying corporate functions
- Customising micro taxonomies
- Exploring technological options
- Testing on CHIP (a Departmental database on the web)

Government Category List (GCL)

This is a taxonomy of subject metadata tags developed for cross-government information exchange, e.g.

- Health, nutrition and care
 - . Animal health
 - . Benefits
 - . Care
 - . Carers and health professionals
 - . Disabled people
 - . Family planning
 - . Food and drink
 - . Health
 - . Health care
 - . National Health Service (NHS)
 - . Safety

This is too general for internal DH use but is mandatory for governmental web-based information resources. Consequently a concordance table has been developed to permit automatic mapping from thesaurus keywords to the GCL, e.g.

Thesaurus keywords	GCL categories
Imperfect competition	Competitiveness
Imperial system	Standards, weights and measures
Imperialism	Government, politics and public administration
Impetigo	Diseases
Implantation therapy	Medical treatment
Implants	Health, nutrition and care
Import controls	Imports

Conclusion

The Bliss classification scheme continues to be used in a variety of approaches to information management at the Department of Health and is a valuable source for the development of thesauri and taxonomies.

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Thesauri from BC2: problems and possibilities
revealed in an experimental thesaurus derived from
the Bliss Music schedule

a paper given by

Jean Aitchison

INTRODUCTION

The BC2 schedules have been used since the 1970s as a source of structure by thesaurus compilers, but it is only very recently that the feasibility of compiling and publishing an official BC2 thesaurus to accompany the schedules has been considered. The recently-produced draft Music schedule was chosen for the compilation of an experimental thesaurus. The problems and possibilities revealed in this exercise echo those reported nearly 20 years ago concerning the experience of using Bliss schedules as a source for the DHSS-Data Thesaurus, ⁽¹⁾ although the circumstances of this project and some of the technical problems are different.

In previous thesauri using BC2 as a major source, the original schedules and terms were modified and adjusted to suit the needs of the client organisations. The case of the official BC2 thesaurus is different, in that it must correspond to the Bliss schedule as closely as the constraints of the rules of thesaurus construction allow.

QUESTIONS OF POLICY

How will a BC2 thesaurus be used?

It is hoped that the thesaurus would not be used entirely independently of the classification. An acceptable scenario would be the use of the thesaurus by an organisation for post-coordinate indexing and searching, with the classification serving as the guardian of the thesaurus structure, especially during updating, and as a further guide to meaning when indexing and searching.

Another option would be for an organisation to use the thesaurus descriptors for indexing and searching, but in addition, to input postcoordinately the accompanying class marks, and to assign precoordinate compound class marks to books for shelving. Alternatively, the thesaurus might serve as a back-up to the BC2 Index in conventional use of the classification, the thesaurus providing more information than the index on synonyms and relations between terms separated in the schedules.

Is the aim one unified thesaurus or several special subject thesauri?

At this early stage the concentration is on developing a thesaurus from the Music schedule and analysing the problems. Yet already a number of decisions have to be made that depend on knowing whether the Music thesaurus is to exist in isolation, devoted to a specialised field, or whether it is to be absorbed at a later date into a BC2 thesaurus drawing on all the published BC2 schedules.

The extent of qualification needed for the thesaurus terms (i.e. descriptors) depends on the specialised nature of the subject of the thesaurus. If the context is implicitly that of music alone, it will not be necessary to routinely add a 'music qualifier' to the descriptors. However, if, at a later date, the descriptors are to be merged into a general thesaurus, the 'music qualifier' would have to be added to all descriptors whose meaning might be ambiguous in a multi-subject environment.

A practical proposition would be to start with a thesaurus for the Music schedule and to progress to thesauri for other classes coming up to publication, before tackling thesauri for classes already published or considering a unified thesaurus. The downside of this approach would be the likely delay in publication of classes already long overdue, as editing for a thesaurus may demand changes to structure and the form of terms.

