(6) Satija, M.P.: A printer on Ranganathan's Book Number. Delhi: Mittal Publ.1987.

(7) Satija, M.P.: History of Book Number. Int.Classif. 14(1987)No.2, p.70-76

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Sh.Husain, Reader, Dept.of Library and Inform.Sci., Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh-202002, INDIA.

COMAROMI, J.P. et al.: **Abridged Dewey Decimal Classifiation, 12th ed.** Albany, NY: Forest Press, OCLC 1990. XIII,857p. ISBN 0-910-608-42-3

The DDC is now considered a system eminently suitable for medium-sized college and public libraries, although it finds users in all types of libraries. Ironically enough, the very first edition (1876) of only 44 pages and comprising, in all, less than 1000 classes was considered too detailed by many librarians. Ensuing early editions were likewise thought to be unnecessarily detailed by some librarians; and a real need was felt to help small libraries cope with the lengthy numbers. Therefore, in 1894, for the first time an abbreviated outline of the full edition was issued; and before long, an abridged version was issued in 1921 independently of a new unabridged edition; it constituted an elaboration of the first abridged edition of 1894. The abridged editions were published later as and when the need arose. Still later, an abridged edition followed a particular unabridged edition. The sixth abridged edition was directly abridged from the 14th (1942) unabridged edition. This policy continued through the 9th abridged edition (1965). The 10th was not a directly abridged version of the full 18th edition (1971) but rather an adaptation of the latter at a few points, thus creating inconsistencies in that in some cases a given subject was assigned different numbers in the two schedules. Fortunately, the old policy of true abridgement has now been restored. Thus the 12th edition published in August 1990 was directly abridged from the full DDC20 published in January 1989. Therefore, those small libraries which have outgrown the abridgd version can readily switch over to the full edition without any problem.

To serve different collection sizes and subject specializations the DDC is now available in many official versions of details besides its 35 translations and adaptations. These versions include: The full version, now in its 20th edition (1989) with 30,000 entries; the abridged version, now in its 12th edition (1990) with about 2600 entries, and the DDC for schools, whose current 4th edition (1986) is also called the international edition, with about 1225 entries; this version is nicknamed the "Baby" of the DDC family (1). In addition, many subject fascicules, e.g. for religion, music, etc. are available, besides the numerous homemade adaptations to suit different cultures and local needs throughout the world (2).

The abridged edition is usually about 1/5th of the full version; and it is aimed at school and small public libraries and other general collections ranging up to 20,000 volumes. In the 12th abridged edition under review, of the total of 870 pages, 34 (3.9%) are devoted to prefatory material including Editor's introduction, glossary and index to the whole; while 146 pages (16.8%) are devoted to the *Manual*, i.e. conversion tables for the old and the new numbers. The *Manual*, a new feature of this edition, reflects the policies of the Decimal Classification Division of the Library of Congress, the largest single user, as well as the laboratory of the system. It is aimed at practicing librarians rather than those only learning the number structure. The conversion tables, etc. are obviously meant to help switch over from the previous to the new edition. 70 pages (8%) are devoted to auxiliary tables; here there are only four tables (T1-T4), as compared to seven in the full edition. The schedules comprise 435 pages (50%), while the relative index has 170 pages (19.7%) only.

The abridged DDC12 has all the new features of its parent DDC20, namely: the simplified editor's introduction: "This introduction is written primarily for students and beginning classifiers" (p.5), detailed and copious notes and instructions, and a simplified and trimmed relative index. User's convenience is the hallmark of this edition, to put is briefly. Computer-aided editing by an Editorial Support System (ESS), and computerized photocomposition have resulted in crisp printing and high standards of production, though adequate marginal spaces are lacking. An additional improvement over the full version is that the *Manual* has been located at an anterior position to the tables and the schedules. This seems to have been done following criticism of the DDC20 concerning the location of its *Manual* in the 4th volume near the relative index (3).

The changes in the schedules include the new schedules for 001-006 Data processing, and 780 Music; changes in 200/288 Christian religion, 323 Civil rights, 384 Communication; expansion in 612 Human physiology, and corresponding changes in the World history and Area Table (T2). As remarked earlier, only the first four Tables (T1-T4) have been retained and Tables 5-7 of the original were dispensed with. This means that class numbers cannot be given to the bilingual dictionaries; and biogaphies cannot be distinguished by subject. In T3 there are no sub-tables, nor does the literature schedule enumerate the periods of various individual literatures. This means that in the literature there is only grouping by language and form.

The relative index has been greatly trimmed in size and number of entries, especially by removing the "*see*" references. The "*see also*" references, as usual, lead to broader and related terms. The use of the index is now just about as easy as the ABC, permitting it to be used even by young and uninitiated library users. However, some inconsistencies are noted. For example, under 'Birds', there is no number for 'bird zoology'; but under

'birds of prey' we are instructed to *see also* Birds'.

Summing up, this is a well-delivered edition, a capably edited member of the growing DDC family which, with its avowed aim of user convenience, deserves to find favor with its intended users.

Mohinder Partap Satija

(1) South, M.L.(Ed.): Dewey Decimal Classification for School Libraries. British and International edition. Albany, NY: Forest Press 1986. IX,179p.

