DDC German

Magda Heiner-Freiling
Die Deutsche Bibliothek
Frankfurt am Main, Deutschland

Abstract
The paper describes the expectations and needs connected with Dewey in Germany, Austria, and Switzerland. The project DDC German and the translation of DDC into German are characterized; the editorial system for the work of the translators and some other ideas for using DDC in an IT environment are presented. A description of the characteristics of DDC in German and of the difficulties of using DDC for the classification of German documents is followed by some proposals and wishes for future developments in Dewey and for cooperation within the international Dewey community.

1.   Dewey in German - why not earlier, why now?

1.1. Classification in Germany, diversity and centralisation

The classification landscape in Germany is characterized by a huge historical diversity and recent trends for regional unification during the last thirty years – due to the development of centralized cataloguing and data exchange in the library networks of the German states (the "Bundesländer"). Classification as a means for shelving and for subject catalog searching in academic libraries has a long tradition going back to the medieval monastery libraries and the court libraries in the age of absolutism, hitting its peak in German university libraries of the 19th and 20th century.[1] With this background it is not surprising that classification was always seen as a system of knowledge organisation with strong philosophical, theological and ideological impact.

This may be one of the reasons why no common system of classification could be launched in Germany as a whole or together with Austria and the German-speaking part of Switzerland, not even for one type of library such as public or university libraries. The more important reason can

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[1] Weishaupt, Karin: Sacherschließung in Bibliotheken und Bibliographien. Bd. 1
Klassifikatorische Sacherschließung. Frankfurt a.M., 1985. p. 4 ff.

certainly be found in the German federal government's staying out of culture, education and library politics. Interfering in these fields of political decision making was associated with the dictatorship of the Nazis or with the socialist government in the German Democratic Republic and is not very popular in a country with strong regional traditions.

When the Universal Decimal Classification (UDC) as a European descendant of DDC was taken up in many parts of Europe, most German academic libraries held back, and only the university library of Münster (Westphalia) and the university library of Aachen, at this time specialised in science and technology, used UDC for cataloguing purposes, but later gave it up. In German specialised libraries, however, often belonging to technical or chemical plants, UDC was accepted and practised for a long time, until modern data bases with their different ways of subject access via key words, controlled thesauri, special classifications, etc. gained more importance. At that time German UDC maintenance by the Deutsche Institut für Normung (DIN) was given up. Today there are only a few smaller libraries mainly in East Germany and the famous ETH-Bibliothek in Zurich where UDC is still in use.

University libraries in Germany used to be closed-access libraries. Public access was usually limited to a smaller collection of reference works, but with the foundation of numerous new universities and university libraries in the late sixties and seventies open-access shelving became popular. Public libraries of course offered it much earlier and developed their own systems (today mainly three) for systematic shelving.[2] When university libraries looked for shelving standards, Library of Congress Classification (LCC) was closer at hand. LCC was one of the models for the Regensburger Verbundklassifikation (RVK), today the most widely accepted university library classification in Germany (especially in the South and the East, e.g. by the library system of the Humboldt University in Berlin) and adopted even outside the country e.g. by the German-Italian university library in Bolzano, Italy.

The RVK with its strong organisational basis at Regensburg university library and regular information and improvement services available for all partners, is unique. Other library classifications have gained less importance outside the region or the regional networks where they are used, such as the Gesamthochschulbibliotheks-Systematik Nordrhein-Westfalen (GHBS); some were mainly used for catalogs only (like the Eppelsheimer-Methode in South-West Germany, a mixture of systematic and key word cataloguing) or the Basisklassifikation (BK), developed originally in the Netherlands and translated and adopted in Lower Saxony and its neighborhood in the Gemeinsamer Bibliotheksverbund (GBV).

The endeavour to develop a nation-wide standard in subject access to information led to a common effort in the field of subject indexing and the development of the Regeln für den Schlagwortkatalog (RSWK) and the Schlagwortnormdatei (SWD), the subject authority file based on RSWK. Today RSWK/SWD can be compared to LCSH and the French RAMEAU in extent, complexity and general acceptance in the German-speaking world. The subject headings are maintained by Die Deutsche Bibliothek together with all regional networks and used in the national bibliography and most library catalogs. But yet no central bibliographical service with equal importance could be offered in the field of classification. Such was the situation when the project DDC German started in 1998.

