STANDARDS FOR CLASSIFICATION

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Mentions knowledge classification, book classification, and formulation of special collections as parts of library classification. Gives the necessary and desirable standards respectively for book classification, in the idea plane, the verbal plane, and the notational plane respectively of knowledge classification.

Notes - 1. If necessary, the "Library Classification Glossary" by S R Ranganathan (An lib sc, 5, 1958, 65-112) may be consulted.
2. Prol = "Prolegomena to library classification" by S R Ranganathan, ed 2, 1957, published by the (British) Library Association, London. The figure after "Prol" is the number of the section in which further account can be found.

INTRODUCTION

Classification is used here in the sense of library classification. Library classification consists of knowledge classification and book classification. It also consists of the formation of the assembling of documents belonging to different classes into special collections to meet special temporary and local needs.

1 BOOK CLASSIFICATION

11 Necessary Standards

Book classification denotes the classification of documents falling within the same ultimate class of knowledge. It is relatively simple. It should bring together:

a) All the copies of a document,
b) All the volumes of a multi-volumed document,
c) All the supplements and the host document, and
d) All the documents on a pedestrian book, be it a review, or a criticism, or an appreciation, or a parody, or any other kind of dependent document.

12 Desirable Standards

It is also desirable that book classification should arrange all the documents in the same, ultimate class of knowledge in a helpful sequence. Helpfulness of sequence requires that the documents in the same language and in an ultimate class should come together. Further, these documents should be arranged among themselves either by the year of publication or by the name of the author. Arrangement by year of publication will, generally
speaking, be helpful in the long run. It will be particularly so as the library ages. This will make the current books come last and the oldest books come earliest. This will be helpful in the case of pedestrian books. The one possible danger is that different editions of a classic will get separated. This conflict cannot be resolved by book classification alone. But it can be easily resolved by knowledge classification by making a classic a class by itself - a quasi class as it is termed. From this point of view, alphabetical arrangement by name of author is not as helpful as chronological arrangement by year of publication. Moreover, in a substantial number of documents, there is a conflict of authorship, posing a greater difficulty in its determination than in the determination of the year of publication.

13 Scheme of Classification

Few schemes of classification pay adequate attention to book classification. But, the Colon Classification does. It has an elaborate prescription for book classification. Its prescription conforms to the standards mentioned above. It has also a device to bring together all the editions of a pedestrian book, if deemed desirable in any library or in any bibliography. It also uses the concepts of favoured form and favoured language to reduce the length of the book number in the majority of cases.

2 KNOWLEDGE CLASSIFICATION

Knowledge classification presents many difficulties. These difficulties occur in three different planes - idea plane, verbal plane, and notational plane.

3 IDEA PLANE

The difficulties in the idea plane stem from the intrinsic qualities of the universe of knowledge. Viewed from the idea plane, these difficulties are due to three factors - its size, the number of its dimensions, and its interlacing nature.

31 Infinite Universe

311 The universe of knowledge is infinite.
312 Therefore, its classes cannot be exhausted by enumeration.
313 Further, it is ever turbulently dynamic.
314 Therefore, new classes will sprout at any time between any two of its till-then-consecutive classes.
315 Further, it does not admit of unitary classes or ultimate entities being reached and enumerated.
316 Therefore, we can only attempt to get its multiple classes arranged in a filiatory sequence.
317 The universe of knowledge is multidimensional.
318 But its classes have to be arranged in one dimension - that is linearly.

32 Necessary Standards

The over-all standard, needed to satisfy the Five Laws of Library Science, is indicated by the following canons and concepts.

321 Canon for Subordinate Classes

All the subordinate classes of a class, or the subordinate isolates of an isolate, or an array-isolate, in whatever chain they may occur, should immediately follow it without being separated from it or among themselves by any other classes, isolates, or array isolates as the case may be. This is the Canon for Subordinate Classes.

