



Ranganathan, Shiyali Ramamrita.
Prolegomena to Library Classification. Assisted by M.A. Gopinath. 3rd edition.
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PART A
INTRODUCTION

CHAPTER AA

PREFACE TO EDITION 2 BY SAYERS

1 Formative Period

It is a special pleasure to be invited to preface this remarkable book with a few words. For thirty years, since its author, then Librarian of Madras University, came to the School of Librarianship at University College in London, and listened patiently to my own tentative lectures on library classification, I have watched his career with increasing interest and something akin to wonder. There were librarians in India before Ranganathan, but this new one brought new qualities. Our courses were too elementary for him and he wisely directed himself to the mastery of our librarianship literature, to a stay in a public library, and visits to schools and cultural institutions, and so became convinced that in libraries was a field of immense importance to the new India coming to independence. As is known, he first reviewed that field in his first significant book, the *Five laws of library science* (1931) (new edition 1957), a work of great simplicity which conceals depths and yet reveals what may be called the spiritual but intensely practical springs of his activity.

2 Art of Analysis and Assembling

Early he told me that his mind was intent upon a new scheme of classification for India. I demurred that this meant a life work, but he was not deterred. *Colon* emerged, and the call for five more editions since is one measure of his success. It was while immersed in the problems of *Colon* that he "forged," to use a strong verb of which he is fond, his *Prolegomena* which came to us in 1937. A most precise, theoretical, practical, and comparative exposition of library classification theory that, while it acknowledged the influence of Bliss' two well-known books on the *Organisation of knowledge*, was still intensely original. It is not within my space here to say in what ways it over-rode many of the obstacles to real understanding of the art of analysing and assembling books; that the student will discover by the rewarding study of the book itself.

3 World-Wide Influence

All through the years, in spite of his occupation in India and in both hemispheres with other general and special problems of librarianship, his work on classification has continued, so that now there is hardly a classifier who has not felt his influence. He has recorded in many places the developments that followed and a

glance at his own copy, inter-written for this edition of *Prolegomena*, would show that the book has been practically recast. Its arrangement is masterly, its scope enormous, its contribution invaluable. When Earl Mountbatten, India's Governor-General, as Chancellor, bestowed the University of Delhi's degree of Doctor of Letters on Shiyali Ramamrita Ranganathan, its then Professor of Library Science, the Vice-Chancellor, Sir Maurice Gwyer, presented him with the words: "He is the father of library science in India. . . . His reputation as a Librarian extends far beyond the borders of his own country and his opinion and advice are valued in all lands where libraries are held in honour." A view now generally accepted.

4 Press Copy

The work of setting Dr Ranganathan's formidable manuscript in order and preparing it for the press has been the labour of love of Mr D J Foskett, one of his most gifted English disciples. He has fulfilled his task skilfully.

5 Consummation

The Library Association does honour to a pioneer in publishing this edition and gives privilege to itself. I may add that all the profit of his many books Dr Ranganathan has devoted to the establishment of a Chair of Librarianship, at his own University of Madras, the consummation of a devoted life.

1957

W C Berwick Sayers

CHAPTER AB

GENESIS OF EDITION 1 (1937)

1 Surprise Idea

When one is engaged on a problem, the most useful ideas occur suddenly. They seem at once to cast a flood of light over murky tracts of half-formed thought and promise reward to further exploration. This has been my experience and it is doubtless shared by many others. These surprise-ideas present themselves as ready-made wholes, coming at the oddest moments. They seldom come if they are sought and delight in choosing moments when pen and paper cannot be used to impede their flight. They come and whisper in our ears as we lie sleepily in bed, or as we mechanically repeat a long-drawn-out hymn as part of the daily routine of worship. To sit at the study table, with notebook and pen, with the intention of meditating on one's problem, invariably produces only sleep.

11 SENSE OF ASSURANCE

There is one notable feature of these surprise-ideas; they always seem at first inspired. We think them quite original. But before long, there comes awakening, usually even before we have developed our first notes. Somebody else is found to have thought of the same thing before, and has expressed it all in some well-known work! One's feelings at this discovery are mixed. First, there is dismay at being deprived—nay, robbed—of well-deserved priority. Then there is relief that one is spared the labour of cudgelling one's brains over the subsequent pioneer work involved. Further, there is satisfaction in the thought that if other, cleverer, men have trodden this way before, then one is probably on the right path and not wandering hopelessly in the wilderness. A sense of assurance emerges.