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[2] Beaujean, Marion: Die Systematik für Büchereien. In: Bestandserschließung und Bibliotheksstruktur. Wiesbaden, 1979. p. 91-105

1.2. Interests, expectations and criticism

First contacts with the DDC editor, Joan Mitchell, during IFLA conferences led to a growing interest in DDC among those German librarians engaged in subject indexing and classification on a nation-wide level and to the foundation of a Working Group on Classification by the Deutsche Bibliotheksinstitut in 1998, with representatives from all German library networks, national libraries in Berlin and Frankfurt/Leipzig, representatives from public libraries and from Austria and Switzerland. The central mandate of the group was a feasibility study for the introduction of Dewey in Germany, Austria, and Switzerland.[3] In fact the Swiss National Library played an important role in this development, and had already decided to adopt Dewey for the organisation of the Swiss national bibliography and for shelving in the reference library.

Interests in DDC have a different background in university library networks and in national libraries. Larger university libraries buy a huge number of books from the U.S. and Britain, and for cataloging they use bibliographic data not only from Die Deutsche Bibliothek, but also from the British Library, the Library of Congress (LC) and/or OCLC. One of the most advanced in this field is the State and University Library of Göttingen (SUB Göttingen) – due to large collections of English and American literature and history and of physics and mathematics – meanwhile the SUB Göttingen is also member of OCLC. Access to cataloging data with Dewey numbers is not yet possible in the SUB's OPAC, as German users are not familiar with DDC and have no possibility for search with German terminology leading to Dewey classes. Many other university libraries are also interested in offering their users subject access via Dewey or connecting their regional classification (especially RVK) with Dewey by a concordance, in order to save time and staff in the future as well as to facilitate retrospective classification.

Die Deutsche Bibliothek has a legal responsibility to catalogue German publications and therefore a vital interest in offering formal and subject access to national as well as to international libraries and users. In addition to German-language subject headings according to RSWK/SWD, the usage of an internationally accepted classification as a second tool for subject access has been desired for long time. An evaluation of different classification schemes led experts to recommend DDC in 1998,[4] and that was followed by the feasibility study for the introduction of Dewey mentioned above. A number of workshops presenting DDC as a modern classification that is accepted worldwide and has special advantages in the web environment accompanied this initiative between 1998 and 2001.[5]

Yet there was a lot of criticism when Die Deutsche Bibliothek and some other large libraries and library networks announced their decision to promote Dewey and to use it in the future. The main points were:
- deficits of DDC in fields like German and European law
- different viewpoints of the academic tradition and organisation of subjects like philosophy and theology
- the absence of an independent main class for archeology (today not necessarily linked with the ancient world)
- the outdated basic structure of engineering sciences in the 620s

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[3] Einführung und Nutzung der Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC) im deutschen Sprachraum. Frankfurt a.M., 2000.
[4] Klassifikationen für wissenschaftliche Bibliotheken. Berlin, 1998.
[5] Cf. Dialog mit Bibliotheken, Workshop reports in Vol. 11, 1999, No. 1, Vol. 12, 2000, No. 1, Vol. 13, 2001, No. 1 and Vol. 14, 2002, No 1.

- the separation between economics in 330 (Volkswirtschaft in German) and management and other topics related to economics in the 650 and partly the 380s (Betriebswirtschaft in German)
- inadequate structure of language and literature with specific main classes for classical languages, but remote and lowly positions of the Slavic languages in the 490s and 890s.

Other difficulties resulted from the centralised and strict management and legal and economic organisation of Dewey – German librarians are used to offering many services free and open to the public and were puzzled by the strong copyright restrictions for the presentation of Dewey on the web and the high fees for licensing.

1.3. WASP or World-wide

The German-speaking region has long-standing language-based library practices; it is not a territory easy to convince of the advantages of Dewey. Librarians in Germany, Austria and Switzerland have high standards concerning the preciseness of subject access and the cultural, legal, and political specifics of their countries, including the differences between regions, Bundesländer, or cantons with their autonomy in many fields of legislation, education, and administration. This is a strong argument against the general application of any classification system developed within one part of the German-speaking area, but was also used against a scheme that was always identified with the White Anglo-Saxon Protestant point of view that Melvil Dewey and his colleagues may have represented in late 19th century America.