322 Canon for Co-ordinate Classes

Among the classes or the isolates of an array, no class or isolate with less affinity should come between two classes or isolates with greater affinity. This is the Canon for Co-ordinate Classes.
323 Canons for Filiatory Sequence

The sequence of classes, isolates, or array-isolates created by the classification of the universe of knowledge or of the universe forming a region of the universe of knowledge, or of an isolate or of an array-isolate such that the canons in 321 and 322 are satisfied. The two canons together form the Canons for Filiatory Sequence.

324 Apupa Pattern

The sequence of classes should make as close a compliance as possible to the Apupa pattern - the pattern, Alien, Penumbral, Umbral, Penumbral, Alien - that is, starting with the class or the isolate or the array-isolate of primary interest to the reader at the moment, on either side of it follow successively the classes or the isolates, or the array-isolates of progressively decreasing interest to him, until they fade out into classes not of interest to him.

3241 Umbral Region

Umbral Region means the region in an arrangement consisting of the class or the isolate or the array-isolate of primary interest to the reader at the moment.

3242 Penumbral Region

Penumbral Region means the region in an arrangement on either side of the umbral region consisting successively of classes or isolates or array-isolates of progressively decreasing interest to the reader at the moment.

3243 Alien Region

Alien Region means the region in an arrangement on either side of the Umbral region, beyond the penumbral regions concerned, consisting of classes or isolates or array-isolates not of interest to the reader at the moment.

325 Arrangement of Classes

In the arrangement of classes, all the relevant facets of each class should be given due weight.

3251 A class made of a basic class and a facet of less concreteness should have precedence over a class made of the same basic class and a facet of greater concreteness.

3252 A class, made of a basic class and some facets termed the host and a facet of less concreteness, should have precedence over a class made of the same host and a facet of greater concreteness.

326 Phase

A class made of a host class and a second class added to it as a phase should have precedence over a class made of the host class and one or two facets added to it.

327 Quasi Class

A work in literature, a sacred work, and a classic in any class should be made a quasi class, so that all the works pertaining to any such work may be made its sub-classes.

328 Enumeration Device

Enumeration Device should be restricted to basic classes and as few isolates as possible, instead of being used to enumerate all the possible classes.

33 Desirable Standards

The following common isolates should be enumerated in separate schedules:

1 Anteriorising common isolates.
2 Posteriorising common time isolates. These may be called time isolates.
3 Posteriorising common space isolates. These may be called space isolates.
4 Posteriorising common isolates forming action of all kinds - mental action, bio-action, chemical action and physical action, be they auto-action or action among one or more entities of the human, the other biological, and material kinds. These may be called 'energy common isolates'.
5 Posteriorising common isolates forming properties of entities, be they dimensional, physical, chemical, bio, or engineering properties. These may be called 'matter common isolates'.

6 Posteriorising common isolates forming values, be they mystical, literary, religious, metaphysical, ethical, aesthetic, psychological, educational, historical, political, economic, sociological or legal in nature. These two may be called 'matter common isolates'.

7 Posteriorising isolates forming organizations of all possible kinds. These may be called 'personality common isolates'.

331 Special Isolates

Special isolates, enumerated for each basic class, should be only those that cannot be given an equally helpful sequence by arranging them alphabetically by their names or chronologically by some helpful epoch pertaining to them.

332 Quasi-isolates

That is characteristics, other than the favoured characteristic used in the enumeration of special isolates as in 322 capable of being used as the basis for alternative classification, should be enumerated along with classes formed on their respective basis.

333 Subject Device

As a stay-by, posteriorising common isolates not enumerated as common energy, common matter, or common personality isolates, should be got by subject device.

334 Separate Groups

It will be a convenience to group together in any array into separate groups each of the six different categories of isolates - viz, common isolates got by enumeration, special isolates got by enumeration, quasi-isolates got by enumeration, special isolates got by chronological device, special isolates got by alphabetical device and common isolates got by subject device. These six groups in an array may be arranged among themselves in the sequence mentioned above. These six groups may be said to form six 'zones' in the array.

34 Devices for Subdivision

341 Facet Device

Device for subdividing a host class by the addition of new facet(s).

342 Phase Device

Device for subdividing a host class by the addition of phase(s).

