

LIBRARY HERALD

Vol 59 No 3

September 2021

A Comparative Analysis of Structural Layout Changes in 1st To 23rd Edition of Dewey Decimal Classification Scheme

SATARUPASAHA*

DR. SUDIPRANJAN HATUA**

Dewey Decimal classification's 1st to 23rd editions have created a glorious history during its 146 years of publication. It's every edition has been published after a time span with new modifications. Almost every edition of DDC came with certain modifications by addition of new facets, or deletion or modification of existing facets by reflecting contemporary new subjects. DDC has grown steadily over time and lots of structural changes occur to cope up new knowledge. This paper discusses the significant changes in structural outer layout of DDC upto the 23rd edition. Methodology includes the study over the all editions of the DDC's editorial page, and some previous related literature. DDC has followed uniform policy at the time of publication of its new edition. In light of the findings of this study, it is noted that DDC structural changes have made it acceptable and appreciated to all.

Keywords: Dewey Decimal classification, Table, Relative Index, Editorial Policy Committee, Relative Index.

0 INTRODUCTION

Starting from its first edition published in 1876 DDC has moved a long way and has created a history behind it. Satija¹; Barui & Bhattacharjee² have shown the DDC's glorious journey as a knowledge classification scheme. It is now adopted by over 138 countries published in over 30 languages and used by over 2 lakh information centres and national libraries in the world DDC has proved itself to be an ideal reflection of the trends and development of the

* Librarian, Surendranath Evening College & Senior Research Scholar, Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata, West Bengal, India.

** Associate Professor, DLIS, Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata, West Bengal, India.

universe of knowledge. Pal & Bhattacharjee³; Bhattacharjee⁴ said that DDC has been started as an enumerative hierarchical classification scheme reflected facets from general to specific classes. It is depicted as discipline wise classification scheme not the subject-wise classification. According to Mortimer⁵ the revision of any classification scheme is not really easy task but as situation and time demanded this scheme was revised time to time by 'OCLC and DC editorial policy committee' along with 'European Dewey' user group. As a result DDC is available in full edition, abridge edition and also in electronic version.

Though there are lots of literature available in this area but the work up to latest edition is not reviewed warrant by any researcher. This paper also highlights several aspects in the outline and structure of DDC which also hardly found any previous literature. A continuous revision policy of DDC has been adopted by OCLC. Taylor⁶ said that any new changes, new entries or updates occur in DDC at the first half of each months. All the corrections of errors, classification updating or expansion are available in the Dewey Home Page. Updating tools are used "Tips",

"LCSH/DDC mappings" and "WebDewey, quarterly enhancements." The released new editions are available in print medium based on "Print on Demand" and the new policy published in the DDC's home page.

1 LITERATURE REVIEW

Comaromi⁷, highlighted thoroughly the DDC's invention history to publication in details. He explained up to 18th edition how the class numbers are being created; how topics have been transferred from one to another number and how the schedules and relative index have been added the new topics. He has listed a number of misfit class numbers in the schedule. His subsequent editions also described how the topics have changed. Contributions of Swartz, Cutter and others have mentioned behind the history of making DDC. Satija & Comaromi⁸ depicted that hierarchical relations in the discipline, ingenious use of decimal notation and the relative index. Dhyani⁹ described the invention history of DDC with some highlighting features of different editions of DDC. She pointed out the completely revised topics in the schedule and also mentioned which class numbers have been changed in the schedules and tables. Mehta¹⁰ describes conceptual framework of summaries of the ten main class and also elaborates the hierarchical structure and notational arrangement. Satija¹¹, explained in this book the importance of library classification and explain how DDC revised its format, revision policy and service to users from 19th to 23rd editions. With this literary warrant it has found that there is a

missing of complete work from 1st to 23rd edition at a glance. Where Comaromi⁷, Satija⁸ and Dhayni⁹ have mainly concentrated to the internal structural changes facet analysis etc. within specific editions this work tries to find out the outer structural changes of all 23 editions of DDC at a glance.

2 OBJECTIVES

1. To understand the changes of outer structural layout of DDC in its all editions broadly.
2. To specifically find out the changes of title, table, volume & pages, volume (schedule) & pages, relative index and manual, changes publisher, editors and editorial board of new facets time to time in all the editions of DDC.

