**Editorial Policy Committee Meetings 2014/2015**

**Combined Reports.**

**EPC Meeting 137, scheduled for 8-9 June 2014 took place at OCLC headquarters in Dublin Ohio.**

It was a rather unusual meeting in a number of ways, with only two editorial staff present, making the recording of formal minutes somewhat difficult as normal procedure generally involves two editorial staff taking minutes while another is giving any formal presentations of Exhibits.

Representatives on the EPC itself were fewer than the usual ten. For various reasons some were unable to attend and others, whose library systems had been affected by massive funding cuts were unable to remain on the Committee so were regrettably lost to us.

OCLC itself has been affected adversely by economic factors and changes in the way libraries are choosing to fund and process their collections and has itself let go (an interesting euphemism for dismissed) a very large number of Technical Services staff and made a number of critical realignments in its corporate structures.

Dewey has always functioned on a self- sustaining cost recovery basis funded basically by sales of the printed Dewey which most of us are familiar with, but purchasing patterns suggest that this is no longer a reliable model as even major users are now buying far fewer print copies and using the WebDewey as the working tool of choice. It is certainly possible to print particular parts of Dewey if required but the current print edition will be the last one issued in that format.

OCLC had been going through major organisational reorganisation and although the original agreement with the then bodies having ownership of the DDC contained assurances that it would be maintained as a self- sustaining entity within OCLC an organisation which has a primary focus really on marketing its services there was some very real concern that Dewey with its importance as an international standard was not entirely understood as a resource underpinning much of what OCLC does by new Senior Management.

The Committee had a frank and wide ranging discussion about the classification’s importance as an international standard and the value derived from this status for knowledge organisation. As such it can be leveraged into a variety of products , not just for classification but also for knowledge discovery. The Committee resolved to take whatever steps deemed necessary to convey the importance of maintaining the Classification to OCLC management including support from national bodies if required.

Fortunately OCLC has assured interested parties that it is wholly supportive of Dewey which is now within a new Directorate together with Metadata and associated technologies and after discussions with the Library of Congress EPC Meetings will again alternate between Washington DC and Dublin Ohio.

The European Dewey User’s Group which has a considerable number of member countries using Dewey in innovative ways not necessarily for classification were strongly supportive of the maintenance of the EPC and of Dewey as an international standard.

Among other topics on a crowded agenda were included proposals related to the display of history notes, as well as the display of period tables in the 890s, both driven by the user experience in [WebDewey](http://dewey.org/webdewey). Several proposals were approved to clarify actions already intended or allowed:

1. the use of **T1—028 Auxiliary techniques and procedures; apparatus, equipment, materials** to express 3D printing applications;
2. interpretation of regional groups in Table 5 to mean regional groups viewed as a whole population, as if they were national groups;
3. the ability to add notation **T1—0901–09050901–0905 Historical periods** **to 930-990: 004 Ethnic and national groups**, when appropriate; and
4. the classification of personal bibliographies for people associated with a subject in [**016**](http://dewey.info/class/016/e23/about.en) **Bibliographies and catalogues of works on specific subjects**.

Other proposals approved included:

1. updates to the classification in Table 2 for Peru and Greece;
2. provision under [**306.44**](http://dewey.info/class/306.44/e23/about.en) **Language** to add Table 6 notation;
3. regularization of **T1—08 Groups of people** treatment under [**346.013**](http://dewey.info/class/346.013/e23/about.en) **Capacity and status of persons**;
4. expansions in Table 4 and the 400s for schools, theories, methodologies of linguistics;
5. a very thorough updating of developments for land vehicles in transportation’s [**388.34**](http://dewey.info/class/388.34/e23/about.en) **Vehicles** and also engineering’s [**629.22**](http://dewey.info/class/629.22/e23/about.en) **Types of vehicles**
6. we also updated the 900s in an attempt to untangle the new archaeology developments from historical periods for several regions**.**

Two areas in which EPC has considered proposals over the course of multiple meetings—weapons and angiosperms—were also represented at Meeting 137. The next step for weapons would be a completely worked out proposal for EPC review and approval. The next step for angiosperms is also a fully developed proposal; here we are proposing to adopt a new taxonomic basis so you will be hearing more on both these areas in due course.