Some time and many good examples from DDC 21 were necessary to convince people of the influence of multi-cultural American society at the turn of the 21st century and the effects of international distribution on Dewey. Recent extensions and corrections in Table 2 and in classes like the 290s or the 900s as well as the usage of DDC in countries with completely different traditions and values in history, religion and politics like the Middle East or Latin America confirmed this positive impression. So did the French, Italian and Russian translations, too, and the decision to use DDC for shelving in the Bibliothèque nationale de France also helped us a lot. Even small changes like the dropping of "Racial" in the heading of Table 5 and at many related places in DDC 22 have a positive effect in the German library public of today.

The decision of the Editorial Policy Committee (EPC) to accept the proposals of the German expert group for DDC 22, however, was a crucial point for many librarians who had already been in touch with the DDC project. In Table 2 Germany and Austria now reflect the present administrative structure, and the former German Democratic Republic (where literary warrant in the U.S. certainly was smaller than for West Germany) has now received equal treatment in the scheme. The history of both parts of Germany between 1945 and 1990 is reflected in 943 by integration of extra classes and entries for the names of the leading politicians. Last but not least, extensions for the German parties were the first from outside the Anglo-American world to be integrated into the 324 classes with specific built numbers.

It will be necessary to have some extra extensions for the German translation of DDC 22, yet this process of cooperation with an enormous impact on the side of the DDC experts from LC and OCLC gave us an encouraging prospect for the future. We are sure to find an open ear and a lot of help for all problems that might come when integrating DDC into the German library landscape.

2. The translation project

2.1. Consortium, DFG, DDB, University of Applied Sciences in Cologne

In 2000 three library networks (Bavaria, the Southwest of Germany and the Cooperative library network GVB in Northeastern Germany) together with three state libraries (the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin, Die Deutsche Bibliothek and the Swiss National Library) and the Austrian university libraries, represented by the ministry in Vienna, decided to found a consortium DDC Deutsch. Further members are the Goethe-Institut/Inter Nationes (the central agency for German language courses and cultural activities abroad) and the Faculty for Information Science of the University of Applied Sciences in Cologne.

The aim of the Consortium, the promotion and application of DDC in Germany, Austria and Switzerland, includes activities in the field of training and public relations, the support of the DDC translation, and practical advice and feedback for all plans to integrate DDC in the services of Die Deutsche Bibliothek and the national bibliography. The first important step was the application for financial support to the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) – the German translation and adaptation of Dewey needs a full-time team of translators with a language and library background and some input from specialists in the libraries who are familiar with terminology, literary warrant, and search practices in the different disciplines.

In February 2002 DFG agreed to fund the project by taking over the expenses for six staff members for two years and providing a certain sum for technical equipment and travelling. As the leading member in the Consortium Die Deutsche Bibliothek offered the infrastructure for organisation and technical IT-based development of the project. The University of Cologne with experience in the training of translators and information specialists houses the translation team. DDB's input also includes two part-time positions in the departments for classification and indexing and IT and the responsibility for the expert group DDC Deutsch, a working group with classification specialists from Germany, Austria and Switzerland. The specialists assist the project with their advice and experience. The editors of DDC wish to make sure that translations in languages spoken in more than one country are valid for the whole language community. This is guaranteed by the cooperation of Austria and Switzerland in the expert group and in the Consortium DDC Deutsch.

A first important decision was confirmed in discussions with OCLC and became fundamental for the subsequent work and the Editorial Policy Statement: The German DDC edition is based upon the Standard Edition of DDC 22. Because of concern for interoperability between DDC editions in different languages and international data exchange, national options will not be developed. There were different decisive factors:
-   Important academic libraries with large collections of highly specialized literature are mainly interested in DDC; for them the Abridged Edition is not sufficient, even if translating it is the normal procedure for first translations of DDC in a new language.
-   The Standard Edition of DDC 22 will be available in a printed version and WebDewey when the German edition is published. Therefore a German edition should be based on the data of DDC 22, even if these were not yet available when the project started.
-   The use of Anglo-American external data and the improvement of access to German titles for the international Dewey community were crucial issues of the project; in addition, the parallel usage of DDC editions in different languages is probable in Switzerland. Therefore no national or language-based options should be provided, and numbers should always be used with the meaning they have in the U.S. and Great Britain. As DDC 22 has already included the proposals and wishes from the German project partners, this decision was an easy one for us.