12 ENJOYABLE JOURNEY

Finally, one is buoyed up by the hope that if one continues long enough on this path, one will in the end have climbed the crests of the known and be looking forward into undiscovered terrain. Would that it were possible that in this book the distant peaks should be visible through the wreaths of mist! One can hope for no more than this; and yet one is conscious of a thoroughly enjoyable journey, which has recalled again and again the sentiment expressed by R. L. Stevenson, "To travel hopefully is a better thing than to arrive" [172].

2 Positivistic Preparation

The positivistic preparation for Edition 1 consisted of:

1 Ten years' work in forging and polishing the Colon Classification; and

2 Eight years' work in teaching the Colon Classification and the Decimal Classification on a comparative basis.

Much of the teaching was to mixed classes composed of some highly disciplined minds and a few bewildered but willing ones in need of being led step by step with explanations and illustrations even of the obvious. In teaching such classes, the exposition given in existing textbooks was sometimes found inadequate. To make the students understand the character of a scheme for classification, it was found necessary to teach at least two schemes showing their similarities and dissimilarities. This experience gave a positivistic preparation for the sprouting of new ideas.

3 Hidden Potentialities

The Colon Classification was forged in 1924. During the first twelve years, the Scheme had been applied to about 100,000 volumes, some of which covered the wave-front of nascent thought on all the most important subjects. It afforded a good test, which disclosed hidden potentialities in the Scheme. These had not been consciously sensed at the time of the first forging.

4 Hidden Faults

It also disclosed some maladjustments. These could no doubt have been avoided if I had been working on the basis of a complete well-tested theory of classification. But the process was reversed in my case. My theory had to be developed later to discover the cause of such hidden faults, and to set them right. Edition 1 of the *Colon classification* (1933) was rapidly becoming exhausted by 1936, and so I decided that it would be advantageous to work out the theory of classification before preparing the second.

5 Incubation

Thus it became a personal necessity and did not seem a useless labour to collect my thoughts bearing on the theory of classification and record them in exact terms. These thoughts had been incubating in the extra-conscious regions of my mind during the preceding twelve years, in a way which seemed to me expressed by John Drinkwater in the following lines:

"Haunting the lucidities of life
That are my daily beauty, moves a theme
Beating along my undiscovered mind." [50].

6 Precipitation

These were the general predisposing causes. But the book was actually precipitated in June 1936, in an attempt to expound to the class the full import of "Hospitality in reference to the Classification of Subjects." The experience in the class-room had activated the latent thought-mass at all levels. The catalyst was Ramanathan, a member of the class. He was well versed in the traditional logic (*Nyaya*) of Indian thought; and he too felt intrigued. He stayed in the library till 8 p m — the closing hour. Then we walked down the sea beach till 10 p m, discussing "Hospitality". When I came home I found sleep impossible. Two kinds of hospitality were taking shape. Seeing my restlessness, and probably disturbed by it, a relative sleeping in my room gave an innocent piece of advice. "Why don't you take up a book and read for a while?" he said. "That will bring you sleep." No doubt he was not aware of Schopenhauer's observation, "To put away one's own original thoughts in order to take up a book is to sin against the Holy Ghost." However, this suggestion recalled two books which I had set aside for later study, as they were found unmanageable at the first attempt. They were the two books of Bliss on Classification: the *Organisation of knowledge and the system of the sciences* (1929) and the *Organisation of knowledge in libraries* (1933).

7 Mould Effect

My mind was by this time so saturated with the theory of classification that, far from these two books proving difficult and causing sleep, in a single movement I had raced through their entire range of 740 pages before midnight. My mind was pressed through these pages in so intimate and critical a way that Edition I of my own book emerged clear-cut as from a mould. All that remained was to fill in details and provide illustrations.

CHAPTER AC

DEVELOPMENT OF EDITION 2 (1957)

0 Slow Forging of Edition 2

Unlike Edition 1, Edition 2 has been taking shape slowly during nearly ten years. It had been built section by section, chapter by chapter, and part by part. It was not the result of the sudden uprush of the whole result from the trans-intellectual region. On the contrary, it was shaped by slow intellectual grind—sometimes in solitude and sometimes in company with others. Five factors favoured this.