343 Super-Imposition Device

Device for dividing an isolate by restriction of its extension to the portion of it falling within an another isolate of the same category.

344 Chronological Device

Device for forming an isolate or dividing a host isolate or an array-isolate on the basis of chronological characteristic, such as the epoch of birth or origin or first investigation or initiation, or commencement or occurrence or any other relevant event.

345 Geographical Device

Device for forming an isolate or dividing an isolate or an array-isolate on the basis of geographical characteristic, such as place of origin or habitation or prevalence or any other relevant geographical association.

346 Subject Device

Device for forming an isolate or dividing an isolate or array-isolate on the basis of subject characteristic, relevant and sufficient to denote the intended isolate.
347 Alphabetical Device

Device for forming an isolate or dividing an isolate or array-isolate on the basis of its name in international use, as the characteristic.

348 Enumeration Device

Device for forming the classes or the isolates in a facet or the array-isolates in an array-by merely enumerating them.

4 VERBAL PLANE

The difficulties in the Verbal Plane stem from the following:

a) Multiplicity of languages;
b) Impermeability in the meaning of a term even in one language;
c) Presence of homonyms even in one language;
d) Presence of synonyms even in one language;
e) The names of titles being such that their alphabetical arrangement by their respective names is often unhelpful and unilluminating;
f) The name of an entity often consisting of two or more words.

41 Social Factor

Most of the factors enumerated in 4 are due to folk pressure. This cannot be eliminated, or restricted, or even directed. This will always continue to be unpredictable. The frequency of occurrence and the intensity of the disturbance of these factors decrease as we recede from the phenomenal level of composite terms and proceed closer and closer to the seminal level or primordial level of fundamental terms.

42 Necessary Standards

421 Single Worded Term

Each item in a schedule should be denoted by a single-worded term.

422 Canon of Currency

The term used to denote a class in a scheme of classification should be the one currently accepted by those specialising in the universe to which the scheme is applicable. This is the Canon of Currency.

423 Canon of Reticence

The term used to denote a class in a scheme of classification should not be critical. This is the Canon of Reticence.

43 Desirable Standards

431 Canon of Context

The exact denotation of a term in a schedule should be left to be inferred by the term of its immediate universe and by the terms denoting the subdivisions of the universe it denotes. The former utilises the Canon of Context. The latter utilises the canon of enumeration.

432 Jargon

The verbal part of a schedule of classes may be in two columns. The second column may have the current popular term to denote the item scheduled, though it may not conform to the necessary standards enumerated in Section 41. The first column may be in a jargon improvised so as to conform to the necessary standards enumerated in Section 41.

5 NOTATIONAL PLANE

Notation is a necessity in library classification. It is a system of ordinal numbers. It is used to mechanise the maintenance of the arrangement of classes.

51 Classification Language

The system of class numbers, that is ordinal numbers, used to denote the diverse classes of a scheme of classification may be called a classificatory language. It is language of ordinal numbers. The system of colon numbers
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from the Colon language; that of Decimal numbers from the Decimal language, and so on.

52 Necessary Standards

The over-all standard, needed to satisfy the Five Laws of Library Science, is indicated by the following canons and concepts. Many of these are concomitants of the standards for the idea plane.

521 Findings in the Idea Plane

Every finding in the idea plane in regard to the arrangement of classes, or of isolates, of collections, should be implemented by the notational system of a scheme of classification.

522 Canon of Expressiveness

There should be in a class number a digit to represent each change of facet and each characteristic of the train of characteristics used in constructing the class number. This is the Canon of Expressiveness.

523 Canon of Hospitality in Array

The construction of a class number should admit of an infinite number of new co-ordinate classes being added to the array to which it belongs at appropriate filiatory places, without disturbing the existing class number in any way. This is the Canon of Hospitality in Array.

5231 Octave Device

This is secured in the Colon Classification by the Octave Device. This is the device of reserving the last digit in a species of digits as a non-significant digit to form another octave or stretch of co-ordinate digits by adding to it the successive digits of the species and deeming the result of the double-digited numbers as if frozen into a single digit, and repeating this process to form successive octaves.