2.2. The editorial system

From the beginning, it was clear to the project team that the translation should be done in an IT-based system.The many repetitions, standard phrases, references between different schedules and tables, and entries in the Relative Index makes the DDC much easier to handle in an IT-assisted system. Yet development of such a system based on the XML structure of DDC is no easy and quick job, especially given the high expectations of the Cologne translation team and DDB concerning user friendliness, stability, and dual access from Cologne and Frankfurt. The production of a DDC print edition with the complicated typographical items, the whole systems of indentations, foot-notes and extra details as well as the huge number of diacritics causes a lot of difficulties. The publisher K.G. Saur is interested in publishing the print edition. The international reputation of this publisher will certainly help the promotion of DDC German, but first the translators have to meet the publisher's high expectations, too, and provide the German DDC in a PDF file ready for print at the end of their work.

After listing the functional specifications DDB decided to call for bids and selected Pansoft, a software company from Karlsruhe, for the development of the editorial system. Using open-source products like Apache Tomcat, Turbine and Lucene, Pansoft offered a good and reasonably priced solution and was willing to cooperate in a project with a number of different specialists with sometimes conflicting needs and ideas, a project based on XML data still in a process of change as OCLC was working on the technical and intellectual changes for DDC 22. The start of the DFG project in October 2002 gave the translators' team in Cologne a chance to contribute during the last months of developing and implementing the editorial system and to test the system with data of DDC 21 by simulating the normal working process. On April 29 the data of DDC 22 were integrated; since then, the real translation process has started, and we will try to show you how it works.

The whole working process is limited to the right side of the screen, while the left side shows the English original protected against any changes. On the right side the English is also visible as long as the status "Neu" (new) shows that no changes have been made yet. Of course numbers remain the same when translated German texts replace the English; and as we have a large number of highly standardized phrases for different kinds of notes, a special phrase storage contains standardized versions of the German equivalents. The great advantage of this solution is the stability of the Dewey numbers which remain exactly the same in the German context, so misprints can be avoided and the text of the notes is consistent throughout the whole text of DDC.

Each class shows the complete data connected with the class, and index entries also appear in separate fields at the end, as they are closely connected with the translation of the heading and notes and should be seen as part of the whole. Very often it will be necessary to make changes during the translation of the index entries: some do not make sense in German and can be removed on the right side, as these synonyms to headings or related terms do not exist, while others might be necessary only in German and have to be added. The system offers the possibility to double the fields easily in order to create additional entries on the German side. All these translation activities do not demand handling the XML structure lying behind the translation interface. Only in the case of additional notes, e.g. an extra including or class-here note, the translator has to switch to the XML interface in order to create these new phrases – most easily by copying them from similar classes and replacing only numbers and text.

After the translator finishes the work on one class and saves the results, the status changes to "Bearbeitung" (under work). Searching is possible not only for Dewey numbers and verbal

elements, but also in combination with the status to find classes that have not yet been translated. During the translation process the system shows automatically the next "new" class, and when the user returns after leaving the system completely, the latest class shown before appears automatically.

Status indicators show not only the difference between new classes and those under work, but also states like "Prüfung", "Abnahme" (under revision) for classes examined by external experts or by OCLC and LC, in order to prohibit changes during this stage, and at the end the whole system is frozen with the status "Gesperrt" (closed) when the data are exported into a PDF file for the print edition. It is also possible to create PDF files for parts of the DDC 22 data, e.g. for one main class, separately for the schedules/tables and for the alphabet of the index entries. Printouts of these files as well as those of single classes in the screen display are necessary for the correction process.

