



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

CHAPTER UA

UNIVERSE OF BOOKS AND FORMS OF EXPOSITION

1 Book

A document other than a Periodical Publication—that is, it has been completed or has been intended to be completed in one volume or in a finite number of volumes.

The above definition really connotes what is commonly understood by the term 'Book'.

2 Volume

Physical entity formed of several leaves of paper or other material used for recording either the whole or a part of a work and fastened together so as to be easily opened at any desired place.

21 MULTI-VOLUMED BOOK

A book in two or more volumes deemed to be inseparable and to form a single multi-formed book for classification purposes on the ground that:

1 The set of volumes together give a continuous exposition of the subject treated;

2 The thought-content is so distributed that it is unhelpful to treat each volume as if it were a separate book;

3 The same sequence of pagination is continued in all the volumes of the set; or

4 The set possesses a common index.

3 Pseudo-Classic

A Pedestrian Work—that is, a work not fit to be treated as a Classic—provoking Associated Works such as, evaluations or parodies of itself.

4 Dependent Work

Work got by some modification of another work or by the augmentation of it.

A list of the varieties of Dependent Work is given in CCC [103].

The modification or augmentation, as the case may be, need not necessarily be by the author of the original work. It may also be done by any other person or corporate body. The definitions of some of the varieties of modification are given below.

41 Version. One of several forms of exposition in the same or another language of a work.

If the version has sufficient new qualities in thought and/or

expression, it is deemed to be an independent work in its own right.

42 **Abridgement.**—Reduced form of a work got by condensation and/or omission of details, but retaining the whole general sense and the unity of the original work. Part I of the *Library manual* by S R Ranganathan gives an Abridgement of his work entitled *Five laws of library science*.

43 **Adaptation.**—A version of a work, re-written for a particular purpose, but not so changed as to be deemed an independent work on the basis of its thought and expression.

Part 7 of the *Library manual* by S R Ranganathan is an adaptation, for the use of small libraries, of his work entitled *Colon classification*.

But Lamb's *Tales from Shakespeare* is an independent work, and not an adaptation of Shakespeare's drama on account of its individualistic quality of the subject expounded.

44 **Catechism.**—Work in the form of questions and answers.

45 **Parody.**—Work in which another work is mimicked by imitation.

46 **Translation.**—Work forming the expression of another work in a language different from that of the original but not deserving to be deemed an independent work on the basis of the quality of its subject expounded.

47 **Sequel.**—Work continuing another work.

48 **Concordance.**—An alphabetical index of the principal ideas and/or words in a work, showing the location in the text, generally giving context, and sometimes defining words.

CHAPTER UB

ULTIMATE CLASS AND BOOK NUMBER

1 Ultimate Class of a Book

Ultimate Class of the subject of a book that is, the class of the smallest extension, in the preferred scheme for classification, in which the book can be placed (*See also* Sec JH71).

The documents in the same Ultimate Class will have to be subdivided on the basis of appropriate characteristics, other than for subject. In one practice, the name of the author is used. In another, the year of publication forms the essential basis.

2 Canon of Book Number

A scheme for book classification should include a scheme for book numbers in order to individualise the documents having the same subject as their Ultimate Class and to mechanise their preferred arrangement among themselves.

The book number takes up the individualisation of books at the point where the class number has to leave it as beyond its power.

According to Brown, "Perhaps the most sensible and straightforward way to distinguish books from each other is to rely entirely upon the class number or symbol, plus the lettering on the books themselves. For whatever purpose required, it seems much simpler to arrange books on shelves, in charging systems, in catalogues, or anywhere else, in a plain and easy sequence of authors' names in alphabetical order, under each division or subdivision of a class or subject" [29A].

As against this, Bliss says, "Some librarians ... regard internal notation [book number] as unnecessary. On the contrary it appears that the lack of it in one of the great American libraries makes designation and location of its books very difficult, slow, and uncertain." [20].

My own experience inclines me to uphold the view expressed by Bliss.

Sayers does not appear to express an opinion on this matter.



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CHAPTER UC

INDIVIDUALISATION BY THE NAME OF AUTHOR

1 Author Mark

One method of using the author's name to construct book number is described by Sayers, in the following words: "When the whole question of author marks has been considered, we think something may be said for using the first three letters of the author's name, without any further refinements; at least where books are not charged by combined class marks and author numbers." [164]. Obviously, this simple type of book number cannot individualise

- 1 Different copies of the same book;
- 2 Different editions of the same book;
- 3 Different volumes of a multi-volumed book; (*See Sec UA21*); and
- 4 Books by different authors, the first three letters of whose names are identical.