TECHNICAL PROBLEMS OF THESAURUS CONSTRUCTION

FINDING INTER-TERM RELATIONSHIPS

A thesaurus derived from BC2 schedules would need to display the three main relationships between terms recognised by British and US standards. ^(2, 3) These are the equivalence relationship, the hierarchical relationship and the associative relationship. The level of indentation is the main guide when discovering these relationships within the schedules.

The equivalence relationship (UF/USE)

This is the relationship ‘between the preferred descriptor (or preferred term) and the non-preferred descriptor (or non-preferred term) where two or more descriptors are regarded for indexing purposes as referring to the same concept’. The preferred descriptor is the one chosen to represent the concept while the non-preferred descriptors are those not selected. The non-preferred descriptors form an ‘entry vocabulary’ directing the user from the terms not selected to those that are. The following conventions are used to express the reciprocal relationship: UF (Use for) written as the prefix to the non-preferred descriptor, and USE written as the prefix to the preferred descriptor.

In the BC2 schedules, synonyms and other equivalence relationships are shown after the name of the class, following a comma.

Music schedule:

WWC FF Cradle songs, lullabies

Thesaurus entries:

Cradle songs WWC FF

UF Lullabies

Lullabies

USE Cradle songs WWC FF

The equivalence relationship includes true synonyms, quasi-synonyms and lexical variants. Lexical variants consist of different word forms for the same expression such as spelling, grammatical variation, abbreviated formats, and also indirect and direct word forms in compound terms. The thesaurus editor should be on the look out for additional equivalence relationships not already listed in the schedules. For example, ‘WWH B Female and children’s voices’ lacks the equivalent terms ‘*Children’s voices*’, ‘*Girl’s voices*’ and ‘*Women’s voices*’.

The hierarchical relationship (BT/NT)

This relationship shows levels of superordination and subordination. The superordinate term represents the class or whole, and the subordinate terms refer to its members or parts. The relationship is reciprocal and is set out in a thesaurus using the following conventions: BT (i.e. broader term) written as a prefix to the superordinate term and NT (i.e. narrower term) written as a prefix to the subordinate term

The hierarchical relationship includes the hierarchical whole-part relationship, the instance relationship, and the polyhierarchical relationship. The generic relationship is the one most commonly occurring. It ‘identifies the link between the class and category and its members and species’.

Deriving the hierarchical relationship from the BC2 schedule indentation

This hierarchical relationship is determined in the BC2 schedules by the indentation levels. The class indented one level below the class above it becomes the narrower term. The class above is the broader term. It is vital that the level of indentation is shown correctly in the schedules, as this is the only way of discerning the true relationship between the classes and subsequently the descriptors, as the non-hierarchical notation cannot be relied upon to indicate or confirm the hierarchy. The version of the BC2 software with numbered levels should be used when thesaurus relationships are being derived from the schedules.

Example of the generic relationship:

Music schedule:

```
WWG      04 Choral music
WWG C    05 Religious choral music
WWG D    06 Oratorios
```

Thesaurus entries:

```
Choral music WWG          Oratorios WWG D
  NT Religious choral music WWG C    BT Religious choral music WWG C

Religious choral music WWG C
  BT Choral music WWG
  NT Oratorios WWG D
```

The associative relationship (RT/RT)

This relationship is found between terms that are ‘closely related conceptually but not hierarchically and are not members of an equivalent set’. The code used is RT for Related Term, and is reciprocal. The relationship includes as well as the whole-part associative relationship, ‘concepts related to their properties’, ‘an operation or process and its instrument or agent’, ‘an action and the product of the action’, ‘concepts linked by causal dependence’ and ‘an occupation and a person in that occupation’ and many others. These relationships are found in the BC2 schedules and may also be derived from the indentation level.

Example of ‘an action and the product of the action’:

Music schedule:

```
WBB R    04 Recording
WBB S -   05 Recorded music
```

Note the marginal ‘-’, ‘RT’ or any other code written against ‘WBB S Recorded music’. This is added to show that ‘Recorded music’ is associatively related to ‘Recording’ at the level above, and ‘Recording’ is not a broader class (i.e. BT Broader Term), as may be seen in the thesaurus entry below:

Thesaurus entries:

```
Recorded music WWB S          Recording WWB R
  RT Recording WWB R          RT Recorded music WWB S
```

Finding relationships in other parts of the same schedule

The thesaurus records relationships between concepts in arrays in other parts of the same schedule. These relationships are either polyhierarchical or associative.