2.3. The cooperation process between translators and experts

Corrections are not only part of the translators' daily work; they are also the responsibility of external experts in different libraries. One of DDB's tasks in the project was the construction of a network of experts with about 60 persons, usually senior librarians in university, state, or special libraries with detailed knowledge of one discipline or related subjects and a good overview of literary warrant, users' search strategies and questions, and the recent terminology in their field of scholarship. DDB collects the translated parts of DDC and sends them out together with the original English version; for a limited time during the review process an expert will also be able to have read-only access to the editorial system to see the complete class with all index entries.

As far as possible each subject or discipline is reviewed by two experts from different institutions to make sure that no institutional or personal interests, habits or points of view play too great a role in the revision proposals. The staff member at DDB collects and evaluates the feedback, if necessary tries to come to a compromise between different expert statements and returns the revised version to the translators. Part of the translation work, especially in fields closely related to standard authority files of DDB such as geographical names in Table 2, is done directly at DDB. Experts are not supposed to translate by themselves, but it is possible and sometimes very helpful for them to assist the translation team at the beginning and propose translations for special terms in fields where translators would need a professional background. Otherwise the translators would spend a lot of time consulting dictionaries and reference works to understand and translate highly specialised parts of DDC properly. This is possible in parts of science and technology as well as in some fields of law or theology, but also in a discipline like main class 130 Parapsychology and occultism. Of course, a large collection of dictionaries, reference sources, and data bases is available to the translation team.

Special attention is given to the conformity of DDC headings and index entries with terms used as descriptors in the German subject authority file Schlagwortnormdatei (SWD). Most of the experts work with the SWD and have precise ideas where the usage of SWD terminology (perhaps not offering an exact translation, but an exact description of the document content) can be an advantage for the German DDC or where no SWD terms are available or fitting as a heading for a class. There can be differences between singular (usually standard in SWD) and plural (often more fitting in a classification), and also between popular terms, often preferred in SWD, and academic terms, more likely in DDC, but sometimes with amendments from everyday language in class-here notes – as can be seen in botany and zoology.

2.4. Special needs of Dewey in a German-speaking library landscape

All these considerations already led us to the practice of speaking about DDC German not as a translation, but as an adaptation, even if we do not plan to have national or German-language options in the German print edition or web version of DDC 22. Interoperability between DDC editions in different languages was a leading idea in the project: thus in Switzerland it is possible to use the edition one is most familiar with, be it in French, Italian or German, of course taking into account the differences between edition 21 and 22. DDC data from LC, OCLC and the British Library could not be properly used together with those of German origin, if we use national or language options, and exporting our own data to other countries would also be much more difficult.

Nevertheless there are certain parts of DDC that will be insufficient in a German context and it seems desirable to have at least some extra classes, usually extensions for specific German or Central European topics. German history, German parties and Table 2 have already been revised according to our proposals, and we would like to take the opportunity to thank the editor's staff in Dublin, Ohio and Washington and the EPC for their help and cooperation. It might, however, be useful to have some extra classes for certain aspects of regional history. Bavaria, Prussia, Saxony, and other formerly independent states should have their own numbers for the considerable amount of literature in these fields.

Some main classes can easily be named as the most prominent parts with special need for extra numbers:
 - theology with respect to typical German institutions and topics, such as the German translations of the Bible
 - the education system in Germany, Switzerland and Austria, which is so different from Anglo-American practice that numbers for the specific institutions in pre-school, primary and secondary school and for vocational training are necessary
 - the internal table for German literature, which should allow some more stages in the historical development especially in the 19th and 20th century where literary warrant is extremely high
 - law and administration, which also need some extra numbers for important national and European items not yet provided for in Dewey.[6]

3.   What are we going to do with Dewey?

3.1. The organisation of the three national bibliographies

Die Deutsche Bibliothek and the national libraries of Austria and Switzerland have used three different schemes for the organisation of their national bibliographies. The Swiss national bibliography "Schweizer Buch" introduced the Second Summary of DDC in 2001 to divide the title list into 100 subject-oriented parts – with extensions for specific Swiss matters in 914.94 Swiss geography and 949.4 History of Switzerland. Germany and Austria have decided to replace their "home made" schemes (25 subject groups in the Österreichische Bibliographie, 65 in the Deutsche Nationalbibliografie) for a DDC organisation similar to the Schweizer Buch beginning next year. At the same time electronic versions are issued in addition to the printed version (in DNB) or to replace it completely (in Austria).