2 Author Number

The second method of using the author's name to construct the book number as described by Dewey, as consisting of the "Invention of translation systems by which a name is translated into numbers, for example, Freeman, F85." [44]. This serves hardly any purpose. This is perhaps due to a blind mania for numerals, even when the alphabet serves the purpose equally. Much ingenuity has been wasted over the translation of letters into numerals. Four attempts are mentioned below.

3 Cutter Book Number

Examples [34,167]

Ab2	Abbot	B34	Beard	Sm51	Smith
A12	Aldridge	Sch57	Schneider	Sw1	Swain

4 Merrill Book Number

Examples [85,166]

01	A	08	Bax	98	Wit
02	Agre	10	Bix	99	X—Z

5 Jast and Brown Book Number

The Jast Book Numbers [70] and Brown Book Numbers [29] also satisfy the same purpose. But in all these cases, the observations made in Sec UC1 hold good.

CHAPTER UD

INDIVIDUALISATION BY THE YEAR OF PUBLICATION

1 Biscoe Book Number

The first scheme of Book Numbers based on year of publication was worked out by W S Biscoe in 1885. It was called Biscoe Date-Table. It is as follows:

A BC	J 1830 to 1839 A D	S 1920 to 1929 A D
B 1 to 999 A D	K 1840 to 1849 A D	T 1930 to 1939 A D
C 1000 to 1499 A D	L 1850 to 1859 A D	U 1940 to 1949 A D
D 1500 to 1599 A D	M 1860 to 1869 A D	V 1950 to 1959 A D
E 1600 to 1699 A D	N 1870 to 1879 A D	W 1960 to 1969 A D
F 1700 to 1799 A D	O 1880 to 1889 A D	X 1970 to 1979 A D
G 1800 to 1809 A D	P 1890 to 1899 A D	Y 1980 to 1989 A D
H 1810 to 1819 A D	Q 1900 to 1909 A D	Z 1990 to 1999 A D
I 1820 to 1829 A D	R 1910 to 1919 A D	

The Biscoe Book Number will have, thus, a Roman capital as the first digit and the number of the year as the second digit.

11 SHORTNESS

The advantage claimed is that generally a Biscoe Book Number will be short and have only two digits. But, it is obvious that for books published after 2000 A D this cannot be true. I tried a two-digit Book Number based on year of publication beginning with B for 1880-89 and going on to Y for 2090 to 2099 and ZA for 2100 to 2109 [111]. But I felt that it was too selfish of the present generation to manage with two digits and leave the later generations to have three or more digits for the Year Number. On the other hand, we can make the Year Number consist uniformly of three digits if we use a letter to represent a century [115]. This will hold good for three more centuries and perhaps even for ten more centuries.

12 OTHER FACTORS

The Biscoe Book Number allows an extra digit—a Roman small—to be added to individualise two or more books published in the same year in the same ultimate class. But it does not provide for forming language groups among the books belonging to the same ultimate class. Nor does it provide for forming separate groups for each of the forms of exposition. Again, it does not provide for individualising additional copies or the different volumes of one and the same book. This failure will cause an unhelpful mix-up on the shelves. Lastly, it has no means of bringing together

the evaluations of a pedestrian book in juxtaposition to itself. How all this is done in CC is explained in Chap UE.

2 Rider Book Number

Rider has proposed a modification of Biscoe Book Number. He would use the Biscoe Table for the first digit of the Book Number—the digit of the decade of publication. For the second digit, he would use the first letter in the surname of the author. He calls it Two-Symbol Book Number. However, he concedes the need for increasing the number of digits in several cases—such as, the same author publishing two or more books in the same decade in the same ultimate class, or two or more authors having the same initial letters in their surnames. For copies of a book, he prescribes an additional number-group initiated by the letter c. Similarly, for the different volumes of a book he prescribes an additional number-group initiated by the letter v [160]. The Rider Book Number fails to provide for the other factors mentioned in Sec UD12.

CHAPTER UE

COLON BOOK NUMBER

1 Introduction

CC goes the whole hog in the design of Book Number, by introducing facet analysis here also. It takes all possible characteristics likely to arise in the expression of an idea in forming a work and also the characteristics likely to arise in embodying a work in the form of a book. It seeks to provide for all possible contingencies.

2 Facet Formula

The facet formula prescribed by CC is as follows:

[L] [F] [Y] [SN]. [V]-[S]; [C] [EVN] where,

1 L=Number of the Language of exposition, taken from the Language Schedule (See Chap 5, Part 2 of CC).

2 F=Number for the Form of exposition, taken from the Form Schedule (See Chap 02, Part 2 of CC). (See Chap UA for definition of some forms of work).