1 Teaching M Lib Sc Class

In 1945, Sir Maurice Gwyer, the then Vice-Chancellor of the University of Delhi, invited me to organise a Department of Library Science in that University. He was filled with the desire to make the University of Delhi the hub of research activities in diverse subjects in India. His faith in the full potentialities of Library Science in the re-building of renascent India was boundless. I gave him some suggestions and an outline; but I could not myself go to Delhi. He decided to establish the Department of Library Science with effect from 1947. I was then in Banaras Hindu University. He then wrote to me in effect, "You are the god-father of the Department. You should come and develop it." Accordingly, I reached Delhi on 17 June 1947 and started teaching that very day. The next year, Sir Maurice made provision for the institution of the Master's (M Lib Sc) and the Doctorate degree in Library Science. This provided for me a splendid opportunity to teach the general theory of classification at an advanced level. This demanded a systematic and detailed comparative study of the Colon Classification and the Universal Decimal Classification. This in its turn helped me to take the foundation of classification theory deeper than before.

2 Contact with FID

In November that very year (1947) Donker Duyvis, the then Secretary General of FID, asked for a Paper on my 'Approach to Classification'. This led me to write the Paper *Library classification and international documentation*. At that time, I had no idea whatever about the organisation and working of FID. I therefore sent to Donker Duyvis three typed copies of the Paper and requested him to keep one for his file and circulate the other two copies among the friends in the profession in UK and USA respectively. But he replied that the Paper was too good to have just two

typed copies for circulation among a few. Therefore, he had it printed, with my consent, in the organ of FID [100]. He did something more. With the help of E J Carter, the then Head of the Library Division of Unesco, he made it possible for me to attend the FID Conference at the Hague in June 1948. At the Conference itself, a number of delegates interested in the theory of classification arranged in the afternoon of 18 June 1948 for a talk by me on "Comparative Classification". This talk led to a detailed discussion of my theory of Faceted Classification. This created a wider audience for the theory. In 1950, FID felt the need for a continuing and systematic examination of the foundation of classification. Accordingly, it formed its Committee FID/CA on the General Theory of Classification. It was entrusted to my care as its *Rapporteur-General*. This turned me virtually into a full-timer on the subject. Attending successive conferences of FID and studying its long series of documents on the development of UDC gave me an insight into the problems involved in fitting UDC and CC to classify and organise the downpour of micro-documents. Each of my annual reports - 1951 to 1956—made to the FID marks a stage in the slow forging of the new ideas incorporated in 1957 in ED 2 of this *Prolegomena*.

3 Contact with Unesco

J B Reid, then working in the Science Wing of Unesco, brought me into contact with that Wing in 1950. I spent a few weeks in Unesco in examining the connection between classification and machinery for document search. The result of the study was published by Unesco in 1950 [101]. This study led to my looking at the formation of classification from a new angle.

4 Contact with Industries

Micro-subjects developed quite often through the Applied and Developmental Research needed by industries. Here the micro-ideas are more concrete than in fundamental research in the pure natural sciences and in the social sciences. I, therefore, felt that further progress in my work would be difficult unless I acquired an inside knowledge of the way in which diverse commodities were manufactured, how the ultimate organs or constituents of each were first made, and how these were ultimately assembled or synthesised into the final commodity. But India was very poor in industries at that time. While in this predicament, something useful turned up. This had its origin, evidently, in some of the meetings I addressed in New York, when I was there in 1948 to attend the meeting of the International Advisory Committee of Library Experts of the United Nations. In 1949, Charles B Fahs, the then

Head of the Humanities Division of the Rockefeller Foundation, visited Delhi. He had a long talk with me about the work in progress in India in Library Science. Without my knowing it, he had evidently sensed my desire to have first-hand knowledge of the working of the well-developed manufacturing methods used for different commodities. With the result, the Rockefeller Foundation invited me to USA in 1950 and provided facilities for my visiting as many industries as possible. In each of them I observed the manufacturing processes and the organisation of documentation in its Specialist Library. These observations disclosed many inadequacies in the foundation of classification. A preliminary analysis of this problem was made in a Paper presented at the Conference on Bibliographic Organisation organised by the Graduate School of Library Science of the University of Chicago in July 1950. The observation work was continued for three more months. The mode of formation of micro-subjects in industry and in the Department of Administration of a Government pointed a way for reconstructing the foundation of classification so as to make it take the load micro-subjects that were getting more and more atomised.