Polyhierarchical relationships

If a term has more than one broader term, the relationship is known as polyhierarchical. For example, the term ‘Religious choral music’ has two broader terms, ‘Choral music’ and

‘Religious music’. In the BC2 schedule the term appears under ‘Choral music’, but is separated from its other broader term ‘Religious music’ as this appears under ‘Musical character’ elsewhere in the schedule. In the example below, the terms are linked by adding ‘NT Religious choral music WWC C’ under ‘WWC R Religious music’, and the reciprocal entry ‘BT Religious music WWC R’ under ‘WWG C Religious choral music’. This is similar to a ‘see also’ reference (without a reciprocal) sometimes found in a Bliss schedule.

Music schedule:

WWC	03	Musical character	
WWC R	04	Religious music	
		NT Religious choral music WWC C	← <i>Added entry</i>
WWF/WWX	03	Music for particular media	
WWF	04	Vocal music	
		05 (<i>Types of vocal music</i>)	
WWG	06	Choral music	
WWG C	07	Religious choral music	
		BT Religious music WWC R	← <i>Added entry</i>

Thesaurus entries:

Choral music WWC
 NT Religious choral music WWC C

Religious choral music WWC C
 BT Choral music WWC
BT Religious music WWC R

Religious music WWC R
NT Religious choral music WWC C

Scattered associative relationships

In the same way as polyhierarchical relationships, scattered associative relationships (RTs) are linked by reciprocal entries under the relevant terms, but are preceded by the code ‘RT’ rather than ‘BT’ or ‘NT’. See Example:

Music schedule:

WWC	03	Musical character	
WWC N	04	Ceremonial music	
WWC O	05	Military music	
		RT Military band wind instruments WWS X	← <i>Added entry</i>
WWL	04	Instrumental music	
WWS W	07	Wind instruments	
WWS X	08	Military band wind instruments	
		RT Military music WWC O	← <i>Added entry</i>

Thesaurus entries:

Military band wind instruments WWS X
 BT Wind instruments WWS W
RT Military music WWC O

Military music WWC O
 BT Ceremonial music WWC N
RT Military band wind instruments WWS X

Relationships with terms in other BC2 schedules

It will be a matter of policy whether a thesaurus confined to a particular BC2 class should include relationships with concepts within other BC2 classes other than those that are

specifically targeted in 'Divide as' instructions. If such relationships were to be accepted, the linking procedure would be the same as for the BT/NT and RT/RT 'cross-references' within the same schedule.

POSTCOORDINATION AND PRECOORDINATION

A thesaurus deals mainly with fairly simple terms and phrases and uses these terms as descriptors in postcoordinate indexing. In comparison, the BC2 schedules contain classes that are precoordinately combined to produce complex compound classes. Some of these complex compound classes appear in the schedules. The question is, how many of these should the thesaurus accept as descriptors?

Compound terms in the thesaurus

Although it does not deal in complex terms and phrases, the thesaurus usually contains a number of compound terms, that is, descriptors consisting of more than one word. A problem in thesaurus construction is to decide when a compound term is acceptable as a descriptor, and when it should be split. The rigid rules in the current British Standard are out of favour and the rules are likely to be more flexible in the forthcoming revised edition. It would probably be acceptable, and in keeping with the Standards, to set out special rules relevant to the selection of compound terms for the BC2 thesaurus.

Rules for compound term selection from the BC2 schedules

The rules for the selection of terms for the BC2 Index might have been helpful, except that these rules would exclude from the thesaurus many useful compound classes.. In the introduction to the Index in Class S Law it is stated 'No attempt has been made to index the large number of compound classes which the schedules are capable of forming'. For example, there is no entry for the compound class 'SBW 6 Criminal law procedure' although entries appear for both the elementary classes that make up the compound class, i.e. 'SBW Criminal law' combined with 'S6 Procedural law'.