3 METHODOLOGY

To fulfil the research the survey and study method has been adopted with exhaustive editorial studies of all the editions of DDC and lots of literature warrants like articles, conference proceedings have been consulted and studies. For study of 1st to 20th editions of DDC the archive.org website has been used.

4 MODIFICATION

41 TITLE OF DDC

The title of any book generally shows what the book is about. The title of the DDC has been changed almost in its every edition. It only sustains during 4th to 10th edition, 11th to 13th and long term sustains from 16th to 23rd edition [see annexure-1]. DDC gives more importance to concise and familiar title so that it could express the exact characteristics of the book. It has been noticed that the title of DDC explain everything of the respective editions. It is observed that there were major changes occurring in the title immediately in the respective editions from its previous counterpart of most of its editions.

42 TABLES

Auxiliary tables of classification schemes are used for preparing class numbers and provide lists of symbols which make the schedule mnemonic in nature. DDC has revised and made up to date all the tables as per the needs over time. The 1st edition of DDC was published without a table. 'Table' was introduced in its 2nd edition. Interestingly it is observed that the inclusion of auxiliary tables have changed in its various editions as shown in table 1.

Ed.	1	2-13	14	15-16	17	18-21	22-23
Table	×	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
No	0	5	4	1	3	7	6

Table 1: Table of DDC editions wise

Tables are constituted for geographical division, form divisions, languages, philological divisions, the forms of literature etc. In the beginning, these tables were identified as the form division, it was continued up to the 13th edition. In 14th edition it is used under the heading ‘Supplementary table’. Tables were enlisted as T-1 geographical, T-2 uniform subdivision, T-3 languages and pieces of literature and T-4 Philologic divisions. In 15th & 15th revised edition and 16th edition were published with 01-09 conventional form divisions along with the tables, without any detailed of sub-divisions. Panigrahi¹² mentioned that ‘Form divisions’ was replaced by “Standard Subdivisions’ in the 17th edition, along with new area table in respect of ‘geographic divisions’, and ‘special author table for William Shakespeare’. Table for college and university publications was also attached. The seven auxiliary tables appear for the 1st time in its 18th to 21st edition. Some changes have been noticed in the 20th edition and 21st edition. The table 3 was subdivided into three sections. The major changes have been noticed in the 22 edition where table number 7 completely omitted. Its contents have been shifted partially to the standard subdivision T1-08.

43 VOLUME (SCHEDULE) AND PAGES

Dewey Decimal Classification is steadily growing & revised to keep pace with knowledge, therefore pages also increasing with volumes. Guha¹³ explained that 1st edition (1876) of DDC contained 44 pages including the title page and 2,000 index entries, and the title page didn’t carry the name of Melvil Dewey. The 10 pages of introduction and from page 11 begins schedules and 18 pages comprise the index, it’s called subject index, from page 23 to 40 in one volume and last of schedule pages 41 to 42 has explanation and 44 pages gives information about subject catalogue. Mitchell and Vizine-Goetz¹⁴ show that 1st volume was published only thousand copies.

The number of volumes and pages in different editions are shown in the following table 2

Edition	Volume	Total Pages	Remarks
1 st	1	44p.	
2 nd – 12 th	1	314p. - 1243p.	Contains Schedule, Tables and RI
13 th – 17 th	2	1647p.- 2153p.	V1- Table V2- Schedule and RI
18 th -19 th	3	18 th -2718 p. 19 th - 3385p.	V1- Table, V2- Schedule, V3- RI
20 th – 23 rd	4	20 th -3388 p. 21 st - 4115p. 22 nd - 4076p. 23 rd - 4173p.	V1- introduction/tables, V2- schedule with Class No. 000-599, V3- consisted with Class No. 600-999, V4-RI

Table -2: DDC Volumes and pages

A Manual was first published in 1982 as a supplement to DDC 19th edition; it was fully integrated into the system in its 20th edition.

