

UNIT 5

Introduction to Various Schemes of Library Classification, DDC, Concept of Main Class and PMEST

5.0 Unit Overview & Description

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5.1 Introduction

5.2 Various schemes of Library Classification

- 5.2.1 Dewey Decimal Classification
- 5.2.2 Library of Congress Classification
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- 5.2.4 Colon Classification
- 5.2.5 Bibliographic Classification

5.3 Main Class

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5.0 Unit Overview & Description

In this unit you will be exposed to some major classification schemes. You will also be able to get information about main class and five fundamental categories.

This unit will impart following **knowledge and skill**:

- Become familiar with the major classification schemes
- Know the main Class
- Understand the Five Fundamental Categories

Resource Material:

1. Krishan Kumar. Theory of classification. New Delhi: Vikas Publishing House, 1994.
2. Srivastava A.P. Theory of knowledge classification for Librarians. New Delhi: The Learning Laboratory, 1992.

3. Hussain, Shabahat. Library classification: facets and analysis. New Delhi: Tata McGraw Hill, 1993.
4. Raju, AAN. Decimal, Universal Decimal & Colon Classification. Madras: Ajanta Publications, 1984.
5. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dewey_Decimal_Classification
6. http://www.oclc.org/dewey/versions/print/new_features.pdf

Duration: 20 hrs

Learning outcomes:

Unit -5: Introduction to various schemes of Library Classification, DDC, Concept of main PMEST	Outcomes
5.1 Introduction	Awareness of different Classification Scheme
5.2 Some major classification scheme	Understand different classification schemes such as. i. Dewey Decimal Classification ii. Library of Congress Classification iii. Universal Decimal Classification iv. Colon Classification v. Bibliographic Classification
5.3. Main Class	Identify main class
5.4. Five Fundamental Categories	List five fundamental categories of a Main class/ Subjects

Assessment Plan: (for the teachers)

Unit - 5	Topic	Assessment Method	Time Plan	Remarks
5.2	Some major classification scheme	Exercise: Question Answer		
5.3	Main Class	Exercise: Question Answer		
5.4	Five Fundamental Categories	Exercise: Question Answer		

5.1 Introduction:

Classification is a process of grouping. It involves putting together like entities and separating unlike entities. Library Classification is a technique, which helps in the organisation of documents and

information so that the user can use sources of information effectively. The Library Classification scheme was started with the publication of Dewey decimal classification (DDC) in 1876. By adopting different approach, many Library professionals have tried to develop different classification scheme. Some other major classification schemes are:

- C.A. Cutters Expensive Classification in 1979
- Library of congress classification in 1901
- James Duff Brown's Subject Classification in 1906
- Paul Otlet and Henri La Fontaine's Universal Decimal Classification in 1905
- S. R. Ranganathan's Colon Classification in 1933.

Review question

1. Match the following:

A	B
a. C. A. Catters expensive classification	1933
b. Library of coyrees classification	1905
c. Subject Classification	1979
d. Universal Decimal Classification	1906
e. Colon Classification	1901

5.2 Various Schemes of Library Classification:

In this unit, we will study major classification scheme in brief.

5.2.1 Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC):

DDC was developed by Melvil Dewey and was first published in 1876. The latest edition of DDC is 23rd edition. The 1st edition was of single volume with 44 pages however the 23rd edition is of 4 vols. It uses decimal numbers (i.e. 0 to 9) to divide the entire knowledge into 10 main classes. Division of main classes are hierarchical and minute. For small libraries abridged edition of DDC is brought out. The present abridged edition is 15th edition in single volume. It is the most popular classification scheme being used by over 200,000 libraries in 138 countries. It is translated into many languages.

5.2.2 Library of Congress Classification (LC):

LC was first published in 1904 by the Library of Congress for their own collection. It is a purely enumerative classification scheme. It consists of 21 classes in 29 parts and 45 volumes and is the bulkiest of all the classification system. Main classes are denoted by alphabets:

A	Generalia	L	Education
B	Philosophy and Religion	M	Music
C/F	History	N	Fine arts

G	Geography	P	Language and Literature
H	Social Sciences	Q	Science
J	Political Science	R	Medicine
K	Law	S	Agriculture
T	Technology	V	Naval Science
U	Military Science	Z	Library Science & Bibliography

The alphabets I, O, W, X, Y are still vacant. Further divisions are again denoted by alphabets:

Q	Science	QC	Physics
QA	Mathematics	QD	Chemistry
QB	Astronomy		

Further subdivisions are by numerals:

QD	Chemistry
71-142	Analytical Chemistry
156-197	Inorganic Chemistry
241-44	Organic Chemistry

5.2.3 Universal Decimal Classification (UDC):

UDC was developed by Paul Otlet and Henri La Fontaine. The first international edition was developed in 1905 in French entitled *Manual du repertoire bibliographique universel*. DDC is the base for developing UDC. This is an almost faceted scheme. It is available in three versions:

Full edition	2, 21,000 terms
Medium edition	70,000 terms (30% of full version)
Abridged edition	20,000 terms (10% of full version)

English edition is published by the British standards Institution as B.S: 1000. The entire field of knowledge has been divided into 9 main classes, from 1 to 9 (with the use of 0 also as the tenth class).