Although it might be possible to make a rule such as 'select only those compound classes that have enumerated or substantial subclasses', the most practical solution is probably to select all compound classes that appear in the printed schedule. If these include multiword terms and phrases unacceptable to the thesaurus construction rules, they could be accepted as descriptors, but accompanied by a scope note indicating which two or more descriptors are to be used in combination to express the concept. Preferably, these lengthy terms and phrases should be amended to make them acceptable as thesaurus descriptors during pre-thesaurus production editing of the schedules.

Instructions in the schedules for compound class building. How should these be dealt with in the thesaurus?

Guidance on how to build new classes occurs regularly in BC2 schedules and no less so in the Music schedule. It is possible that these instructions should be omitted from the thesaurus, but if they are included the information should be amended, so that the advice is relevant in a postcoordinate system. The instructions would be treated as scope notes (SN) in the thesaurus and would appear directly under the descriptor before the UF/BT and NT codes.

Music schedule:

WWK Vocal solos
 For particular voices, forms, etc, divide like
 WWA/H, e.g. WWK HD Solos – Sopranos.

Thesaurus entry:

Vocal solos WWK
SN For particular voices, forms, etc. index using 'Vocal solos'
and descriptors from WWA/H e.g. 'Soprano voices' WWH D.

FORM OF DESCRIPTORS

The British and US Standards on thesaurus construction apply when selecting thesaurus descriptors from the names of classes in the BC2 schedules.⁽²⁻³⁾ For example, descriptors must be in the form of noun and noun phrases and should conform to the rule on singular and plurals. For instance, individual musical instruments such as ‘guitars’ and ‘violins’ are ‘count nouns’ and should be in the plural, and ‘action’ terms such as dance forms, for example, ‘tango’ should be in the singular. Other rules include punctuation, spelling, abbreviations, loan words, direct and indirect form of compound terms, and so on.

Clarification and disambiguation

Care should be taken to select short and precise terms, and to avoid unwieldy phrases such as ‘Individual instruments and instrumental groups arranged according to basic mode of performance’. This term might be replaced by ‘Instruments by performance mode’ but if a shorter version of the concept is not possible, the term should remain in the schedule to indicate the structure, but in the thesaurus there could be a scope note following the descriptor with the instruction ‘Do not use this term in indexing’

Ambiguous terms

The meaning of concepts in BC2 schedules is clarified by the context. When separated from adjacent terms in the schedule the descriptors may need qualification.

Example:

WWF FF	Roman rite		
WWG F	Offices	<i>change to</i>	Offices (Roman Rite)

Use of the qualifier ‘music’ in a music thesaurus

In a single unified Bliss thesaurus, all terms that could become ambiguous in a broader context should be qualified.

Examples: Examinations (music); Pitch (music)

If the context is solely that of music, then the descriptors above may not need to be qualified by the term ‘music’. However, it might be argued that all descriptors that could appear ambiguous when taken out of the music context should be qualified, so that the thesaurus would not need to be re-edited should it be merged into a general thesaurus at some future date.

IMPACT ON SCHEDULE STRUCTURE AND TERMS

During thesaurus editing, the structure of the schedule undergoes a rigorous analysis. The thesaurus editor is looking to establish exact relationships between the concepts in the schedule, and may challenge the indentation levels when they are unclear and misleading. If the thesaurus is in draft form, this may result in improvements to the schedule structure and also to the terminology. The thesaurus requires sharp, short and unambiguous terms. The terms used as the class names in the schedule do not always have these qualities. Thesaurus-style terms would replace the existing class names in draft BC2 schedules.

Another recognisable effect would be an increase in the number of synonyms, quasi-synonyms and different word forms listed after the class name in the schedules and the cross-reference links between scattered related concepts. It should be possible to make similar improvements to published machine-readable volumes, provided the software allows for the editing of the schedule input file.

