



World Library and Information Congress: 69th IFLA General Conference and Council

1-9 August 2003, Berlin

Code Number: 123-E
Meeting: 150. Classification and Indexing - [Workshop](#)
Simultaneous Interpretation: -

Approaches to expansions: case studies from the German and Vietnamese translations

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Abstract

This paper focuses on the way that the DDC seeks to accommodate differences in literary warrant from one linguistic area to another, using as case studies the German and Vietnamese translations. Table 2 Areas has been developed to provide more subdivisions for Germany and Austria in the English-language standard DDC 22 than in DDC 21, but not nearly as many as in the German translation. The special development for German political parties at 324.243 follows as closely as possible the standard development spelled out at 324.24-.29, but with modification and expansion to meet German needs. The same special development is included in the English-language standard edition 22. The Vietnamese translation is using as basic source text the abridged edition, but the source text for certain specified areas with high literary warrant in Vietnam is the full edition, e.g., for the peoples, political parties, languages, and literatures of Vietnam. Expansions beyond the full edition are expected for the area table and history schedule for Vietnam.

Context

The German and Vietnamese translations of the DDC are being done in an environment that favors use of DDC across linguistic boundaries. There are multinational union catalogs, such as OCLC WorldCat; these facilitate both searching and copy cataloging across linguistic boundaries. Library catalogs are available on the Internet and can be consulted by people from all around the world. Many national libraries use DDC for national bibliographies, including national libraries like the National Library of Canada and the National Library of Switzerland that use the DDC

in more than one language. DDC is being used in international projects, such as Renardus.¹

In order for the DDC to be useful across linguistic boundaries, the same DDC number must mean the same thing in different applications and different languages. If DDC notation 324 means “The political process” in the English-language standard edition, then it must mean the same thing in the Arabic, French, German, Greek, Icelandic, Italian, Norwegian, Russian, Spanish, and Vietnamese editions. That does not mean that a word-for-word translation is required; cultural differences can be accommodated. The English version can label 959.7043 as the Vietnamese War, 1961-1975; and the Vietnamese version can label 959.7043 as the American War, 1961-1975; the notation 959.7043 still refers to the same war. Hence communication across linguistic boundaries via DDC notation 959.7043 is still possible.

Literary warrant

Of the various kinds of differences that need to be accommodated, this paper focuses on the way that the DDC seeks to accommodate differences in literary warrant. Literary warrant, as defined in the DDC Glossary, is “justification for the development of a class or the explicit inclusion of a topic in the schedules, tables, or Relative Index, based on the existence of a body of literature on the topic.” How is literary warrant determined? The Dewey editors rely primarily on searching OCLC WorldCat, a union catalog with contributions from libraries around the world. The editors also consult the catalog of the Library of Congress and consider requests from countries where the English-language edition enjoys wide use. In general, the Dewey editorial rules allow us to consider an expansion when we find “twenty or more works in a number on a topic for which provision has not been made.”² There are many more rules that apply to particular situations. Translation teams may consult WorldCat for literary warrant, but they also need to check catalogs of national libraries and other major library catalogs in their own linguistic area. Translators consulting the catalogs of Die Deutsche Bibliothek and the National Library of Vietnam will find quite different literary warrants for topics of local interest, such as specific parts of Germany or Vietnam.

Expansion and abridgment

The Dewey solutions to differences in literary warrant are expansion and abridgment. Expansion, according to the Dewey Glossary, is “the development of a class in the schedules or tables to provide further subdivisions.” The abridged edition of the DDC is defined in the Glossary as “a shortened version of the Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC) system that is a logical truncation of the notational and structural hierarchy of the corresponding full edition on which it is based. The abridged edition is intended for general collections of 20,000 titles or less.” In doing expansion and abridgment, the Dewey editors are careful to follow what we call the principle of true abridgment. According to this principle, the same topic must always have the same notation, except that the number may be shorter in the abridged version. For example, in the abridged edition, the Table 2 Area notation for Germany is T2--43, the same as in the full edition; however, the full edition has subdivisions for parts of Germany, while the abridged edition has no such subdivisions. The notation for Berlin in the full edition is

T2--43155, and the notation for Bonn is T2--435518; but the notation for Berlin or Bonn --or for any part of Germany--in the abridged edition is T2--43. The numbers for these topics are the same, except that the abridged number is shorter.

