

## UDC Editorial Workshop, The Hague, 21 September 2011: a report

*Sylvie Davies*

*Associate Editor, UDC*

**Abstract:** UDC Editorial Workshop is a meeting of the UDC Editors and UDC Advisory Board and invited guests. The 2011 workshop took place on 21 September 2011, in the Koninklijke Bibliotheek in The Hague and was attended by twenty participants. The focus of the workshop was on the structural issues of the UDC scheme, in particular with respect to the ongoing faceting of the scheme and the way in which this influences the UDC content revision process. The History of the Archive Classifications

The UDC Editorial Workshop 2011 took place on 21 September in The Hague in conjunction with the UDC International Seminar "Classification & Ontology: Formal Approaches and Access to Knowledge", 19-20 September 2011. This one-day workshop in the Koninklijke Bibliotheek, is the second such meeting organized for the members of the UDC Editorial Team and the UDC Advisory Board. The previous in October 2009, was called "The Round Table "UDC Editorial Perspectives", the report on which has been published in the E&C 31 (2009).

The meeting was attended by 20 editors, members of the UDC Advisory Board and guests: Marie Balíková (Czech Republic), Miguel Benito (Spain), Vanda Broughton (UK), Andrew Buxton (UK), Edgardo Civallero (Spain), Ingetraut Dahlberg (Germany), Sylvie Davies (UK), Victoria Frâncu (Romania), Claudio Gnoli (Italy), Agnes Hajdu Barat (Hungary), Alan Hopkinson (UK), Ia C. Mcllwaine (UK), Joan Mitchell (USA), Sirje Nilbe (Estonia), Jiri Pika (Switzerland), Gerhard Riesthuis (Netherlands), Darija Rozman (Slovenia), Andrea Scharnhorst (Netherlands), Aida Slavic (UK) and Nancy Williamson (Canada).

The work on UDC is conducted through distance cooperation using available online communication tools and telephone calls as well as email correspondence. Face-to-face meetings of the entire team are rare and the biennial UDC Seminar which is normally attended by the majority of editors and advisory board members provides an ideal opportunity to meet. Because of the fact that it followed two days of a very dense and demanding conference programme the intention was to make this meeting less formal in structure and presentation to allow for free discussion.

There are many issues in the revision and the development of the scheme that are passed from generation to generation of editors and on which there is no clear consensus and no written policy. For instance, we do not have anything recorded on the pace and sequence of revision plans, whether it is to deal with the vacant class 4 or with rules and procedures in removing enumeration and duplication from the scheme. We are lacking a clear instruction policy on class structure in terms of presentation of facets, special auxiliaries, and of pre-combined classes. These are decisions without which the revision of, for instance, medicine and philosophy cannot proceed. Specifically, we need clear principles for the use of special auxiliary symbols so that we can adjust the database to impose control and enable management of different level of auxiliaries. Since 2010 the editorial team has been collecting and recording rules for schedule presentations but we now find that there are many general issues that need to be more openly discussed, such as the use of parallel divisions and the number of examples of combinations included in the schedule.

Having all this in mind, the objective of the workshop was primarily to enable free and informal exchange of ideas. Several presentations were invited to help initiate and focus the discussion. A. Slavic, the editor-in-chief opened the workshop with the overview of UDC editorial projects and UDC content development in 2010/2011.

.....

Edgardo Civallero, associate editor, presented the plan and the most important issues of the Biology revision project with examples from recent work in the taxonomy of animals, class Vertebrates. He then presented briefly his proposal for the revision of indigenous African languages. Edgardo's presentation was followed by a discussion on the wider problem of ever-changing animal taxonomies and the problem of coordinating different structures.

The guest at the meeting was Joan Mitchell, the editor-in-chief of Dewey Decimal Classification. She presented the recently revised DDC Religion class which drew some of the solutions applied in the revision of UDC Religion class in 2000. In order to avoid disturbances in the previously used classes, DDC has made provision for an alternative arrangement of classes which can be browsed in real library setting on personal mobile devices i.e. using Quick Response code and smart phone technology.

Claudio Gnoli, associate editor, spoke about the second phase of the UDC Philosophy revision project which he is leading. Claudio's concerns are indeed linked to the lack of clear guidance on how to present faceted schedules. In his work on philosophy he is trying to follow the pattern of facet presentation introduced in the class 2 Religion by Vanda Broughton. Nevertheless, there are different ways in which one can introduce facets and enable facet combination. The main issue is that some concepts which need to be combined and re-used within the field of philosophy actually reside in facets outside the field of philosophy (e.g. place and time auxiliaries or other main numbers in special philosophies). These need to be introduced in such a way that the sequence of philosophy facets within a classmark is not disturbed. The problem of faceted presentation of schedules introduced by Claudio was then further emphasised in the presentation on progress in the revision of Medicine, presented by UDC editors Nancy Williamson and la C. McIlwaine. The topic on the faceting of UDC was then discussed in more details following the presentation by Vanda Broughton on Facet analysis in BC2 and possibilities of application to UDC. As the day closed to an end Marie Balíková, the editor and member of the UDC Executive Committee, presented the UDC translation database which the National Library of the Czech Republic is using to prepare the next Czech edition.

Although we planned to hear more about the standard pocket edition and UDC Summary, it came a point when we had exhausted our allocated time on discussing details of structure, faceting and organization and presentation of concepts in general, which was the primary goal anyway. Even though we all regularly communicate via email the intensity and openness of the discussion at the face-to-face meeting provided much needed interactions and much quicker and efficient exchange of ideas. This was particularly beneficial for new members such as myself. No doubt this meeting has provided to the editorial team many thoughts to build upon.

#### References:

Slavic, A. The round table "UDC editorial perspectives": a report. *Extensions and Corrections to the UDC*, 31 (2009), pp. 19-23. Also available at: <http://hdl.handle.net/10150/118425>