Display of editorial changes for thesaurus production in the published schedule

Where changes due to editing the schedule input file would add value to the published classification, they should appear in the published version. For example, precise and disambiguated terms, and additional synonyms included after the class term should be shown, but not other equivalence relationships such as variant spellings or indirect word forms, as these would be confusing and overload the display. The BT/NT and RT/RT cross-references between scattered concepts should also be displayed, but not the numbered indentation levels, or the codes in the margin to indicate associatively related terms. The changes to the instructions in the schedules on class combination, if needed for the thesaurus user, should not appear in the published schedules, but in the thesaurus only.

SOFTWARE PROBLEMS

There are likely to be problems in finding software able to handle the proposed BC2 thesaurus. There is at present a sad lack of software for classified thesauri, such as the BS ROOT Thesaurus. Those that did exist are now no longer supported by the organisations that originally developed them. There are therefore few software experts available with knowledge and experience of this type of thesaurus.

Yet the hope is that the newly-revised and improved BC2 software might be further developed to accommodate thesaurus as well as schedule and index production

CONCLUSION

As this project is in its very early stages, there is a considerable amount of research work still to be done before the value of publishing a thesaurus to accompany a Bliss schedule can be established.

The BCA Committee welcomes any comments on the project. For example, what particular features of the thesaurus would be most valuable, and in what circumstances would a thesaurus prove to be of practical use in improving retrieval performance?

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Editor's note: It should perhaps be made clear that the 'recently-produced draft Music schedule' that Jean Aitchison referred to at the beginning of her talk given in November is basically quite old. The original BC2 draft was produced in the early 1970s; it was heavily indebted to Eric Coates's *British Catalogue of Music Classification*. The draft has been used in the Cambridge college libraries and has been considerably amended over the years, and it is a version of this that has recently been produced in machine-readable form. It will still require a lot of revision and expansion (quite apart from the addition of a complementary thesaurus) before it can be considered fit for publication as part of BC2. It will be published as an independent volume, separate from the fine and performing arts.



Music, music, music : the Cambridge workshop and after

The BCA held a very successful workshop on ‘Developing a faceted classification and thesaurus for music’ at Jesus College, Cambridge, on 2 March 2004.

The workshop was attended by 15 participants who included not only members of the BCA but also three librarians from music colleges whose libraries do not use the scheme. The morning session, led by Jean Aitchison, was devoted to the format and appearance of the proposed classification/thesaurus for Music, and the afternoon session, led by Vanda Broughton, concentrated on the content of the classification/thesaurus.

The first part of the morning session was devoted to an explanation of the steps to be taken to generate a thesaurus from the schedules. Our software consultant, Paul Coates, considers that the existing BCA software may be developed to give it the capability of thesaurus production. Participants were asked for and gave their opinion on some problems on appearance and format. For example, it was agreed that notes in the classification on ‘alternative places’ and instructions to ‘divide as’ could be omitted from the thesaurus, while the use of the codes BT/NT and RT in the schedules was preferred to ‘see also’ for cross-schedule relationships.

It was also accepted that to facilitate thesaurus production, compilers of the schedule would in future need to adhere to stricter rules in matters such as clear terminology and the exact use of levels of indentation to indicate relationships. At the conclusion of the morning session it was clear that members of the workshop accepted that a thesaurus produced from the classification would enhance the information in the classification and present it in a way more acceptable to the user of databases, intranets and the Internet.

During the afternoon session there was a fruitful discussion on the structure and content of the draft classification. It was noted that during the compilation of the draft thesaurus weaknesses had emerged in the facet structure of the schedules. As to the content, while the detail on classical music appeared to be adequate, despite some omissions, there was a pronounced gap in the coverage of popular music. Participants undertook to study the schedule in depth and supply lists of missing terms to Vanda Broughton, who will be revising the Music schedules later this summer to produce a classification much improved in content and facet structure, and designed to facilitate the production from it of a complementary thesaurus.