41 OUT OF BOUNDS

Before I left USA about the end of September 1950, Chester I Barnard, the then President of the Rockefeller Foundation, disclosed to me that one of the reasons for inviting me to the Foundation was to give me facilities to lay a foundation of library classification as a language of ordinal numbers, so as to make it serve, if possible, as an international language of communication free from the fussiness usually caused in a natural language by drifting folk—modifications, emotional undertones, and association of ideas. I was sceptical about its possibility. However, at his suggestion this question was examined at some length after coming back to India. It was shown that the field of political intercourse and international relations was out of bounds for classification as a language. Classification could not provide a language for communication in that field. It can only organise expressed and recorded ideas. It cannot be used as a general medium for expression of ideas [99].

42 USEFUL BY-PRODUCT

Though the finding on the primary problem of investigation was in the negative, the work gave opportunity to drive the foundation of classification to a deeper level than before.

5 Library Research Circle

The new ideas sprouting from the experience described in Sec

AC2 to AC42 needed further cultivation. In its turn, this needed collective thinking among peers. To supply this want, a Library Research Circle was formed in Delhi on my return from USA in 1950. Sunday after Sunday, the Research Circle met at my residence (C6, Maurice Nagar, University of Delhi) for nearly 6 hours—2 to 8 p m. This went on for about four years. This provided stimulating opportunities to dig deeper and deeper into the foundation of classification until a feeling came of having struck a safe rock.

6 Classification Research Group

Earlier in 1948, a small beginning in pursuit of the foundation of the Faceted Classification had been made in London. D J Foskett, Bernard I Palmer, A J Wells, and myself spent a whole Sunday in Chaucer House, the then Headquarters of the British Library Association, in experiencing the subject. Eventually this led to the formation of the Classification Research Group of London. The Delhi Circle and the London Group regularly exchanged ideas. Further, this exchange intensified during my occasional visits to London. The London Group worked out some schedules for Faceted Classification [175]. These schedules disclosed some weak points in the foundation of classification.

7 Medium for Exchange of Ideas

The *Abgila* was started as an organ of the Indian Library Association in 1949, when I was President of the Association. Its *Annals* part was reserved for high-level articles based on research. This served as a medium for the international exchange of nascent thought and provided a great stimulus. Many potential original thinkers in some branches of library science became actual thinkers. Many of them contributed to the series of articles called 'Optional Facets' appearing in the *Annals* part from 1949 to 1953 and to the series called 'Critique of UDC' and 'Dialectics of UDC' respectively. I had to withdraw myself from the Presidentship of the Association in 1953. Thereafter, there was no sign of the *Abgila* being continued. But the demand for a high-level medium was appreciable, and, in particular, colleagues in India, Japan, England, Holland, and USA promised support for such a medium. Accordingly, the quarterly, *Annals of library science*, was started as a private venture in 1954 with monetary help given by the National Institute of Sciences of India, at the instance of K S Krishnan, its President, and of R C Majumdar, its Secretary. In 1955, I had decided to settle in Europe. On hearing about this, K S Krishnan, who was then *ex officio* administrative head of the Indian National Scientific Documentation Centre (Insdoc), enquired, at the end of a meeting

of an Insdoc Committee, about the future of my quarterly. On my saying that it would have to be discontinued, he suggested that I should continue it and that the Insdoc would take over the work of printing, publishing, and marketing. This offer was gladly accepted by me. Insdoc had to classify hundreds of current articles. Therefore, it was felt that it would be a fitting laboratory to carry forward research on the foundation of library classification, with a background of reality. The articles on the subject appeared in the *Annals of library science* in the series entitled *Depth classification*.

8 Preliminary Consolidation

In 1953, my students—then past and present—co-operated splendidly in collecting together and consolidating in a preliminary way the results obtained between 1947 and 1953. These results were presented to the Tenth All-India Library Conference held at Hyderabad in June 1953 [149].

9 Endless Vistas

Thus discussion with colleagues—many of them old students accustomed to scientific method—led to a considerable re-thinking. The substance of Edition 2 of the *Prolegomena* had been developed slowly, laboriously, and quantum by quantum, in this manner. Endless vistas, needing continued investigation, were laid bare as we moved forward in this enchanting, though laborious, pursuit. It was felt that the postulational approach just hit upon in 1956 had great potency. The enunciation of the postulates was somewhat crude. And yet on account of their great promise in helping further work, they were included in Edition 2. Incidentally, they suggested a test to decide whether one scheme for classification was essentially different from another.