German translation: Table 2 Areas --43-436 for German and Austria

In connection with the translation of the DDC into German, Table 2 Areas has been expanded for Germany and Austria. Esther Scheven (Die Deutsche Bibliothek) and Margit Sandner (University of Vienna) provided draft expansions and gave much valuable advice. Gregory R. New, assisted by Winton E. Matthews, Jr., both DDC assistant editors, modified the expansions.³ The expansion includes new numbers that appear in DDC 22 plus additional new numbers for the German translation only. In all cases, the principle of true abridgment has been observed: the English-language standard Table 2 development for Germany and Austria is a true abridgment of the German Table 2 for Germany and Austria.

For Table 2, the Dewey editorial rules provide for developing countries down to an administrative or regional level that is generally appropriate, even though certain units that are given notation may have little literary warrant, at least as measured from a national viewpoint. The German advisers and the Dewey editors agreed that to meet the needs of libraries in German-speaking countries, the area table for Germany should be expanded to provide a separate number for each German county (Kreis) and independent city (Kreisfreie Stadt). That level of development is roughly equivalent to the provision in DDC 22 of a separate number for each county of the United States. The advisers and editors agreed that the area table for Austria should be expanded to provide a separate number for each county (Bezirk) and independent city (Statutarstadt).

In DDC 21, every German district (Regierungsbezirk) had a separate number, plus additional separate numbers for certain cities. The expansions in DDC 22 provide numbers for additional cities, so as to include at least all cities that have approximately 200,000 or more inhabitants. In this case population was used as a convenient rule of thumb for predicting which cities would have the largest literary warrant, so as to avoid complex searches for literary warrant. Searching for literary warrant for table numbers is always complex because much of the literary warrant is hidden at the end of built Dewey numbers. If in the future enough literary warrant develops for further expansion of the English-language standard area table for Germany and Austria, the numbers already developed for use in the German edition will be added.

One of the principles followed as much as possible in doing the expansion is the principle of integrity of numbers. According to this principle, the number for a topic is kept the same from one edition to the next or made longer if expansion is needed; an effort is made to avoid relocating a topic to a number that is different in more than just length. Reusing a number with a different topic in the next edition is especially avoided. Some relocations were needed in DDC 22 to make Table 2 reflect current political jurisdictions. For example, DDC 21 had no provision for Dessau district (Dessau Regierungsbezirk). For DDC 22, a new number was created, T2--43186, a number not previously used in DDC. Notes were added to mark the relocations from Magdeburg district (T2--43182) and Halle district (T2--43184) of the territory that makes up the Dessau district. In addition to significant relocations mentioned

individually, the following note was added at T2--431-432 Eastern Germany to cover minor adjustments: "This development reflects the political divisions established in 1990–1996. Relatively minor changes between this development and the Edition 21 development, which reflects the previous political divisions, are not indicated." By far most of the changes in Table 2 were expansions that did not involve relocation and thus maintained integrity of numbers.

Another principle observed in the expansion of T2--43-436 is the principle that the general arrangement of Table 2 is geographic, with subdivisions arranged as much as possible so that units that are near each other on the ground are also near each other in the DDC notation. Related to this is the Dewey principle that geographic features like rivers, mountains, and lakes are classed in the same area table--indeed in the same numbers--as political units like districts and counties. The same area table is used for biology and geology as for political science and public administration. Further information about these principles may be found in the DDC 22 Manual note at T2--4-9. Other considerations also affect the development of Table 2, as will be seen in connection with specific examples.

Let's look at two neighboring districts of North Rhine-Westphalia (Nordrhein-Westfalen) as examples. The first is T2--43551 Cologne district (Köln Regierungsbezirk). This number and its three subdivisions for independent cities remain the same in DDC 22 as in DDC 21:

--435 51	Cologne district (Köln Regierungsbezirk)
--435 511	Aachen
--435 514	Cologne (Köln)
--435 518	Bonn

In the expansion for the German edition only, subdivisions for eight counties and one independent city had to be fit in among the existing numbers. Since there aren't enough six-digit area numbers to go around, some counties had to have longer numbers. The five westernmost counties were squeezed between Aachen, the independent city at the western end of the district, and Cologne, the independent city in the center north part of the district. The county Aachen was placed just after the city Aachen. The expectation is that works treating only the county Aachen will clearly say so, but that there will be many works about Aachen that do not make it clear whether they are treating only the city or both the city and the county. For these works, classifiers can use the notation for the city Aachen, following the Dewey first-of-two rule: "the rule instructing that works dealing equally with two subjects not used to introduce or explain one another are classed in the number coming first in the schedules or tables" (DDC Glossary). Thus the first-of-two rule is used to reinforce another Dewey instruction: "Class a metropolitan area with the central city" (Dewey Manual note at T2--4-9). Four of the five counties were given seven-digit numbers. The one county given a six-digit number (Erftkreis) is the western county with the largest population. An independent city and two counties north and east of Cologne were squeezed between Cologne and Bonn. The city, Leverkusen, was given a six-digit number, while the counties received seven-digit numbers. The rationale is that independent cities are more likely than counties to generate literary warrant, other things being equal. (In this case other things were not quite equal, since each of the counties has more population than the city: a judgment call.) The southern county