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[6] Heiner-Freiling, Magda: DDC Deutsch 22 – formale, terminologische und inhaltliche Aspekte einer deutschen DDC-Ausgabe. In: Zeitschrift für Bibliothekswesen und Bibliographie, Vol. 48, 2001. p. 333-339

All three bibliographies have some extra subject groups for titles of special national interest in geography and history. Due to the enormous number of titles in DNB there are also some more extra groups in order to divide, for example between German language and literature (in 430 and 830) and the other Germanic languages and literatures (in 439 and 839). Special groups existing before and satisfying special needs of librarians and/or the booktrade have been transported to Dewey, thus the outline goes deeper than the second summary in the following cases:

- 004 Informatik (data processing and computer science)
- 355 Militär (military science)
- 741.5 Comics, Cartoons, Karikaturen (cartoons, caricatures, comics)
- 791 Hörfunk, Fernsehen, Film (public performances)
- 792 Theater, Tanz (stage performances)
- 793 Spiel (games)
- 796 Sport (sports)

It is obvious that in several cases a variation from an exact translation of the Second Summary was used as title for the subject group; we decided to have titles closely related to former names of subject groups and familiar to users of the Weekly List. Sometimes one group comprises also the subsequent DDC classes of the third summary such as 793 Spiel (comprising 793, 794, 795) and 796 Sport (comprising 796, 797, 798, 799).

In some other fields the Second Summary was judged as being too detailed for the purposes of the DNB, especially for its new and forthcoming title service Neuerscheinungsdienst (formerly Series N – CIP publications), where information about the content of the announced titles is rather poor. So the division of philosophy and theology on the second level of Dewey was omitted, and the overview at the beginning of each DNB item shows the classes included in one group like this:

100	Philosophie	100, 110, 120, 140, 160, 170 180, 190

Some problems arise from the integration of literature and criticism/history within the 800s. In German bibliographic tradition fiction was usually separated from what was regarded as more or less serious philological studies. Dewey does not make this distinction on such a general level, but only by application of Table 3A or 3B. Therefore, a typographic separation shows the difference between fiction and poetry on one hand, and literary criticism and history on the other. Due to the former practice in DNB schoolbooks and juvenile literature are separated completely and not integrated into the Dewey scheme.

3.2. Full Dewey numbers

The reorganisation of the national bibliographies according to Dewey does not necessarily imply that full numbers will be given to all registered titles. Indeed, such a new service is unlikely, given the present staff situation of Die Deutsche Bibliothek. Most libraries and library networks would not accept any reduction in subject indexing with RSWK/SWD or other cut-backs in our present bibliographic services. Dewey classifying is, especially for beginners, nothing that could be performed quickly in addition to other work at the same time libraries have to accept staff reductions. So we will have to develop a concept that makes it possible to integrate full Dewey classification into our services later, especially for those types of publications and fields of research and literary production where international interests demand international subject access. It will be part of our activities and consultations during the next months to develop a step-by-step integration of Dewey numbers into the service concept of the national bibliography – in close contact with the national libraries of Austria and Switzerland and perhaps some more

institutions in the German-speaking countries as division of work might be a possible solution to these problems.

3.3. Organisation of portals and other web services

Several academic libraries and scientific institutions in Germany are interested in integrating Dewey not so much for the classification of single printed books, but for the organisation of subject information services such as portals, virtual libraries, presentation of multi-media training programs for academic professions, animated picture presentations available in the web or classification of different kinds of collections. There had already been contacts with various interested parties since the beginning of the project DDC German. Some of them do not need the complete DDC in German, but are concentrating either on the content of the Second or Third Summary or on the classes within one discipline or related disciplines such as economics (in 330, partly in 380 and in 650).