CHAPTER AD

DEVELOPMENT OF EDITION 3 (1967)

1 Seeds for Edition 3

Even while Edition 2 was under preparation, seeds had been sown to take the study of the Theory of Classification to a deeper level with the co-operation of a wider circle of workers. An International Conference of Libraries and Documentation Centres was held in Brussels from 11 to 18 September 1955. During the Conference, a whole forenoon was devoted to a Group Meeting on "Classification, General and Special", under my Chairmanship. The following two resolutions recommended by the Group Meeting were adopted by the Plenary Meeting on 16 September 1955.

"1 The FID recommends that a deeper and more extensive study should be made of the general theory of classification, including facet analysis, and also of their application in the documentation of specific subjects.

"2 The Commission proposes, that in liaison with the FID/CA Committee, a permanent Working Group be created in order to make mutual exchange of theoreticians' experiences and points of view possible. The rapporteurs shall bring about the creation of such a group and furnish the information and means of work in order that practical results may be obtained in the shortest time, by making mail exchanges easier and more frequent. The scheme proposed by Dr Ranganathan will serve as the basic document" [154]. Further, at its meeting held on 16 September 1955, the Council of FID requested its Bureau to convene an International Seminar on Classification. This was in accord with the memorandum prepared by me at the request of Donker Duyvis [133].

2 International Conference on Classification

21 DORKING CONFERENCE (1957)

Eventually, an International Study Conference on Classification for Information Retrieval was held at Beatrice Webb House, Dorking, UK, from 13 to 17 May 1957. It was organised by Aslib as the representative of UK on FID, in collaboration with the British Classification Research Group and the School of Librarianship of the University of London. In its letter of 20 December 1956, the Organising Committee of the Conference wrote to Insdoc, India's representative on FID, "This Conference will be a development of all Dr Ranganathan's work in the last twenty years and it will no doubt be a means of spreading interest in his work and appreciation of it. ... It is essential that the Indian Government

should receive notice of the Conference". My Opening Address at the Conference was turned on "Library Classification as a Discipline". It listed several problems needing routine research. It also made an appeal for fundamental research in the discipline. It contended that it "can contribute not a little to the productivity drive and to the conservation and maximal use of the research potential of humanity. . . . There is need for systematic research as a continuing process, to keep library classification abreast of the literary warrant getting newly created by the never-ending new formations in the Universe of Knowledge. . . . May the fields in the territory of library classification be for ever kept in active cultivation!" [136]. The Conference embodied this appeal in its recommendations [69].

22 WASHINGTON CONFERENCE (1958)

Within a year after the Dorking Conference, an International Conference on Scientific Information was held in Washington DC from 16 to 21 November 1958. Its approach was essentially from the side of machine retrieval. This opened up new areas for research in library classification [66].

23 CLEVELAND CONFERENCE (1959)

Another International Conference for Standards on a Common Language for Machine Searching and Translation was held at Cleveland, Ohio, from 6 to 12 September 1959. This conference too opened up new areas for research [74].

3 Try-Out of Postulational Approach

Participation in all the above-mentioned conferences led to the feeling that the Postulational Approach given in outline in Edition 2 was worth pursuing. I then wished to see the effect of this approach on beginners. Opportunity was provided for this by the British Library Association in Nov-Dec 1956, by the American Library Association in Oct-Nov 1958, and by the Canadian Library Association and the Japanese Information Centre in December 1958. As a result, classification was taught in about 30 Schools of these countries, on the basis of Postulates and Guiding Principles. It was also taught in that way for about two months in each of the years 1957 and 1958 in the School of Library Science of Vikram University, Ujjain. The general impression received was that the students found this method of learning classification meaningful and rewarding.

4 Index as Fishing Rod

But the traditional method of teaching classification appears to have been training the students in using the index to classification

as a fishing rod. It was found that this did not induce in the students any faith in classification as a possible discipline. This was brought home to me while teaching a Ph D class in an American university. For, when the students were initiated into the postulational approach, there was a glow in their face. Some developed a great zeal for it. A few confessed that they had taken classification to be a non-cultivable field and that it could never be made into a discipline. This should have been due to the wrong tradition of not distinguishing between cataloguing and classification and regarding classification as merely embellishing the catalogue entry with a class number fished out from a schedule of rigid structure, with the aid of the index. How inexorable this tradition is, was demonstrated even as late as 1966 by a review in a library periodical [84]. According to D J Foskett, classification did not make much progress in USA, because in that country "Classification has for long been held in low repute, largely because of the rigid structure of DC and still more of that of LC" [53].