5232 Adoption by UDC

This device has been accepted in principle for adoption by the Universal Decimal Classification at the suggestion of India.

524 Canon of Hospitality in Chain

The construction of a class number should admit of an infinite number of new class numbers being added at the end of the chain to which it belongs, without disturbing the existing class numbers in any way. This is the Canon of Hospitality in Chain. This is secured in the Colon Classification by the following devices:

1 Decimal Fraction Device - Device of taking the place value of each Indo-Arabic numeral in a number as in a pure decimal fraction, though the decimal point is not actually put in front of it. This device was first brought into general practice by the Decimal Classification.

2 Facet Device - Device of prefixing to an isolate number in a class number a connecting symbol, in order to implement the facet device of the idea plane.

3 Phase Device - Device of inserting a connecting symbol before the digit representing a phase relation in the idea plane.

31 Intra-Facet Relation Device - Device of inserting connecting symbol before the digit representing intra-facet relation in the idea plane.

4 Super-Imposition Device - Device of inserting a hyphen between the isolate numbers representing the isolates involved in the super-imposition device of the idea plane.

5 Chronological Device - Device of adding to the host isolate number or array-isolate number the chronological number required to implement the chronological device of the idea plane.

6 Geographical Device - Device of adding to the host isolate number or array isolate number the geographical number required to implement the geographical device of the idea plane.
7 Subject Device - Device of adding to the host isolate number or array-isolate number, the number of the subject required to implement the subject device of the idea plane, and enclosing the number of that subject within brackets, so that the said subject number may be taken as frozen and treated as if it were a single digit.

Packed Number - Subject number enclosed in brackets in the use of the subject device.

8 Alphabetical Device - Device of adding to the host isolate number or array-isolate number, the first, or the first two, or the first three etc, initial letters of the international name of an isolate or any array-isolate to be formed by the alphabetical device of the idea plane; and the alphabetical part may be taken as frozen and treated as if it were a single digit.

525 Canon of Scheduled Mnemonics

A scheme of classification should include a preliminary set of schedules of isolates likely to occur in an array of some order or other of all or several classes, or it should refer any recurrent sets of isolates to the one schedule of them given in connection with an appropriate basic class. This is the Canon of Scheduled Mnemonics.

526 Canon of Verbal Mnemonics

Alphabetical device may be used to represent any isolate or array-isolate when arrangement on the basis of a characteristic is not more helpful than alphabetical arrangement by their names. This is the Canon of Verbal Mnemonics.

53 Desirable Standards

531 General Canon of Mnemonics

The digit(s) used to represent a specified concept in a class number should be the same in all class numbers having that concept represented in them provided that insistence on such consistent representation does not violate more important requirements. This is the General Canon of Mnemonics.

532 Canon of Seminal Mnemonics

A scheme of classification should use one and the same digit to represent seminally equivalent concepts in whatever array of whatever facet of whatever class they may appear. This is the Canon of Seminal Mnemonics.

5321 Enumeration

The ideal should be to replace all the enumerated schedules, belonging to the first three zones of an array to as few seminal schedules as possible. This is the prescription of the Canon of Seminal Mnemonics. According to this, any given isolate idea should be denoted by the same digit in the context of any host class, irrespective of the differing terms used to denote it in the context of the different host classes.

533 Mixed Notation

The base of the notation of a scheme of classification should be a mixed one, so as to distinguish at sight the numbers belonging to the six zones of an array at the idea plane.

534 Canon of Classics

A scheme of classification should have a device to being together all the editions, translations, and adaptations of a classic, and next to them all the editions etc, of the different commentaries of it, those of a particular commentary coming together, and next to each commentary all the editions etc, of the commentaries on itself (commentaries of the second on the original classic) in a similar manner, and soon with the commentaries of further removes. This is the Canon of Classics.

535 Canon of Local Variation

A scheme of classification should provide for alternative sequences of classes to meet special local interests. This is the Canon of Local Variation.