These ten broad classes are:

- 0 Generalities, Science and knowledge, Organization, Information etc.
- 1 Philosophy Psychology
- 2 Religion Theology
- 3 Social Sciences, Economics, Law, Government etc.
- 4 Vacant
- 5 Mathematics and natural Science
- 6 Applied Sciences, Medicine, Technology

- 7 The Arts, Recreation, Entertainment, Sport
- 8 Language, Linguistics, Literature
- 9 Geography, Biography History.

A decimal point is usually placed after every three digits, merely to serve as a visual aid.

UDC uses following five species of digits:

- 26 Roman Caps
- 26 Roman Smalls (when alphabetical device is used)

Punctuation Marks	“ ”	(double inverted commas)
	-	(hyphen)
	.	(decimal points)
	'	(apostrophe)
	:	(colon)
	::	(double colon)
Mathematical Symbol	()	(parenthesis)
	[]	(brackets)
	=	(equal sign)
	+	(plus sign)
	/	(slash or strokes)

5.2.4 Colon Classification (CC):

The Colon Classification was designed by S.R. Ranganathan and first published in 1933 by Madras Library Association. It is a freely faceted classification scheme. It uses a mixed notation. It consists of:

- Indo-Arabic numerals 1-9
- Roman alphabet - both capitals and lower case, A to Z and a to z
- Parenthesis ()
- Indicator digits

It had three distinct parts: Rules, Schedule and index. The Colon Classification is now in its seventh edition (1987).

The colon was used as a notational device for synthesis. The use of the symbol ':' was an important part of the scheme. Therefore, the scheme was named Colon Classification. The concept of five fundamental categories (Personality, Matter, Energy, Space and Time) (PMEST) are introduced in the 2nd edition of the CC.

5.2.5 Bibliographic Classification (BC):

Bibliographic Classification (BC) was developed by H.E. Bliss in 1953. The 2nd edition, known as BC-2 was prepared by J. Mills in UK. It is a faceted classification scheme.

The main Classes are:

A	Philosophy, Mathematics etc.	Q	Social Welfare
B/G	Physics, Natural Sciences	R	Political Science
H	Man, Anthropology	S	Law
I	Psychology	T	Economics
J	Education	U	Technology
K	Social Science	V	Fine Arts
L/O	History	W	Language and Literature
P	Religion (Alternative Z)	Z	Religion (Alternative P)

This scheme is not very popular.

Review question

- Write a brief note on Dewey Decimal Classification Scheme?
- What are different notations used in colon classification?

5.3 Main Class:

S. R. Ranganthan defined Main Class as “the fairly homogeneous, conventional regions of knowledge, which together form the first order array of classes. Which are mutually exclusive and totally exhaustive of the field of knowledge.

In other words, any class enumerated in the first order array of a scheme of classification of the universe of knowledge is categorised as main class.

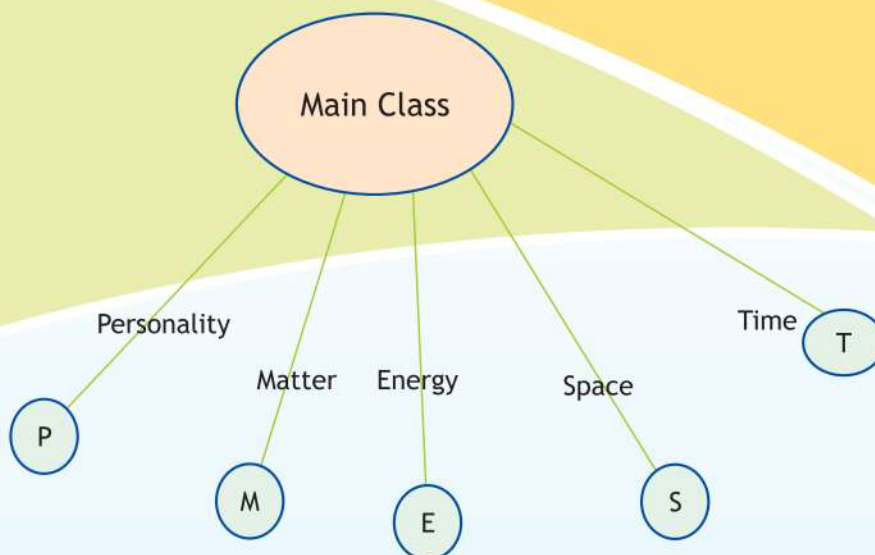
The classes which appear as the major divisions of the universe of knowledge are the main classes in that scheme. This also means that main class is not a very precise term. Once the knowledge is organised into a number of main classes, the next step is to mark out for each main class the facets which are likely to be presented by subject falling within it.