3 Y=Number for year of publication, taken from the Chronological Schedule (See Chap 3, Part 2 of CC).

4 SN=Serial Number, used to distinguish the different books in the same ultimate class and having the same language and form numbers. This is serially made, beginning with 1 for the second book received in the library or spotted out for inclusion in the bibliography, as the case may be.

5 V=Number for the Volume, taken from the book itself.

6 S=Number for Supplement, taken from the book itself.

7 C=Number for Copy, other than the first, serially made as for SN.

8 EV=Evaluation Number (See Sec UA3 for Pseudo-Classics). The Connecting Digit for a facet is indicated in the facet formula whenever it is necessary.

3 Justification

Each facet has been introduced only on the basis of actual experience gained by observing the reaction of readers while in the stack room and noting some of their remarks. The need for indicating volume number and supplement number is inherent. So also the need for distinguishing, by a serial number, the different works with the same class number, language number, form number, and year number, can be seen easily. In more than ninety per cent of the books, the Book Number will have only the Year Number (See Chap UD).

4 Economy Measure

The forbiddingly long facet formula for Book Number should not lead to the impression that the CC Book Number is a long one. It may be stated at once, that in more than ninety per cent of books and periodicals, the CC Book Number consists only of 3 digits—the number for the year of publication. This is secured by the economy made possible by the concept of Favoured Facet Number as explained below.

41 LANGUAGE NUMBER

1 Each library can find out its favoured language that is, the language in which the library has the largest number of books. The convention is that the Language Number need not be written in the Book Number, if the book is in the favoured language of the library.

2 The class number of a periodical includes the number of its country of publication. Normally, this will indicate its language. Therefore, the convention is that the Language Number need not be written in the Book Number of a volume of a periodical [110].

3 In the case of a book falling within the Basic Subject Literature, the class number contains the number for the languages of the Literature. Therefore, the convention is that the Language Number need not be written in the Book Number of a book in Literature unless the Language of a book is different from the Language of the Literature.

4 In the case of a book falling with the Basic Subject Linguistics, the class number contains the number for the language. Therefore, the convention is that the Language Number need not be written in the Book Number of a book in Linguistics, unless the Language of a book is different from the Language studied.

42 FORM NUMBER

Prose is the form of exposition in the majority of books. It is, therefore, taken as the Favoured Form. Therefore, the convention is that the Form Number need not be written in the Book Number of a book in prose.

43. YEAR NUMBER

The Year Number is the only compulsory number in a Book Number. It will consist of three digits.

44 OTHER FACETS

Comparatively few will require the use of the other facet numbers in a Book Number.

5 Advantage of the Facets

In the few cases in which facet numbers other than Year Number occurs the resulting arrangement is helpful.

Example

We shall take the class number of the book to be B2 Algebra. The following table illustrates the sequence as secured by the CC Book Number. English has been taken as the favoured language and prose as the favoured form of exposition. The ordinal value of the digits used in the CC Book Number is as follows when arranged in the ascending sequence of their absolute values:

- 1 Twenty-four Roman capitals got by omitting I and O;
 - 2 Twenty-three Roman smalls got by omitting i, l, and o;
 - 3 The punctuation marks dot, hyphen, semicolon, and colon;
- and
- 4 The ten Indo-Arabic numerals.

SN	Book Number	Represents
1	J64	1564 A D
2	N67	1967 A D
3	N67.2	1967. Volume 2
4	N67.2-1	1967. Volume 2. Supplement 1.
5	N67;2	1967. Copy 3
6	N67:g	Evaluation of a pedestrian book published in 1967
7	N672	1967. Third book of the year
8	R67	2267 A D
9	mN67	Catechism. 1967
10	vN67	Practical. 1967
11	w1N67	Verse. 1967
12	15J64	Sanskrit. 1564
13	15N67	Sanskrit. 1967.
14	15R67	Sanskrit. 2267.
15	15mN67	Sanskrit. Catechism. 1967.
16	15vN67	Sanskrit. Practical. 1967.
17	15w1N67	Sanskrit. Verse. 1967.

6 Scatter of Editions of a Book

The facet formula of the Book Number given in Sec UE2 will not bring together the successive editions of book. They will be scattered among other books according to their years of publication. In 1947, P S Sundaram, Professor in the Utkal University, wrote to me "When I was student in Madras I found that the Book

Number designed by you was of immense help. No doubt it brought together the different editions of a Work in Literature or of a Classic. But it did not bring together the different editions of an ordinary book—say, the different editions of the book *Johnson* in the English Men of Letters Series. Can you not devise a method to bring them together?" This letter, at least, is a testimony that the facet formula for a Book Number is not very complicated. I wrote to him that the numbers of the years of publication of the successive editions may be used as if they were copy numbers. This Device will bring all the successive editions in the juxtaposition to the first edition.



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