The committee considered discussion papers on the law of indigenous peoples, medieval European law, and Native American topics. These will return to EPC as fully developed proposals at a later meeting.

The meeting was also given presentations on a new website for the Dewey Section at the Library of Congress, [Fiction Finder](http://ddc.typepad.com/025431/2014/05/fiction-finder-and-dewey-part-1-folk-literature-and-films.html), topic enhancement of the DDC, and synonym management in the Relative Index.

At the follow-up electronic meeting scheduled for September 2014 but which took place somewhat later, Meeting 137A , considered exhibits on the possibility of base numbers in add instructions ending in 0, computer science updates, digital collections, local church, 21st century art styles, winter sports, and the treatment and display of numbers for comprehensive and interdisciplinary works.

**EPC Meeting 138, scheduled for 8-9 June 2015 took place at the Library of Congress in Washington DC.**

This meeting signalled the beginning of a new regime of regularly alternating EPC Meetings at OCLC and the Library of Congress. Meetings at the Library allow the expert Classifiers from the Dewey Decimal Classification Section to attend sessions of the Meeting and give valuable input to the EPC in their areas of expertise.

In some ways it was a rather peculiar Meeting, as quite suddenly a few days prior to the meeting the Editor in Chief Michael Panzer left the employ of OCLC. As part of the overall reorganizational restructure that has taken place while there will no longer be a position with that particular title the particular responsibilities will remain as part of a wider role including metadata and other significant technological linkages.

During the Meeting EPC members reviewed a number of Exhibits from across the schedules. Included among the changes approved, for example, were the political ideology of Malcolm X, human trafficking, applied linguistics (e.g., language education), angiosperms (flowering plants), diets that exclude specific foods (e.g., gluten-free cooking, dairy-free foods), lacrosse, and the period of post-apartheid South Africa. Other topics considered by EPC, which are likely to reappear in more detailed Exhibits in the future, include information storage and retrieval systems, private military companies, power systems of electric engines, and attack airplanes and close support aircraft.

The angiosperms development represents the culmination of a multiyear effort to adopt the taxonomy of the Angiosperm Phylogeny Group and will be posted for worldwide review by the end of the summer. EPC also gave advice on a new long-term effort to represent the sovereign nation status of indigenous peoples.

Meeting at the Library of Congress (LC) gave us the opportunity to hear from Beacher Wiggins (Director for Acquisitions & Bibliographic Access at LC), who shared information on LC’s upcoming BIBFRAME pilot (Beacher characterized it as the first step of the first phase of the first pilot) which was to commence within a matter of weeks; he also talked about the internationalization of the RDA governance structure.  An EPC / Dewey Section Forum allowed EPC members to hear about the experience not only of those who are full-time DDC classifiers in the Dewey Section of LC, but also of others at LC who assign Dewey numbers. LC has been cross-training LC classifiers in the art of Dewey classification for some time now, in order to streamline processes and spread expertise somewhat wider than the Dewey Section.

It was interesting to hear the report from Regina Reynolds (ISSN Coordinator at LC) on the assignment of Dewey numbers to ISSN records. Diane Vizine-Goetz (Senior Research Scientist at OCLC) presented an update on FAST (Faceted Application of Subject Terminology) headings. There was also an interesting and informative discussion on end user views of Dewey led by [Carol Bean](http://staff.oclc.org/~dewey/carol.htm) which focussed on some of the ways in which the DDC could be used in the discovery process rather than confined to the usual stereotype of ‘mark and park’ so often held by people unfamiliar with the constant revision and work invested to keep the Schedules as up to date and modern as possible within the basic principles of its developmental rules.

Anne M Robertson
Australian Representative
Australian Committee on Cataloguing