that surrounds Bonn was added at the end, immediately after Bonn, with a six-digit number. It is the county with the largest population in the Cologne district. It was placed after Bonn rather than before, so that the first-of-two rule would put comprehensive works on Bonn and the surrounding area in the number for Bonn. Here is the resulting expanded table for Cologne district in the German edition (numbers that are found also in DDC 22 are in bold):

--435 51	Regierungsbezirk Köln
--435 511	Aachen
--435 512	Kreise Aachen, Heinsberg, Düren, Euskirchen
--435 512 2	Kreis Aachen
--435 512 4	Kreis Heinsberg
--435 512 6	Kreis Düren
--435 512 8	Kreis Euskirchen
--435 513	Erftkreis
--435 514	Köln
--435 515	Leverkusen
--435 516	Rheinisch-Bergischer-Kreis, Oberbergischer Kreis
--435 516 3	Rheinisch-Bergischer-Kreis
--435 516 7	Oberbergischer Kreis
--435 518	Bonn
--435 519	Rhein-Sieg-Kreis

Another example is T2--43553 Düsseldorf district (Düsseldorf Regierungsbezirk). This number already had four subdivisions for independent cities in DDC 21 (Wuppertal, Düsseldorf, Duisburg, and Essen). For the German edition, specific numbers for six independent cities and five counties had to be added. Of the six independent cities added, four were given their own number also in the English version (Mönchengladbach, Krefeld, Mülheim an der Ruhr, and Oberhausen). In the development for this district, the general pattern is to move from the south and east toward the north and west. An effort was made to keep contiguous independent cities together, the rationale being that there might be comprehensive works about groups of similar jurisdictions. The contiguous cities Remscheid, Solingen, and Wuppertal were kept together in T2--43551-43552. The contiguous cities Düsseldorf, Krefeld, Duisburg, Mülheim an der Ruhr, Oberhausen, and Essen were kept together in T2--43554-43558. Mönchengladbach, an independent city not contiguous with any other independent city in Düsseldorf district, was paired with the nearest city (Krefeld) rather than with either of the neighboring counties (Neuss and Viersen). In this case the explanation is that Mönchengladbach and Krefeld both need numbers in the English version, while the counties Neuss and Viersen do not. The intent here is to avoid the awkwardness in abridgment that would result from pairing a jurisdiction that needs a number in the English version with one that does not. Here is the resulting development for Düsseldorf in the German edition, with the numbers in DDC 22 in bold:

--435 53	Regierungsbezirk Düsseldorf
--435 531	Remscheid und Solingen
--435 531 3	Remscheid
--435 531 7	Solingen
--435 532	Wuppertal

--435 533	Kreise Mettmann und Neuss
--435 533 3	Kreis Mettmann
--435 533 7	Kreis Neuss
--435 534	Düsseldorf
--435 535	Mönchengladbach und Krefeld
--435 535 3	Mönchengladbach
--435 535 7	Krefeld
--435 536	Duisburg
--435 537	Mülheim an der Ruhr und Oberhausen
--435 537 3	Mülheim an der Ruhr
--435 537 7	Oberhausen
--435 538	Essen
--435 539	Kreise Wesel, Kleve, Viersen
--435 539 2	Kreis Wesel
--435 539 5	Kreis Kleve
--435 539 8	Kreis Viersen

Comparable expansions were made for Austria. For example, T2--43642 Tyrol (Tirol) had no subdivisions in DDC 21. Nine subdivisions were added for the German edition, of which one--for the city Innsbruck--was added to DDC 22. The general pattern is east to west; however, the noncontiguous eastern Bezirk Lienz is tucked at the end in T2--436429. This outlying unit, which has a somewhat different history from the main part of Tyrol, constitutes the region of East Tyrol (Osttirol). The main part of Tyrol (T2--436421-426428) constitutes the region of North Tyrol (Nordtirol); comprehensive works on North Tyrol are classed in the comprehensive number for Tyrol (T2--43642). East Tyrol was placed at the end so that it would not come between comprehensive works on North Tyrol and specific parts of North Tyrol. Here is the resulting development (numbers in DDC 22 in bold):