44 RELATIVE INDEX AND MANUAL

Gangu & Rao¹⁵ opine wrote that index can be a very useful tool for identification of newly evolved topics, over 150 pages have been added for new entries in each edition. Dhyani¹⁶ said that unnecessary entries were weeded out and pages reduced from 1218 pages to 730 pages in 20th edition. In the 1st edition it was as a subject index but it has been appeared as relative index in the 2nd edition is so called because it is show to relationship of specific topic to one or more other related topic.

The manual is a ready reference guide to the classifier for the use of DDC. It promotes uniformity of number building since the class number are liable to varying interpretations. Information in the manual is arranged in the table schedule.

45 CHANGES IN PUBLISHER

DDC has a long history (146 years) of expansion and adaptation to the needs of the communities it serves. Suresha, Narayanaswamy¹⁷, have shown that DDC's 1st to 7th editions were copyrighted to the Library Bureau. In 1924 its copyright was transferred to Lake Placid Club Education Foundation. After the death of Dewey in 1931, the trustees of the Foundation made Forest Press in 1933 as its subsidiary for bringing out subsequent editions of Dewey Decimal Classification scheme. The Forest Press was a subsidiary agency of the OCLC. Its functions came to an end in July 1988 and then onwards DDC has been published directly by the OCLC. But, in '1961 the Lake Placid Club Education Foundation delegated all copyrights in classification to the Forest Press'. Sarma & Majumder¹⁸ stated that 'in 1988 the Forest Press became a division of OCLC (Online Computer Library Centre, Inc.) and since then subsequent editions have been copyrighted by the OCLC (Online Computer Library Centre, Inc.)' wrote, 'OCLC has decided to provide license to the production of DDC related products to library vendors and has focused internal efforts on the full and abridged editions of the DDC in print and electronic versions'.

46 EDITORS AND EDITORIAL BOARD

The contribution of the Editorial Board behind the success of DDC is undeniable. The Dewey decimal classification scheme was conceived by Melvil Dewey in 1873 and first published in 1876. Its outline was planned and drafted by Dewey. 2nd and 3rd editions were edited under the supervision of Melvil Dewey with W.S. Biscoe. The list of editors of 4th edition onwards has been listed in the annexure 2. Its 15th edition was published in 1951 edited by Milton J. Ferguson but was badly criticized by end-user all over the world. Then Dewey's son Godfrey Dewey decided to edit and published the 15th revised edition again in 1952. OCLC (2021) described in the website DDC has also an editorial policy committee (EPC) in collaboration with the American Library Association (ALA), Library of Congress, and Forest Press. EPC has a 10 member international board which meets annually each year to review any changes in administration purpose or revision, expansion addition of the classification schedule.

5 CONCLUSION

In 146 years DDC has created a glorious history in the world. DDC has inspired thousands of thousand librarians all over the world irrespective of the library to organize the resources systematically. It has been observed through

the literature as well as this study that DDC. Lots of structural changes as well as layout of DDC has been made over time. It has been observed that long term sustainable title of DDC has been found only in its 16th to 23rd edition. The number of auxiliary tables also have change and from time to time. Due to information explosion lots of facets added time to time in various edition of DDC which affected in its volume and page number. DDC has emphasized its relative index. That's why it appeared almost all the edition however, to make a standard class number globally a manual has been given. It has been said that DDC will be revised every 7 to 10 years' time span, which is known as '7 years cycle'. This study is an effort to provide all of these aspect of outer layout in a brief presentation.