3.4. Shelving with Dewey

Open-access shelving does not have a long tradition in German academic libraries; of course, public libraries offered their collections to readers much earlier and developed their own classification schemes. They will not give up those schemes when DDC German is published. In university libraries where open access storage became popular in the seventies, the above-mentioned Regensburger Verbundklassifikation (RVK) turned out to be the favoured system. It is not the main aim of the project DDC German to change these practices and introduce Dewey as a classification for the re-organisation of open-access libraries. In a few cases DDC is already used for shelving by libraries that have close historical or language-based connections with the United States like the faculty library for American studies of the Freie University, the John-F.-Kennedy-Institut. Other institutions chose Dewey because of the library experience of their international users such as the Wissenschaftskolleg or the European Central Bank. But in general in the German library landscape, Dewey will stay a classification for OPAC search and web access. Therefore, the special problems of shelving with Dewey, for instance the usage of Cutter numbers for which rules have to be modified in a German context, have to be put off.

4. DDC German in the age of globalisation

4.1. DDC services as a matter of international data exchange

International data exchange and improved access to DDC in external source data were the incentives for the project DDC German. Research and academic publishing in Germany are closely linked to the Anglophone world; many papers and books by German scholars are available in English only. So the application of Dewey numbers has two functions: On one hand, it is easier to find these documents mainly aiming at the international scientific community in all traditional or web-based catalogs and data bases around the world. On the other hand, an international classification tool with an access vocabulary in German as well as in English makes the search for an appropriate number easier and quicker for the cataloguer. Some of the institutions classifying in this field already use WebDewey for the purposes of virtual libraries, etc. For classification of web documents, and with WebDewey, the parallel use of the English and the German version might be very helpful.

4.2. International cooperation in the development of Dewey

During the last ten years, library contacts between Germany, Austria and Switzerland have been much closer than ever before. In the field of subject cataloging the common usage of the subject authority file SWD meant a considerable step forward in cooperative subject indexing. The effort to establish DDC as a second common standard in subject cataloging and the adaptation of all three national bibliographies to DDC structures are very positive signals for further cooperation and joint projects.

With about 100 million speakers, German lies even slightly before French[7], and is a second or third language of many citizens in Northern, Eastern or Southeast Europe (Turkey included); its importance in personal, economic, political and academic exchange should not be underestimated. A German translation of DDC will, after similar efforts in French and Italian, mean a challenge for the international Dewey community, too, with respect to integration of European historical and cultural specifics. With DDC 22, considerable efforts have already been made to adapt DDC to the needs of German users, and it is our hope to implement some more European items concerning the legal and economic aspects of the European Union in the future. DDC in the Francophone countries has been established well since CDD 21 was published in 1998, and we are looking forward to a close cooperation with our colleagues at the Bibliothèque nationale de France, benefiting from their experience with classifying and shelving. The British Library has been a partner of Germany in many European library activities, and we hope to establish stable contacts and exchange of information in the field of Dewey, too.

Another field of cooperation and exchange will probably be the field of data processing and IT development. With the construction of the editorial system for the German translation, a useful tool for similar activities in other languages has been established. We would be happy if it could be a help for translators in the future. Of course, such a system is based on data consistency; any change in underlying structures causes difficulties and makes adaptations necessary. Regular exchange of information with OCLC's research and technical department about all questions connected with Dewey is one of DDB's main concerns for the future relations. A German web tool for cataloguing with Dewey in a similar structure as WebDewey is part of the license agreement between OCLC and DDB, but in addition verbal access to Dewey numbers in OPACs has to be provided for library users not so familiar with the numbers as American readers usually are. Therefore, this tool for OPAC search will not be so interesting in the native country of Dewey, but might also be useful for newcomers in the DDC community.

Last but not least the German project partners plan to use Dewey in a way that allows searching for all significant elements in built numbers. Whenever built numbers are used for classification in the German national bibliography, the base number and added numbers (or the full numbers of added number elements) are stored in addition. Built numbers that are integrated in the German web version will automatically bring with them all contained numbers; and as we plan to use DDC numbers within a standardized authority file, this should facilitate plausibility checking, so that we can avoid at least some common mistakes in number building. We would be glad to share our ideas and experiences in this field with other institutions using DDC.

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[7] Crystal, David: Cambridge Enzyklopädie der Sprache. Frankfurt a.M., New York, 1993. p. 287