

The *Bliss* Classification Bulletin

Notes on Vols. I - VII, 1954 -1983

The PDF files in the Association's website were scanned from original copies or photocopies, 2012. The quality of the typescript and print varied considerably from fair to poor.

The formal matter regularly appearing in all issues apart from the very earliest – minutes of the AGM, financial reports, etc. – have generally not been mentioned in these notes. The minutes often make interesting reading for those charting the hopes, delays and achievements of the project.

Vols. I - III, 1954 - 1966. These nine issues were published by the H. W. Wilson Company, New York. The first three, constituting Vol. I, were edited by H. E. Bliss himself. Vols. II and III were edited in London after his death.

Vol. III, No. 3 records the agreement to transfer all interests in the Bibliographic Classification from the H. W. Wilson Company to the British Committee.

These volumes were necessarily concerned with the first edition of the classification, and recorded many amendments and extensions to it, including some large ones derived from the supplementary schedules used for the *British National Bibliography*.

Vol. IV, No.1, 1967. Formation of the BCA; Rules of the Association; list of members. Amendments to BC1.

Vol. IV, No.2, 1968. Further amendments to BC1.

Vol. IV, No.3, 1969. "Preparation of a new edition of the Bliss Classification": copy of notes distributed at the AGM, October 1969 (p.7-10); "Revision of BC – problems and methods" (p.11-20).

Together with the elaborations and examples in the following issue, these may constitute the first full statement of Jack Mills's objectives and proposed methodology for BC2.

Vol. IV, No.4, 1970 (*misnumbered as Vol. IV, No. 3*). "Revision of BC – problems and methods" – using Class Q as example in depth (p. 8-13); provisional revision of anterior numeral classes (13-14); proposed revision of History classes (p.15-16).

Vol. V, No. 1, 1971. Revision of BC – progress and problems. State of the revision, December 1971, including Notes on the period classification of older material; Schedule 2 and Classes M/O (*Valerie Lang*); E/G; H (*Ruth Daniel*); P (*Valerie Lang*); Q; S; VV/VX; draft of Schedule 1 (p.20-27).

Valerie Lang was the Research Assistant at the North Western Polytechnic for BC for a period; Ruth Daniel worked there on the classification and thesaurus for the Wessex Regional Hospital Board.

Vol. V, No. 2, 1972 (*misnumbered as Vol. V, No. 1*). Notes on: Schedule 2 (*Vanda Broughton*); Astronomy (outline); Education (outline); Religion, Theology and Ethics (*VB*); Aesthetic arts (*VB*); Linguistics and literature (*VB*); Documentation, bibliography, libraries (outline). "The poetry of H. E. Bliss" (*Anthony Clifford*), (p.20-23).

Vanda Broughton succeeded Valerie Lang as Research Assistant on BC at the NWP.

Vol. V, No. 3, 1973. *Contributions by many hands, using as many different typewriters, apparently . . .*

Reports on: Draft AA/AK Philosophy, with outline (p.7-8); AM/AX Mathematics (p.9-10); C Chemistry (p.11-12); E/G Biological sciences (p.13); H Physical anthropology, the Health sciences (p.14-15); L History (p.16); V Arts, crafts & entertainment (p.17-19).

Vol. V, No. 4, 1974. *“It was hoped, at the beginning of the project, that the revision of the BC would be completed, if not actually published, by 1974.”*

Proposal to publish BC in successive parts: pros and cons (p.6-8); suggested 20 parts for separate publication listed (p.9). Notes on Class C Chemistry (p.10-11), summary outline (p.11-12); Class K Sociology, social anthropology & folklore (p.14-15), outline (p.16); Class UA/UD Agriculture & animal products (p.17); A/Z index and Schedule presentation (p. 18).

Vol. VI, No. 1, December 1975. Membership of the BCA, October 1975, listed (p.5-7).

Outline of complete scheme (p.8-15). [*The text on p.10 (L/Q) should come between p.12 (I/K) and p.13(R/TM)] “Preparing the first package for press” (p.16-19).*

Vol. VI, No. 2, January 1977. *“The BC in the North American compulsory curriculum” (Alan Thomas) (p.7-9). On deciding to change a library’s classification (p.10-11); Some notes on reclassification (K. G. B. Bakewell), (p.11-12). Classes in progress (each section including class outline): Class I Psychology (p.13-16); Class H Human biology, etc. (p.16-20); Class TQ Management of enterprises (p.20-21).*

Vol. VI, No. 3, 1978. *“This is the first issue of the Bulletin to appear since publication of the new BC began (in March 1977) . . . “*

Additions and amendments to BC2: Introduction & Common auxiliary schedules – long revision of the Introduction, section 7.45 (rules for retroactive synthesis) (p.7-12) plus flowchart (p.13). A/Z index for the Auxiliary schedules (p.14-28)

Vol. VI, No. 4, 1979. *“Bliss is’t to be in Kings” [King’s College library, Cambridge] (Elizabeth Russell and Julia Wilkinson) (p.9-12). Notes on current revision: H (p.12-13); testing H and K (Robin Bonner) (p 13-14); K (p.15-16); T (p.17-19).*

Vol. VII, No. 1, 1980 *(misnumbered as Vol. VI, No. 1) For the first time, and thereafter, the Bulletin displayed a table of contents on the first page!*

List of BCA members and addresses, May 1980 (p.10-17). *“A summary of reviews of, and published comments on, the 2nd edition of the Bibliographic Classification” (D. J. Campbell) (p.18-31) – with extensive quotations. Additions and amendments to BC2 (p.32-34).*

Vol. VII, No. 2, 1981. Forum (p.9-12) – on Alphabetical subarrangement; “Notational provisional”; Allocation of notation to main classes; Language and literature.

Additions and amendments to BC2, especially to classes I (consequent upon the publication of Class H) and J. *A substantial amount of the revision to Class I was restored or altered in turn the following year.*

Vol. VII, No. 3, 1982 Attention drawn to Jean Aitchison’s paper in *International Classification* on an integrated thesaurus of the social sciences, with abstract (p.9). BC2 Libraries(1): *“The use of Bliss at Dr Barnardo’s library” (Chris Preddle) (p.10-12). Forum: Notation of Classes O/Z (p.13-14); Comments on H and the introductory volume (Susan Bury) (p.14-18).*

Additions and amendments to BC2: Class H; especially Class I, amending proposals in the previous issue; J; P; Q (p.19-26).

Vol. VII, No. 4, 1983 *(misnumbered as Vol. VIII, No.4) BC2 Libraries(2): Office of Population Censuses and Surveys (OPCS) (Chris Horsey) (p.10-12). Further qualification of notation drawn from outside a main class (p.13). Proposed revision of Auxiliary Schedule 2: TR/U Oceania, etc. (p.14).*

This completes a selective overview of the 25 issues of the Bulletin which formed Vols. I - VII, 1954 -1983. From 1984 the issues are numbered serially, beginning at No.26.

Tony Curwen, Aberystwyth, June 2012.