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Chapter 3

LIBRARY CLASSIFICATION AND ITS SYMBIOSIS WITH LIBRARY CATALOGUE

The library catalogue offers in two different ways the help needed by library classification in the distress caused to it by multiplicity of helpful order.

31 Punched Cards

One is the mechanical way of punched card system which, as the name implies, is available only if the catalogue is kept in cards on the basis of "one book — one card". In this, the catalogue card of each reading unit, whether it is a book or an article, is punched all along its edges. The punched holes fall into groups corresponding to the facets of phases and each punched hole in a group corresponds to a focus in the corresponding facet or phase. The punched holes form in fact a code language like the raised points in a braille-book or the punched holes in a monotype-spool or in an automatic telegraph spool. The punch hole in each facet-group corresponding to the focus of the book in the facet in question is cut into a slit.

311 Example of Psychology

Let us take the case of books in psychology referred to in section 41 of chapter 4. Let us, for example, assume that the upper edge corresponds to the Entity facet. Each punch hole in it corresponds to a focus in the Entity facet. If a book is on Genius, all the other punch holes — say for Child, Adolescents, Women and Idiots — are left alone and the hole representing genius is cut into a slit. Let us further suppose that a side edge corresponds to the Problem Facet. If the book is on Emotion, all the other punch holes — say

for Sensation, Cognition and Conation — are left alone and the hole representing Emotion is cut in a slit. A similar thing is done in the cards of all the books in psychology according to their respective foci in the two facets. The cards may be kept in any random order. If a reader wants the entries on Genius, a rod is first inserted through the punch-holes representing Genius in the upper edge of a pack of cards. These are by design in corresponding positions in all the cards. The rod is then raised. As it is raised, none of the cards which had its punch hole slitted will be lifted by it. These will be the cards on Genius and will be left behind while all the other cards will be lifted up since their punch holes are unslit. This is done for all the cards on Psychology, taking them out in convenient packs. The cards on Genius are thus mechanically separated and kept aside. In this way, for the first kind of reader who specialises on Genius, all the materials on his subject are brought together and to his notice. If he now wants these cards arranged by the problem, they are further sorted. For this purpose, the rod is pushed through the hole for Emotion in the side edge which represents the Problem Facet. Of course, the cards should be so turned that the side edge in question go up. As the rod is lifted, it lifts up only those cards which are not on emotion. Those on Emotion alone will be left behind. After making use of them, the cards can be put back into the cabinet without any attention to their order.

For the second kind of reader who specialises in Emotions, sorting is first done with the punch holes in the side edge and he will be helped with all the entries on Emotions. If he wants them sorted out by Entity and wants those on Emotion of Genius, another lifting through the hole for genius is made.

A symbiosis can thus be established between library classification and library catalogue by the method of Punched Cards.

32 Chain Procedure

In the second way, each book or article is given additional cards called Class Index Cards. The main cards are arranged by the class numbers. Their class numbers will throw them in one of the helpful

orders. And so the kind of reader, who is in need of it, is straight-away put in possession of what he needs. The books and cuttings too are arranged in that order, so that he need not use the cards at all, if he is using books or cuttings. Of course, he must use the cards if they simply show location of articles in periodicals. This is however a trivial detail. Let us illustrate the help given to the other kinds of readers by the library catalogue through its class index cards.

521 Example of Psychology

Let us use the same particular case as before — the case of psychology. A book on "Emotion in Genius" has the two-faceted class number S61:5. This class number is thrown in the form of the following chain: —

S	∇	Psychology
S6	∇	Abnormals
S61	∇	Genius
S61:5	—	Emotion

By the chain procedure explained in the *Theory of library catalogue* (1938) and the *Classified catalogue code* (1945) and simplified in the *Library catalogue: Fundamentals and procedure* (1950), the book will get the following added entries known as class index entries: —

- 1 EMOTION, GENIUS.
See classified part of the catalogue behind the class number S61:5
- 2 GENIUS, PSYCHOLOGY.
See classified part of the catalogue behind the class number S61
- 3 ABNORMALS, PSYCHOLOGY.
See classified part of the catalogue behind the class number S6

4 PSYCHOLOGY.

See classified part of the catalogue behind the class number S

Similarly a book on the Emotion of Idiot will get the class index entries

1 EMOTION, IDIOT.

See classified part of the catalogue behind the class number S62:5

2 IDIOT, PSYCHOLOGY.

See classified part of the catalogue behind the class number S62

The third and the fourth entries for Genius will serve the case of Idiot also. Thus the reader of the second kind will look for his material under the heading Emotion. There will be many entries which give him the numbers giving the location in the classified part of the catalogue for the entries of all the books falling within his field. There will be as many locations as there are Entries beginning with Emotion and having for Secondary Headings the names of Entities.

A symbiosis can thus be established between library classification and library catalogue by the method of chain procedure. Symbiosis is reciprocal dependence. We call this relation between classification and catalogue a symbiosis, because not only the catalogue gives a helping hand to classification in matters where it is more competent but also classification gives a helping hand to the catalogue in the determination of the phases, facets and foci where it itself is more competent.

Thus the library catalogue can help library classification where it comes to a dead-end and feels overpowered by the occurrence of multiplicity of helpful orders. In either way of help, the facets and the foci are put to use by the library catalogue.

53 *Comparison of the Two Ways of Help*

It is not necessary for the Philosophy of Library Classification to go into the relative merits of these two ways in which library

catalogue can give help. However, it is difficult to resist the temptation to examine this problem. A few remarks will, therefore, be made before leaving this chapter.

(1) In the chain procedure there is no limit either to the number of facets which it can handle or to the number of foci in each of the facets.

But there is a physical limit in regard to these, set by the size of the catalogue card in the punched card system.

(2) In the chain procedure, the time-lag between demand and supply is only the time taken by the reader to look up his heading in the alphabetical part of the catalogue, to note down all the class numbers to which he is referred, and look up each of them in the classified part.

In the punched card system, the time-lag is the time taken for the mechanical handling (by the staff it may be) which will be greater if the catalogue is beyond a certain size.

(3) In the chain procedure, the time taken for the writing of the added class index entries will be greater than the time taken to slit the punches in the punched card system.

Between the greater loss of time at a time when the staff works behind the screen in the chain procedure and that once for all for each book when it is admitted into the library and not after the reader has appeared on the scene, and the greater loss of time at a time when the staff works in the presence of the reader *i.e.* after the reader has put in his demand — and this will recur with each reader —, the Fourth Law of Library Science will prefer the former.

(4) In the chain procedure, more cards will be required and more cabinet space too than in the punched card system.

The Fifth Law of Library Science will egg on the Law of Parsimony to prefer the latter way.

(5) In the chain procedure, the catalogue cards will always be orderly and usable for administrative and other purposes, whereas they will be always disorderly in the punched card system.

It appears that the Second Law "Every reader his reading material" will be equally satisfied with either of the ways in which the

library catalogue can pull library classification through its difficulty. But it has to be carefully examined if the Fourth Law "Save the (subjective as well as objective) time of the reader" will not prefer the chain procedure to the punched card system. Again what is the verdict of the Fifth Law "A library is a growing organism" which implies also growth in the number of facets which subjects can have and the number of foci which can occur in each facet? This is what the first of the five statements of comparison given above is concerned with. The implications of this statement should be carefully examined.



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