5 DRTC

In 1962, the Documentation Research and Training Centre was established in Bangalore. It was the result of the vision of P C Mahalanobis, who had seen the necessity to have an intensive documentation service in the fast industrialising India and for basing it on continuing research. I acceded to his request to organise this Centre and develop it for a few years. Life soon became exciting. Great was the stimulus received from class-room work of a high order, daily discussions with colleagues, the weekly colloquia, the weekly meetings of the Research Circle, and the annual seminars. This stimulus led, in November 1963, to a break-through across a long persisting barrier in Depth Classification [122]. The new methodology designed at that time has already been applied by a team of colleagues to the designing of schedules for the Personality Facets of the subjects going with about a hundred Basic Classes of industrial value. The splendid behaviour of the postulational approach in designing these schedules has been reassuring.

6 Consolidation and Review of Work

61 BOOKS

Some of the new ideas developed before 1963 had been consolidated in various books such as those of E J Coates [31], Eric de Grolier [36], Z Dobrowolski [49], D J Foskett [52], Jack Mills [86], J H Shera [170], and B C Vickery [176, 177].

62 EL SINORE CONFERENCE

FID/CA continued its work on the theory of classification till

1961. Thereafter its work is being continued by FID/CR. In 1964, FID thought it was time to have a second International Study Conference to review once again the past achievements and to search for new problems for pursuit. The Danish Centre for Documentation, the representative of Denmark on FID, sponsored the Conference. It was held at Hotel Prins Hamlet, Elsinore, Denmark, from 14 to 18 September 1964. In my Presidential Address, I reviewed the progress of the Theory of Classification through a century beginning with 1876. It contained a brief consolidated account of the fundamental work done during the Dorking Period (1957 to 1964). It referred to the Elsinore Period (1965 to 1975) as the Relativity Period and outlined some of the problems to be pursued in the Idea, Verbal, and Notational Planes respectively [138]. This Conference had representatives from more countries and covered a wider field than the Dorking Conference. Its papers gave a cross-section of the forward-thinking in the field of Classification. The Conference made four sets of recommendations [6].

63 RUTGER'S SEMINARS

In 1964, the Rutgers University Graduate School of Library Service inaugurated a series of seminars on each of the current systems for intellectual organisation of information. These were meant to serve as a state-of-the-art contributions and also to serve as a basis for comparison of systems. Each of the seminar papers and proceedings has been published. Of these, those by Jack Mills [88], S R Ranganathan [117], and B C Vickery [178] are directly on classification.

7 Medium for Exchange of New Ideas

During the first six years after the publication of Edition 2, the *Annals of library science* continued to be the chief medium for work done in India. But it slipped out of hands in 1963. Therefore, another quarterly was started in 1964 with the title *Library science with a slant to documentation*. It is sponsored jointly by the Sarada Ranganathan Endowment for Library Science and the DRTC. The papers on Classification appear in it in the five series entitled

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 Classification Problems | 4 Non-conventional Document Retrieval |
| 2 Design Series | |
| 3 Comparison Series | 5 Teaching of Library Science. |

Another medium is the Volume of Papers presented to the Annual Seminar of DRTC, published from 1963 onwards. Some shorter contributions occur also in the Series 'Technical Notes' appearing in the quarterly *Herald of library science* also sponsored by the Sarada Ranganathan Endowment. Other media are *Annals of library science and documentation*, *Iaslic bulletin*, and *Library herald*.

8 New Ideas for Incorporation

The new ideas developed during the last ten years and scattered in the various periodicals have influenced the text of Edition 3. Of the 44 problems for pursuit listed in Chap 88 of Edition 2, 14 have been fully solved and two have been partly solved. These solutions too have been incorporated in this Edition. Thus, the substance of this Edition, like that of its predecessor, has also been developed slowly, laboriously, and step by step.

CHAPTER AE

FEATURES OF EDITION 3 (1967)

1 New Features

Part of the contents of Edition 2 has been lifted out for inclusion in two companion volumes with the titles, *Classification: Retrospective and prospective* and *Depth classification and its design* to be published later. The residual text of Edition 2 has been re-organised and re-written. In the place of the 8 parts of Edition 2 comprehending 64 chapters, this Edition has 23 parts comprehending 187 chapters.