It was interesting to note that while some of us may have been wondering if the exceedingly detailed level of specification envisaged for the BC2 schedules and thesaurus might be considered ‘over the top’, the music librarians were vociferous in insisting that that was indeed what their users had long needed: “they come to us asking for music for all sorts of unusual and specific combinations of instruments, and it’s very difficult to find it”.

After the meeting, Rhona Watson invited participants to tour Jesus College Library with her.

Since the Workshop in March, Paul Coates has continued to work on a specification for the development of the BC2 software to support thesaurus production. Some elements will be generated automatically from the schedule content, such as the USE/UF equivalence relationship, and hierarchical relationships indicated by levels of indentation in the schedules. In other cases, the schedule input file will have to be edited and coded. For example, codes will be used to differentiate associative and hierarchical relationships determined by indentation level; and also to select only certain items in the ‘Notes’ in the classification. Also, the input file needs to be made flexible enough to accommodate the formal entry of additional cross-schedule BT/NT and RT relationships. The development of viable software for an integrated facet classification and thesaurus will be good news for those who value this style of thesaurus display. — *Jean Aitchison; and Hon. Editor.*



BC2 Revisions in the *Bulletin*

The Editor has for the past few years been maintaining a simple index to the schedule amendments which have appeared in issues of the *Bulletin*. It rarely differentiates between issues containing one or two corrections and those with extensive amendments. Nevertheless, the BCA Committee felt that it would be welcomed by our users, so it is given here.

Note that *schedules in italics have been superseded by later editions*; they are, however, listed here both for completeness and to serve as warning flags.

1978 VI/3	Intro : Sect. 7.448/7.455	1983 VII/4	I : Sched + Index
		1985/27	I : Sched + Index
1978 VI/3	Aux Sch : Index	1987/29	I : Sched + Index
1978 VI/3	Aux Sch 1 [duplicated in 1982]		
1980 VII/1	Aux Sch 1	1986/28	IN/IQ : outline revn.
1982 VII/3	Aux Sch 1		
1982 VII/3	Aux Sch 1A	<i>1980 VII/1</i>	<i>J : Index (1 item)</i>
1983 VII/4	Aux Sch 1A	<i>1978 VI/3</i>	<i>J : Sched</i>
1985/27	Aux Sch 1A	<i>1981 VII/2</i>	<i>J : Sched</i>
1980 VII/1	Aux Sch 2	<i>1982 VII/3</i>	<i>J : Sched</i>
1982 VII/3	Aux Sch 2	<i>1979 VI/4</i>	<i>J : Sched + Index</i>
1985/27	Aux Sch 2	2000/42	J : Sched + Index
1987/29	Aux Sch 2		
2001/43	Aux Sch 2 : TQ/TZ	2002/44	K
1990/32	Aux Sch 2 : VGY/VHU	1986/28	K : Intro, Sched + Index
1987/29	Aux Sch 3	1985/27	K : Sched + Index
1983 VII/4	Aux Sch 3A	1987/29	K : Sched + Index
1985/27	Aux Sch 3A	1988/30	K : Sched + Index
1979 VI/4	Aux Sch 4		
		1982 VII/3	P : Sched
2000/42	A/AL : Index	1999/41	P : Sched
2002/44	AY	1983 VII/4	P : Sched + Index
2000/42	AY/B:Intro, Sched + Index	1978 VI/3	P : Sched. + Index
2002/44	B	<i>1982 VII/3</i>	<i>Q : Sched</i>
		<i>1985/27</i>	<i>Q : Sched</i>
1983 VII/4	H : Sched + Index	<i>1979 VI/4</i>	<i>Q : Sched + Index</i>
1981 VII/2	H : Intro + Sched	<i>1981 VII/2</i>	<i>Q : Sched + Index</i>
1982 VII/3	H : Intro, Sched + Index	<i>1983 VII/4</i>	<i>Q : Sched + Index</i>
1985/27	H : Sched + Index	2004/46	Q : Sched + Index
1987/29	H : Sched + Index		
1988/30	H : Sched + Index	1996/33	R : Intro + Sched
1981 VII/2	I : Sched	2004/46	S : Sched + Index
1980 VII/1	I : Sched + Index		
1982 VII/3	I : Sched + Index [rev of 1981 rev!]	1988/30	T : Intro, Sched + Index