(2) Comaromi,J.P., Satija,M.P.: History of the Indianization of the Dewey Decimal Classification. Libri 35(1985)No.1, p.1-20

(3) Satija, M.P.: (Book review of the) DDC20. Int.Classif.17(1990)No.2, p.107-108

Dr.M.P.Satija, Guru Nanak Dev University, Department of Library and Information Science, Amritsar-143 005, India

FETTERS, Linda K.: **A Guide to Indexing Software.** New York, NY: Amer.Soc.Indexers 1989. 3rd.ed. 26p., ISBN 0-936547-06-5

This booklet provides an extremely lucid and systematic overview of the features of nine programs that can assist the indexer in his work (Cindex, IndexAid2, Indexer's Assistant, Indexit, INDEXX, In>Sort, MACREX, wIndex, MIS). The author's comments are preceded by a list of 36 criteria according to which the programs are evaluated. These criteria are grouped under "Basic Features", "Editing and Displaying Entries,", "Formatting/Printing Features" and "Sorting". A "Comparison Chart" provides an overview as to whether or not these criteria are satisfied by the various programs. This facilitates comparison and selection of an indexing program for a given purpose at hand.

The discussion of the individual programs follows a common, consistently applied scheme, subdivided into "Hardware Requirements", "Preparing Entries", "Sorting and Cumulations", "Formatting", "Printing Effects", and "Recommendation". Prices, suppliers, and the quality of accompanying manuals are also mentioned.

Apparently, all the programs under discussion work without any thesaurus component, and the possibility of working with an integrated thesaurus is not included in the evaluation criteria. Indexing in these systems seems to be restricted to the *mere extraction* of text words. Such an approach, however, can yield only moderate results. If, for example, the searcher finds the subject headings "pesticides" and "insecticides" in the index, he rightly expects a *paraphrasing* passage "Use of pesticides against the oriental fruit fly" not merely to be indexed under the text word "pesticides", but at least in addition under "insecticides" too, although this word does not occur in the text. Mere word extraction as is practiced in the software presented and even suggested by it, does not serve this purpose.

If no pertinent demand is raised by the indexers or if such a need is even negated (cf.Linda K.Fetters: Indexing Software", in Weinberg, B.H.(Ed.): Indexing - the state of our knowledge and the state of our ignorance, p.28, second paragraph), the software producer does not feel the necessity of an initiative for developing a correspondingly more advanced program. This is one of the consequences of the widespread neglect by American authors of the progress already achieved in Europe.

It is highly desirable that this guide should be further updated and supplemented and that the above-mentioned gap in the supply of American indexing software be recognized and filled.

Robert Fugmann

Dr.R.Fugmann, Alte Poststrasse 13, D-6270 Idstein, FR Germany

STEPHAN, Werner (Comp.& Ed.): **Die Schlagwort-normdatei. Entwicklungsstand und Nutzungsmöglich-keiten.** Vorträge eines Kolloquiums zur Schlagwort-normdatei (SWD) in Frankfurt a.M. am 5. und 6. Oktober 1989. (The Authority File of Subject Headings. State of Development and Opportunities for Use. Lectures of a Colloquy on the Authority File of Subject Headings at Frankfurt/Main on 5-6 Oct.1989). Berlin: Deutsches Bibliotheksinstitut 1990. 179p. DBI Materialien, 90

(The following review summarizes the contents of the papers presented which have already been listed in German in Int.Classif., Section Classif.Lit. 17(1990)No.3/4, p.189 (Nos.080-097). Dr.Bies introduced his review with a copy of the contents list and added the following English translations to the titles:

Kelm,B.: SWD as a working instrument of the subject cataloguing of the Deutsche Bibliothek and the CD-ROM-version of the German National Bibliography as an example of an OPAC provided with RSWK chains. - Gödert, W.: Processing and retrieval of data formed by RSWK in the CD-ROM version of the German National Bibliography. - Stephan, W.: Cooperative management of a data file and the editorial tasks of the Deutsche Bibliothek. - Geißelmann, F.: On the tasks of the central editorial department of the Bavarian co-operative system for the SWD. - Schubert, H.: On the tasks of the central editorial department of the Bavarian cooperative system for the SWD. - Traiser, W.: The present state of the SWD-systematization and preliminary thoughts on its further development. - Loth, K.: The structuring of the subject headings of the authority file of subject headings. - Rinn, R.: The relations between the SWD and other authority files or standard data. - Auer, G.: The use of EDP and subject cataloguing at Austrian research libraries. - Höhne, H.: Thoughts on a possible use of the RSWK and a contribution to the SWD on the part of the 'Deutsche Bücherei'. - Beaujean, M.: The use of the services of the Deutsche Bibliothek at the Hannover municipal libraries. - Galsterer, B.: Düsseldorf municipal libraries and metropolitan city libraries in North Rhine-Westphalia. - Nowak, C.G.: Use of the SWD and the RSWK-chains by means of the library information system BASIS at the Bochum municipal library. - Brake-Gerlach, U.: Library and information system Oldenburg. - Schwan-Michels, R.: Co-operative alphabetical subject