2 Principle of Unity of Idea

I was not satisfied with the extent to which my books had been conforming to the Principle of Unity of Idea. This Principle should be all-pervasive. Apart from each sentence, each paragraph, and each section satisfying the Principle at their respective levels, each chapter also should satisfy the same Principle at a higher level. Further, the chapters themselves should be grouped into different parts, each part conforming to the Principle at a still higher level. In this edition, I seek to implement these ideas.

3 Help in First Reading and in Later Reference

It is found from experience that the paragraphs, sections, and chapters of a book—with the text presented with a strict conformity to the Principle of Unity at all levels—are usually short. They often fall within a single sweep of comprehension. A book presented in this way facilitates reading at the first time. What is even more important, later reference to any specific idea in the book becomes comparatively easy. This is true as much for the author himself as for any other reader.

4 Indian Standards Institution

The Documentation Committee of the Indian Standards Institution is putting up a draft of "Guiding Principles for the Preparation of the Text of a Book and of an Article in a Periodical". This book conforms to that standard to a large degree.

5 Technical Terminology

Throughout the book, the technical terminology for the discipline of classification is developed in instalments appropriate to each context.

6 New Matter

Some of the new ideas developed during the last ten years have led to much of re-thinking. There is therefore more than new wording in some of the chapters. It is particularly so in the chapters of Part R dealing with "Analytico-Synthetic Classification Guided by Postulates and Principles."

7 Conspectus

The names of the chapters, parts, and groups of parts listed in the Contents Page are tell-tale. They thus form a detailed conspectus of the book. Generally speaking, the movement of the text begins with a diagrammatic presentation of the ideas of Classification. Then follows a systematic presentation of the technical ideas and terms involved in the general theory of classification. This is followed by Parts D to M expounding the Normative Principles helpful in designing and applying a scheme for classification. They are also useful in teaching classification. The Parts N to S deal with the theory of classification of subjects. The Parts T and U are on the arrangement of the books sharing the same ultimate class. Part V contains some reflections and ends with a chapter on Problems for Pursuit.

8 Numbering System

In my publications I have been of late making some experiment in the numbering of parts, chapters, and sections. It is continued in this book also.

81 LITERAL NOTATION

Roman capitals are used to number respectively the parts and the chapters in each part. Thus the number AE means "Chapter E of Part A."

82 NUMERAL NOTATION

Numerals are used to number the sections, sub-sections, and paragraphs. These numbers should be read as if they were pure decimal fractions—in other words, a decimal point is taken as understood before the first digit. For example, in "Chapter HB Qualities of Notational System", we have the following sections running consecutively.

6 Block Formation

61 Decimal Classification

7 Facet Formation

Here it can be seen that 'Sub-Sec 61' comes between 'Sec 6' and 'Sec 7'. This is possible only if the numbers are read as pure decimal fractions. If they were read as integers, the sequence would be 6, 7, 61.

83 ADVANTAGE OF DECIMAL FRACTION NOTATION

The advantage of the decimal fraction notation is that it can secure that the idea contained in a sub-section is subordinate to the idea contained in its parent section.

84 INDEX ENTRIES.

The index entries for the section headings of Chap HB mentioned in AE82 will be as follows :

Block formation HB6	Facet formation in notational
Decimal Classification	system HB7
<i>int</i> Block formation HB61	

Each index number consists of the chapter number—viz. HB—followed by the section number. Such an index number makes it possible to provide the index to the text even at the press-copy stage without waiting for the page-proof.

85 DETECTION AND RECTIFICATION OF THE ERRORS IN THE TEXT

The preparation of the index at the press-copy stage gives the additional benefit of discovering gaps, repetitions, and self-contradictions if any in the book and rectifying them, even at the type-script stage.

9 Acknowledgement

In this edition, M A Gopinath, my Research Assistant, has shared with me the work of revision. It is now my policy to take the assistance of my younger colleagues in preparing new editions of books. This is done in the hope that it will help them to develop into competent authors and that there will be some competent young colleague of mine to take care of the future editions of such of my books as may continue to be of value and in demand.

The work of revising the text of Edition 2 and preparing the press-copy of Edition 3 has taken about 2,400 man-hours. This does not include the time taken by secretarial work.



Ranganathan, Shiyali Ramamrita.
Prolegomena to Library Classification. Assisted by M.A. Gopinath. 3rd edition.
Asia Publishing House, 1967.

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