Amendments to BC2

Class Q Social Welfare and Criminology

p. 29 *Add as preferred terms:*

QEG J . Short breaks
K . . Family-based short breaks
L . . Residential short breaks

p. 49 *Insert following QKP T and aligned with Nonbiological parents:*

[QKP] W . Parents of specific types of children presenting special needs
. . . * Add to QKP W the letters GL/T following Q, e.g.
QKP WLR Parents of adolescents
QKP WML Parents of disabled children
QKP WT Parents of young offenders

Index. Insert the following:

p.106 Family-based short breaks QEGK
p.126 [Residential]
short breaks QEGL
p.130 [Short]
breaks QEGJ

Class S Law

p. 59 *Insert below SBJ GPW and aligned with Trespass:*

[SBJ] GW . . Wrongful dispossession

p. 61 *Insert above and aligned with SBJ R Leasehold:*

[SBJ] QX . . Commonhold

p. 64 *Insert below and indented under SBK RL Enterprise zones:*

[SBK] RLS . . . Technopoles, science parks

p. 65 *Insert above and aligned with SBK S Urban development:*

[SBK] RY . . . Rural areas

Insert above and aligned with SBK SW New towns:

[SBK] SVN Garden cities

p. 92 *Insert above and aligned with SBQ QYE Electronic mail:*

[SBQ] QY . Internet

Add terms to heading:

[SBQ] QYE . Electronic mail, email, e-mail

p.117 *Insert below and indented under SCK KI Identification:*

[SCK] KIN Identification cards, identity cards

p. 121 *Above SCM MCW for aSC MM read SCM M [or simply M]*

p.122 *In carry-overs at head of first column,
for aSCMM] read SCMM]*

p.166 *Insert below and indented under SNJ Real property*
[SNJ] G Torts
GW Novel disseisin

Class S Law : Index

p.[198] *At foot of page add:*

Index terms which are followed by a classmark beginning with a *numeral* (e.g., Civil law 9X, Jurisprudence 5A, Meetings 2K) refer to Auxiliary Schedules 1-3 on pages 187-195. Those beginning with a *letter other than S* (e.g., Public law WY) refer to Auxiliary Schedule 1 on page 187.

Note that (a) the Index does not show in which specific Auxiliary Schedule these terms are to be found and (b) terms in Auxiliary Schedule 4 on page 196 (an alternative for Common Law systems) are indexed but not identified as such (e.g., for English law both the alternative at SL and also the standard placing at SN are given).

Correct the following:

p.266 Serving
personnel *for* aSCMM *read* SCMM

Insert the following:

p.211	Commonhold	SBJQX
p.220	Dispossession Wrongful ~ Disseisin Novel ~	SBJGW SNJGW
p.222	E-mail	SBQQYE
p.223	Email	SBQQYE
p.229	Garden cities	SBKSVN
p.233	[Identification] cards Identity cards	SCKKIN SCKKIN
p.236	Internet	SBQQY
p.247	Novel disseisin	SNJGW
p.263	[Rural] areas	SBKRY
p.264	[Science] parks	SBKRLS
p.271	Technopoles	SBKRLS
p.279	[Wrongful] dispossession	SBJGW



In the news

Well deserved – and not before time!

Congratulations to **Jack Mills**, who was one of the very first eleven recipients of CILIP's Honorary Fellowship at the CILIP Members' Day on 23 October 2003. The award recognised his outstanding contribution to the profession as teacher, researcher and above all his many years' devoted and continuing work as Chairman of BCA and Editor of BC2.

Cambridge colleges...

In last year's *Bulletin* we noted with some regret that **Karen Begg** had moved from her position as Library Assistant at Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, to become Under Librarian at Hughes Hall (shhh! – a Dewey library). We are happy to report that she has already returned to the Bliss fold, having succeeded the late Martin Williams as Librarian at Queens' College.