Review question

- Define main class?

5.4 Five Fundamental Categories:

Main class (or a subject) is divided into Five Fundamental Categories:



We may say that these are the five aspects of a subject.

Ranganathan has postulated five fundamental categories, namely: Personality, Matter, Energy, Space and Time.

According to him most of the subjects are divisible in these five categories. That is, a subject may have a Personality aspect, a Matter aspect, an Energy aspect, a Space aspect and a Time aspect.

5.4.1 Time: It indicates that the entities under different subjects must go on changing in its structure, meaning, history, development etc. with the progress of time. Time occurs under every main class. So all possible divisions of time including century, decade, year, month, day, hour etc. together may form a facet of a subject. In CC we find a “Chronological Table” and this can be applied to any subject requiring facet. In DDC, we find that Time as a facet of a subject has been used under the classes History, Literature and at other places. The need for this facet is due to the necessity of distinguishing between the documents on a Subject differing only from the point of view of time.

Example: Science of 20th century is different from 19th century.

5.4.2 Space: Most of the subjects, if not all, got manifested, in relation with continents, countries and their sub-divisions. In CC, there is a schedule of Geographical Division which can be attached to a subject. In DDC, we find the space facet applicable under the class History and throughout the scheme.

Example. Economic Condition of India is different from Economic condition of USA.

5.4.3 Energy: It covers the problems, actions, including methods, functioning etc. aspects of a main class. Energy are generally important actions in the subject and command a greater influence on the subject from two directions. One is, when they are in general reference to the class and the second when they refer to the organs of the subject individually. Both CC and DDC incorporate fundamental category energy in their main classes.

Example. In the subject Medicine, diagnosis or treatment falls under the facet energy. It shows action. In agriculture, ploughing is energy. In education teaching is energy.

5.4.4 Matter: According to B.C. Vickery, matter comprises constituent materials of all kinds. Matter facet is inherent in many subjects falling within main subjects. 7th edition of CC has given a very large scope to the “Matter” facet. There are three groups of matter viz. “Matter Property” [MP], “Matter Method” [MM] and “Matter Material” [Mmt]

Examples of : **Matter Properly [MP]**

Main Subject	MP
Library Science	Classification, Cataloguing
Education	Thinking, Reasoning
Matter Method [MM]	
Arithmetic	Elementary arithmetical analytical
Drawing	Pencil drawing, Ink Drawing
Matter Material [Mmt]	
Technology	Product
Biology	Substance

5.4.5 Personality: According to Mills, “Personality is used to describe those facets of any subject which are generally unique to that subject and which give it its essential character or personality. Personality is the first facet in many subjects and it is often experienced that the other facets work as attributes of personality for its further sub division. Matter, Energy, Space and Time are often required in relation with personality facet, and it is comparatively in lesser degree that they are required in direct relation with the main class, as a whole, wherein personality also remains diffused. Ranganathan found a way out to recognize personality by the method of residue i.e. when it cannot be any other fundamental category it is assigned to personality.

Example: Crops in Agriculture, human body in medicine etc. are personality isolates.

Personality is also spread into a number of levels like P1, P2, P3 and so on. The different levels are arranged with the help of helpful sequence.

Review question

- Name the fundamental categories of a main class (or a subject)?
- Write a brief note on the fundamental category “Matter”?

5.5 Summary:

Modern Classification system was started with the publication of DDC in 1876 and was designed by Melvil Dewey. It is the most popular classification scheme and used by maximum libraries in the world. UDC based on DDC was designed as a bibliographic classification of micro literature. It is available in three versions full, medium and abridged editions. CC was designed in 1933 by S.R. Ranganathan. It's notation is complex and has a mixed base. The Library of Congress classification on the other hand, was designed for the Library of Congress, USA. The Bibliographic Classification was designed by H.E. Bliss and first published in 1953 in USA. S.R. Ranganathan described a subject into five fundamental categories i.e. Personality, Matter, Energy, Space and Time (PMEST).

5.6 Exercise:

1. Name the major Library Classification Scheme?

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2. Explain the Dewey Decimal classification scheme?

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3. Why Ranganathan's classification scheme is known as colon classification system?

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- b. Explain the fundamental categories personality with examples.

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4. Explain the fundamental categories "Energy" with an example.

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