--436 42	Tirol
	Class here Nordtirol
--436 421	Bezirk Kitzbühel
--436 422	Bezirk Kufstein
--436 423	Bezirk Schwaz
--436 424	Innsbruck
--436 425	Innsbruck-Land
--436 426	Bezirk Imst
--436 427	Bezirk Landeck
--436 428	Bezirk Reutte
--436 429	Bezirk Lienz
	Class here Osttirol

At the number for Western Austria (T2--4364) was added the note: "Class here *Alpine region of Austria, *Eastern Alps." This note indicates where comprehensive works on these topics should be classed. The number for Western Austria was chosen as the comprehensive number because Western Austria is such an important part of the Alps in Austria that comprehensive works on the Alps in Austria are likely to devote a substantial amount of space to Western Austria. Also, the Alps are so important in Western Austria that comprehensive works about Western Austria are likely to treat the Alps. The Alpine region of Austria and the Eastern Alps, however,

extend beyond Western Austria; consequently, both these terms have an asterisk leading to the footnote: "*For a specific part of this jurisdiction, region, or feature, see the part and follow instructions under --4-9." Following these instructions, a classifier will class a work on a specific part of these Alps with the part, e.g., the Alps in Tyrol (Tirol) T2--43642, the Alps in Western Carinthia T2--4366 in the English version (or T2--43667 in the German version). Why not use the comprehensive number for Austria (T2--436) as the comprehensive number for the Alpine region of Austria? The Alps are not as overwhelmingly important in Austria as a whole as they are in Western Austria; consequently, comprehensive works on the Alps would be lost among broader comprehensive works on Austria.

German translation: 324.243 Political parties of Germany

In addition to area notation, another topic needing special attention for the German translation was political parties of Germany. There is a standard pattern for political parties of the modern world spelled out at 324.24-.29. This pattern calls for adding area notation for the country to base number 324.2, then adding further from an add table. For example, the add table has notation 02 for historical parties. Thus the number for historical parties of Germany is 324.24302. For some countries, the standard pattern does not work well, and special developments are provided. There has not previously been a special development for Germany, but Gregory New developed one with the advice and assistance of Magda Heiner-Freiling (Die Deutsche Bibliothek). This special development follows the standard pattern as closely as possible. The special development is the same in DDC 22 and in the German translation.

In the special development, the comprehensive number for historical parties of Germany is the same as provided by the standard pattern, 324.24302, and the definition is the same: "Parties existing prior to 1945 and no longer in existence." The standard number has been extended, however, with subdivisions for particular kinds of historical parties. The subdivisions for German historical parties are patterned after the subdivisions for recent parties. The standard notation for recent rightist parties is 03; the special notation for historical German rightist parties is 324.243023. The standard notation for recent neofascist and neo-Nazi parties is 038; the special notation for the National Socialist German Labor Party (Nazi Party) is 324.2430238. The standard notation for recent centrist parties is 05; the special notation for historical centrist parties of Germany is 324.243025, and there is note to "Class here German Center Party." In all, there are six special subdivisions of 324.24302 Historical parties.

In the standard pattern and in the special development for German parties, recent parties are classed in notation 03-08. Recent parties are defined as "parties founded or remaining in existence since 1945." All the subdivisions in the standard pattern have been retained in the special development, even though literary warrant may be low for some; those subdivisions already existed in DDC 21 by virtue of the add table at 324.24-.29, and Dewey editorial rules require extreme caution about discontinuing existing numbers when literary warrant for them might appear in the future.

In several cases the notation and caption in the special development are the same as generated by the standard pattern, but a class-here note names a specific important party. For example, 324.24306 Liberal parties has the note "Class here Free

Democratic Party," and 324.243072 Social democratic parties has "Class here Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD)."

Relocations have been made in a few cases where the standard pattern does not fit well in the German context. In the standard pattern, a party that is identified both by position on a right-to-left spectrum (notation 03-07) and by being a nationalist party (notation 083) is classed in the notation for nationalist parties. In the special development for German parties, rightist nationalist parties in general, and the National Democratic Party of Germany have been relocated to 324.24303 Rightist parties. The rationale is that nationalist parties in Germany have historically been rightist. In addition, the German People's Union and the Republican Party of Germany are named in the class-here note at 324.24303. In the standard pattern, a party that is identified both by position on a right-to-left spectrum and by being a religious party (notation 082) is classed in the notation for religious parties. In the special development, conservative religious parties in general, the Christian Democratic Union of Germany, and the Christian Social Union have been relocated from 324.243082 Religious parties to 324.24304 Conservative parties. The rationale is that since World War II, these two allied parties have effectively filled the conservative position in the right-to-left spectrum, almost to the exclusion of any other party.

