

ANNOUNCEMENT

The UDC Philosophy revision project

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The UDC class 1 *Philosophy. Psychology* has remained unchanged for more than forty years. The most obvious problem with the class is an anachronistic intercalation of psychology in the middle of the class of philosophy (Task force for UDC system development, 1990), one of the still uncorrected remainders of structural problems inherited from Dewey Decimal Classification.

OUTLINE		NUMBER OF CLASSES MRF 2007
1	PHILOSOPHY. PSYCHOLOGY	834
101	Nature and role of philosophy	106
11	Metaphysics	50
13	Philosophy of mind	40
14	Philosophical systems	103
159.9	Psychology	290
16	Logic. Epistemology	227
17	Moral philosophy. Ethics	134

One concern is the well known and long criticised problem that the UDC Class 1 is more suited to accommodate European philosophy, while the philosophy of other cultures and civilizations is often subsumed to religion and is very poorly provided for (Kyle, 1966; Gornik, 2007). For instance, while it is possible to denote e.g. Indian philosophy using combination with place 1(540), it is not easy to classify Brahmanic-Sanskritic scholasticism and schools of Indian philosophy (*astika, nastika*) or literature on the six *astika* schools: school of logic, the atomist school, the enumeration schools, the school of Patanjali, Mimasa or Vedic philosophy. At present, the existing concepts in philosophy in UDC are organized into three main categories: nature of philosophy, disciplines of philosophy, and philosophical systems. In practice, however, there is often the need to express subjects that relate concepts from these three categories and combine them. In order to support this not only do we need a new terminology but also the entire class ought to be better structured to support synthesis. The present enumerative structure of the class does not allow for logical extension of contemporary terminology such as 'philosophical anthropology', 'social philosophy', 'metaphilosophy', etc.

We are now pleased to announce that the project of the revision of UDC class 1 *Philosophy* will take place in 2009-2010, to produce a proposal that will be then further examined and discussed by the UDC Editorial Team and the UDC Advisory Board. The project will be managed by Claudio Gnoli in cooperation with Fulvio Mazzocchi.¹ They will coordinate a group of Italian subject and classification specialists which will cooperate in preparing a proposal for the revision of the class. Their study will not include class 159.9 *Psychology*, that is planned to be revised separately and moved to another location.

In order to consider the problems emerging in the classification of philosophy, typical sources will be reference works in philosophy (encyclopaedias, dictionaries) and available knowledge organization systems, primarily classification schemes and thesauri, covering the field of philosophy. In addition, the study group will be able to further build on the contributions of the seminar on classification of philosophy entitled "Classificare le scienze umane: il caso filosofia" organized in the Department of Philosophy at the University of Padua, by Cristiana Bettella of ISKO Italy (Italian Chapter of the International Society for Knowledge Organization) that took place on 2nd February 2007 (<http://www.iskoi.org/doc/filosofia.htm>). At the Seminar, proceedings of which are in preparation, Italian librarians discussed classification of philosophy from both theoretical viewpoints and practical application of classification in shelf arrangement.

Besides a general revision of concepts and terminology, aimed at making them more aligned with the current philosophical literature, a major objective of the study is to explore the possibilities for restructuring Class 1 in the direction of facet analysis. This would allow for philosophical concepts to be organized into separate arrays, which could then be used to build compound concepts by synthesis of their notation. Concepts concerning the object of philosophy, for example, will have to be listed separately from those concerning historical philosophical schools, and these separately from the parts of philosophy, such as metaphysics or ethics.

The subdivision of philosophy 'by parts' currently form the primary "facet", and the first division step of 1 into 10, 11, 12 etc. is based on this characteristic. One of the major issues will be to decide whether this priority is still the best solution, or should it be replaced by a different one. For example, philosophy in the Bliss Bibliographic Classification (BC2) scheme, which is the most relevant source of reference when it comes to facet analysis of academic disciplines, follows a different citation order. However, the existing structure of UDC class 1 will inevitably be taken into account and changes will be limited whenever possible, in order to minimize the disruption this may cause to the existing collections indexed by UDC. Every effort will be made to keep the revised class 1 partially compatible with previous editions of the scheme.

Facets in main UDC tables can be easily expressed if they are introduced through special auxiliary tables and special auxiliary numbers with hyphen -1/-9 are especially suited for this purpose. The same approach was successfully applied in the recent revision of class 2 *Religion*, which was an innovative step towards a substantial presence of facets in UDC (Broughton, 2000). The experience in devising notation with -1/-9 facet indicators from class 2 will be taken into account. This means that the faceting of philosophy will have to take in account the faceting of religion, especially because the two disciplines are closely related, so that the application of a common logic to both would be an advantage in terms of consistence across the whole scheme.

The UDC Philosophy Revision project will offer an opportunity to study possible general guidelines for citation order in faceted UDC classes, that could be based on general categories of the kind of Ranganathan's "PMEST" formula (Personality - Material - Energy - Space - Time). Clearly, classes in domains other than the humanities, like the natural and the social sciences, will need

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different facets than religion and philosophy; but some consistency could be provided by the very identification of such categories. This kind of solutions would help to combine the richness of UDC semantics with the modern advances in classification theory, also in the perspective of the digital environment.

As it can be seen, there are enough questions to be faced in undertaking this task. We hope to be back soon to present some answers!

The Italian working group on the UDC Philosophy Revision will discuss problems and drafts via electronic mail and a dedicated discussion list will be created for the purpose. Non-Italian speaking colleagues interested in participation in this project work should contact Claudio Gnoli (gnoli@aib.it). Regular reports in English will be produced and published on the UDCC website and announcements will be distributed via the UDC blog and discussion list.

References

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