... and a toe-hold for BC2 in Oxford

It is a great pleasure to welcome **St Peter's College, Oxford**, and its Librarian, **Dr David P. Johnson**, who has won a tough argument to convince his committee that the library should be classified by BC2. This will be the first BC2 library in Oxford. Three colleges and the Pitt Rivers Museum use BC1 but do not have the funds to reclassify, although it is reported that they would like to be able to do so. Perhaps completion and publication of the outstanding classes would encourage them to press for the necessary resources.

Long service in Lincoln

The Librarian of the Sibthorpe Library, Bishop Grosseteste College, Lincoln, **Chris Childs**, is to retire in February 2005. Chris joined the library staff on 1 January 1968, becoming Librarian in 1991. He has used BC1 (greatly amended) and staunchly defended it over the years against the objections of those who said that they don't "understand" Bliss and complained to the Principal about it. (Hmm. It's unfamiliar, maybe – but could any of them, if challenged, demonstrate that they "understood" Dewey or Congress?) We wish Chris and his wife (also a librarian, recently retired) a long, fulfilling and happy retirement. He intends to watch a lot of football – a Lincoln City supporter, of course – and pursue his other hobbies.

Thesauri

Sandra K. Roe and **Alan R. Thomas** are the editors of *The Thesaurus: review, renaissance, and revision* published in May, 2004, by Haworth Press. (The journal version is published as *Cataloging and Classification Quarterly* v.37, no.3/4). More details later.

On probation

We are pleased to report that the Manchester Probation Service is now one of the growing number of libraries and information services of the regional Probation Services who are members of the Association. Others are Merseyside, West Midlands and West Yorkshire. Are there more PS libraries out there using BC2 but not yet members? Recruits wanted!

International Society for Knowledge Organization

The 8th ISKO conference will probably be over by the time you read this. Go to <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/isko2004/programme.htm> and follow the links to abstracts of papers. Vanda Broughton and Heather Lane on *The Bliss Bibliographic Classification in action: moving from a special to a universal faceted classification via a digital platform* (session 2B) in particular should be required reading for us. BC2 doubtless featured elsewhere as well.

Fame at last?

From the *Daily Telegraph*, Monday, 24 May 2004, Hercules general knowledge crossword:
8 Down. System of bibliographic classification used in libraries (5).



<http://www.sid.cam.ac.uk/bca/bcahome.htm>



For instance, at <http://web2.kwangju.ac.kr/~jahookim/myhome/BC.doc> there is a very large BC2 site (all in English, not Korean, fortunately) with extensive explanations, examples, lists of publications and a detailed outline of the whole scheme. Looks familiar? Peter Merholz started a mailing list “Innovation in classification” which ran from September 2001 to December 2002 at <http://www.peterme.com/archives/00000063.html>; this appears to have been succeeded by <http://finance.groups.yahoo.com/group/facetedclassification> (finance???) Bliss is even somewhere in <http://nutteing3.no-frills.net/nutteing1.htm> if you look hard enough, but I really don’t advise you to try... .. Well, don’t say I didn’t warn you.



WY*CLIDE !

for everyone interested in the Bliss Bibliographic Classification – it can be used

- to disseminate information about the BCA
- to foster interest in faceted classification and its uses
- to submit or answer queries about the application of BC2
- to suggest amendments and corrections to it
- to make contacts with other users
- to seek research opportunities and collaborators

and more besides. Just use your imagination!

SO WHY AREN'T YOU MAKING MORE USE OF IT ?

LIS-BCA is hosted on the JISCmail list. If you haven’t done so yet, don’t wait – just go to

<http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/lists/LIS-BCA.html>

today and sign up. Please bring this to the attention of your colleagues and also other Bliss users who may be known to you, including non-members of the Association. The list is open to all.

The Bliss Classification Bulletin, No. 46, 2004

For more information, contact the lis-BCA owner, Heather Lane, hel20@cus.cam.ac.uk