History is another area in which expansions and relocations have been made with the advice of German and Austrian colleagues. In this area, as with the German political parties, the English-language standard edition has been changed to match the German developments.

Vietnamese translation

While the German translation project is beginning with the full edition, the Vietnamese translation project is beginning more modestly, with the abridged edition. The National Library of Vietnam will do the translation, with the advice of an advisory committee that includes members from all parts of Vietnam.

The National Library and the advisory committee agreed that expansion beyond the standard abridged edition is needed for topics with high literary warrant in Vietnam. Accordingly, although the basic source text is the abridged edition, the source text for certain specified areas is excerpts from the full edition. The translation team will work with the Dewey Editorial Office to incorporate provisions from the full edition into the abridged edition.

One area needing expansion is peoples of Vietnam. In the abridged edition under 305.8 Ethnic and national groups, there is only one number (305.895) for all the peoples of East and Southeast Asia--Chinese, Japanese, Khmer, Koreans, Lao, Thai, Vietnamese, and others. Expansion to match the full DDC will provide numbers for groups like Tai peoples (305.89591), Vietnamese (305.89592), and Khmer 305.89593. When we are farther along in our work with the Vietnamese translators, we may find that expansions and adjustments are needed in this area in the English-language standard edition.

For languages of Vietnam, the source text will be 495.92-.97 Viet-Muong, Mon-Khmer, Munda, Hmong-Mien languages in the full edition. This expansion provides for subdivisions of specific languages, e.g., Vietnamese grammar 495.9225. For

literatures, the source text will be 895.92-.97 Viet-Muong, Mon-Khmer, Munda, Hmong-Mien literatures. This expansion includes subdivisions for literatures of specific languages, specific literary forms, and a literary period table for Vietnamese literature, e.g., 20th-century Vietnamese poetry 895.92213. Without these expansions to match the full edition, the abridged edition offers only two numbers: 495.9 Miscellaneous languages of Southeast Asia; Munda languages and 895.9 Literatures of miscellaneous languages of Southeast Asia; Munda literatures.

The Vietnamese translation will use the development for Marxism and Leninism at 320.53+ in the full edition. It will use synthesized notation from the full edition for political parties of Vietnam: 324.2597.

The Vietnamese translation will use the development for 959.7+ from the full edition for Vietnamese history. The team will work with the Dewey editorial staff to expand the historical periods. Since this work has not yet been done, we cannot be sure of the outcome. Possibly there will be some expansion in the English-language full edition.

The Table 2 provision for Vietnam (T2--597) has no subdivisions even in DDC 22. The last time that we checked, there was not enough literary warrant to justify providing subdivisions for parts of Vietnam in the English-language full edition. For the Vietnamese edition, there is justification for expanding first by regions, then by provinces. The Vietnamese team will work with the Dewey editorial staff to develop the expansion. If in the future literary warrant does develop for subdividing the Table 2 provision for Vietnam in the English-language edition, the expansion developed for the Vietnamese edition will be followed.

Conclusion and two final questions

These two case studies--the German and Vietnamese translations--illustrate some of the problems, compromises, and solutions involved in using expansion and true abridgment to accommodate differences in literary warrant. Keeping the DDC number for a topic the same, except for length, from one language version to the next is not easy, but it is worthwhile, to ensure that DDC numbers can communicate across linguistic boundaries.

Two questions may arise. What about all those Table 2 numbers for United States counties in the English-language full edition--should they be included in translations of the full edition? That depends on what the translation team and its advisers think is needed. The trend is toward including them. Other options, however, have been chosen. One option is to cut back to the abridged edition level, which means giving numbers for every U.S. state but not for counties, and to add selected numbers for large cities.

Why not include in the English-language standard edition all local expansions developed for translations? If we included all authorized local expansions in the print edition, it would become too expensive to print and distribute, and too expensive for libraries to buy. Moreover, libraries not needing the detail would find the DDC more difficult than necessary to apply. We are exploring, however, a way to make authorized local expansions available online, for the benefit of libraries that may need them.

¹"About Renardus." Renardus. "Renardus allows you to find Internet resources selected according to quality criteria and carefully described by Subject Gateways from several European countries." 30 Apr. 2003 <<http://www.renardus.org/>>

²"Editorial Rules: Dewey Decimal Classification," Apr. 1999, section 2.2.2.1. These editorial rules are an unpublished set of rules that guide the editors of the DDC. They are reviewed and approved by the Decimal Classification Editorial Policy Committee. Copies of the rules are furnished to translation teams.

³The author wishes to thank Gregory R. New for extensive assistance in the preparation of this section and the following section of this paper.