REFERENCES

1. SATIJA(M P).Dewey Decimal Classification: Edition 19 (1979) to Web Dewey (2018). 2018. New Delh;EssEss Publications.
2. BARUI (T)&BHATTACHARYA (U) (2017). Treatment of Different devices in Dewey Classification scheme (DDC): A critical review of Literature. Librarian. 24, 1; 2017; 07-21.
3. PAL(A)&BHATTACHARYA(U). Dewey Decimal Classification: a brief literature review. Librarian. 24, 1;2017; 61-71.
4. BHATTACHARJEE (P K). Modified Dewey Decimal Classification Theory for Library Materials Management. International Journal of Innovation, Management and Technology.1, 3; 2010; 292-294.
5. MORTIMER (M). Learn Dewey Decimal Classification(Edition 22). 2000.United States of America.;Scarecrow Press, Inc.
6. TAYLOR (A G). Decimal Classification. Introduction to Cataloging and Classification. 10th ed. 2006; 1-19.
7. COMAROMI (J P). The Eighteen Editions of the Dewey Decimal Classification. 1976. New York; Forest Press Division.
8. SATIJA (M P) & COMAROMI (J P). Introduction ofthe Practice of Dewey Decimal Classification. 1987. New Delhi; Sterling Pulishers Private Limited.
9. DHYANI (P). Library Classification theory and Principles. 1998. New Delhi; WishkaPrakasan.
10. MEHTA (S P). Encyclopaedia on Philosophy of Library Classification.1; 2011. New Delhi; Anmol Publication Pvt. Ltd.
11. SATIJA (M P). Dewey Decimal Classification: Edition 19 (1979) to Web Dewey (2018). 2018. New Delhi: EssEss Publications.
12. PANIGRAHI(P K). Ranganathan and Dewey in hierarchical subject classification: Some similarities. Annals of Library and Information Studies.62, 4; 2015; 265-267

13. GUHA, B. (1976). The first edition and all the eighteen editions: a review. *Annals of Library Science Documentation*. 23, 4; 1976; 275-280.
14. MITCHELL, Joan S. & VIZINE-GOETZ, Diane. The DDC and OCLC. *Journal of Library Administration*. 49, 6; 2009; 657-667. DOI: 10.1080/01930820903238867
15. GANGLU, B. T., & RAO, R. P. (2002). Classification, new subjects and Dewey decimal classification overcoming 18th edition limitations. *Annals of Library and Information Studies*. 49, 1; 2002; 13-22.
16. DHYANI (P). *Library Classification theory and Principles*. 1998. New Delhi; WishkaPrakasan.
17. SURESHA (GP) & NARAYANASWAMY (B V). The Scheme of Library Classifications: Concerning the Structural changes of 23rd Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC). *International Research: Journal of Library & Information Science*. 6, 4; 2016; 638-651.
18. SARMA (G K) & MAJUMDER (A J). Journey of Dewey Decimal Classification in Last Four Decades. *Journal of Department of Library and Information science, Gauhati University*. 2, 1; 2011; 164.20. SATIJA (M P). Briefs on the 19th (1979) to the 23rd Edition (2011) of Dewey Decimal Classification. *DESIDOC Journal of Library & Information Technology*. 33, 4; 2013; 277-288.

Annexure-1

Title of the DDC in various editions

Edition	Title
1st	A Classification and Subject Index for cataloging and arranging the books and pamphlets of a library
2nd	Decimal Classification and Relativ Index for arranging cataloguing an Indexing public and private libraries and for pamphlets, clippings, notes, Scrapbooks, index rerums etc.
3rd	Table and Index of the Decimal Classification and Relativ Index for arranging and cataloging libraries, clippings, notes etc.
4 th – 10 th	Decimal Classification and Relativ Index for libraries, clippings, notes, etc
11 th - 13 th	Decimal Classification and Relativ Index for libraries and personal use in arranging for immediate reference books, pamphlets, clippings, pictures, manuscript notes and other material.
14 th	Decimal Classification and Relativ Index
15 th	Decimal Classification
15 th standard	Dewey Decimal Classification
16 th – 23 rd	Dewey Decimal Classification and Relative Index

Annexure-2

DDC's Editors

Edition	Editor
1 st (1876)	Melvil Dewey
2 nd (1885) – 3 rd (1888)	Melvil Dewey and W.S. Biscoe
4 th (1891)- 10 th (1919)	E. May Seymour
11 th (1922) – 12 th (1927)	J. Dorkas Fellows
13 th (1932)	J. Dorkas Fellows & M.W. Getchell.
14 th (1942)	ConstantinMazney& M. W. Getchell
15 th (1951)	Milton J. Fergusom
15 th Rev (1952)	Godfrey Dewey
16 th (1958) – 19 th (1979)	Benjamin A. Custer. J.P. Comaromi
20 th (1989)	J.P. Comaromi
21 st (1996) – 23 rd (2011)	J.Mitchel