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Dewey Section

To: Jonathan Furner, Chair  
Decimal Classification Editorial Policy Committee

Cc: Members of the Decimal Classification Editorial Policy Committee  
Karl E. Debus-López, Chief, U.S. Programs, Law, and Literature Division

From: Rebecca Green, Assistant Editor  
Dewey Decimal Classification  
OCLC Online Computer Library Center, Inc.

Via: Michael Panzer, Editor in Chief  
Dewey Decimal Classification  
OCLC Online Computer Library Center, Inc.

Re: 306.44 Language

Expansions

306.442	Anthropological linguistics, ethnolinguistics, sociolinguistics of a specific language
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Quoting from EPC Exhibit 137-29, in which the need for expansion under 306.44 Language is discussed:

**Classified works**

Periodic profiles of the distribution of classified works across the classification constitute one sort of literary warrant based on descriptive statistics. These profiles can be used to identify appropriate expansions or reductions.

For example, we see below the current development under 306.44, which is part of the Sociology schedule. The topical scope of 306.44 is quite broad, with only bilingualism and multilingualism, on the one hand, and language planning and policy, on the other, having their own numbers. Are there other aspects of 306.44 that should be developed further?

306.44 Language

Including pragmatics

Class here anthropological linguistics, ethnolinguistics, sociolinguistics

306.446 Bilingualism and multilingualism

306.449 Language planning and policy

306.449 4–.449 9 Specific continents, countries, localities in modern world

Add to base number 306.449 notation 4–9 from Table 2, e.g.,  
language policy of India 306.44954

Table 1 displays the growth in the use of 306.44 itself over the past six five-year time periods. During this time, the number of records<sup>1</sup> classed at 306.44 have increased twenty-fold, as shown in the middle column. The right-most column shows how many of the works classed in 306.44 were specific to English, French, German, and Spanish, numbers that have increased thirty-fold over the same time period, with a particular boost in recent years. These statistics suggest that an expansion under 306.44 in which the specific language can be expressed is warranted.

<b>Time period</b>	<b>Records retrieved</b>	<b>Language-specific</b>
1981–1985	120	14
1986–1990	412	59
1991–1995	912	134
1996–2000	1230	163
2001–2005	1603	199
2006–2010	2369	446

**Table 1. Use of 306.44, 1981–2010.**

Michael Cantlon, the LC classifier who works in this area, has on several occasions lamented to me the current impossibility of adding Table 6 notation to allow specification of the anthropological linguistics, ethnolinguistics, or sociolinguistics of a specific language. A

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<sup>1</sup> Unless specified otherwise, numbers of records retrieved represent raw results, neither grouped by work, nor weighted by number of holdings, as would often be most appropriate.

sufficient number of the works are locale-specific, making it appropriate to provide further for the addition of Table 2 notation after the addition of Table 6 notation.

We propose to accommodate such additions in 306.4422–306.4429:

306.442            Anthropological linguistics, ethnolinguistics, sociolinguistics of a specific language

Add to base number 306.442 notation 2–9 from Table 6, e.g., sociolinguistics of French 306.44241; then add 0\* and to the result add notation 1–9 from Table 2, e.g., sociolinguistics of French in Quebec 306.442410714

Subdivisions are added for any or all topics in heading

\*Add 00 for standard subdivisions; see instructions at beginning of Table 1

The question has been raised whether any relocation from 306.446 or 306.449 is required by this development. None is needed: (1) the development under 306.442 concerns a (single) specific language, while works classed at 306.446 concern more than a single language; (2) works classed at 306.442 treat language topics from a descriptive perspective, while works classed under 306.449 treat language topics from a prescriptive perspective.