Something Old, Something New, Something Borrowed ... Continuity and Change in LaDoc Classification

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Agenda

- Overview of current LaDoc practices & problems
- Introduction of the Advisory Council Committee
- Review of Committee’s progress to date
- Ongoing work
- Plans for implementation
- Discussion & feedback session
LaDoc Classification Today

- Louisiana PDDP

Functions of LaDoc classification numbers assigned to every state publication (≈ SuDoc numbers):
  - Essential: unique identifiers (like ISBN)
  - Optional: organization on shelf

There really is no LaDoc classification “scheme” articulated anywhere—there is no existing “manual” or even a single authoritative list

“Problematic” doesn’t begin to cover it:
  - Out-dated
  - Insufficient
  - Inconsistent
PDDP Advisory Council Classification Review Committee

- Lori Smith, Southeastern Louisiana University
- Michael Sartori, McNeese State University
- Sonnet Ireland, University of New Orleans
- Jeannie Brock, McNeese State University
- Kim Pinion, Southeastern Louisiana University
- Karen Cook, Recorder of Documents
Timeline

- Phase 1, May-November 2013
- Phase 2, November 2013-Today
- Phase 3, Today-May 2014
- Phase 4, May 2014--
Phase 1, May 2013—Nov. 2013

- Initial committee formed after May 2013 AC meeting
- Members reviewed other states’ document numbering schemes and shared key features, likes/dislikes via email, Dropbox, Google Drive
- Conducted survey of LA depository librarians (including directors and others interested in LaDocs) to determine their current shelving practices and preferences for future alternatives to current LaDoc numbering
- Drafted set of principles and recommendations
- Submitted interim recommendations and possible alternatives to AC November 2013 meeting and gathered further feedback from AC members and other attendees
Phase 1, Basic Principles Adopted:

- Each publication to be assigned number to:
  - Identify it uniquely
  - Work effectively for organizing documents on shelves

- Revised scheme needs to be simple, extensible, consistent, and patron-and reference-librarian friendly:
  - Primary organization: subject/topic
  - Secondary organization: by issuing agency
Phase 1, Broad Recommendations for Structure of Numbers:

- LaDoc stem
  1. Broad subject / topic prefix
  2. Agency / academic institution designator
- Colon
- Book Number
  1. Title designator
  2. Issue / date information
- No more form divisions
Phase 2, Nov. 2013—Today

- Committee members individually reviewed alternative approaches to subject prefixes and agency designations
- Skype conference call Feb. 17: consensus on principles for generating and formatting document numbers
- Committee continued to make decisions on details (e.g., parish designators) via email
Phase 2, Subject / Topic Schemes Considered and Rejected

- Home-grown
  - Pros: tailor to specifics of depository materials
  - Cons: many

- LC classification
  - Pros:
    - Time-tested by libraries, comfortable for many reference librarians
    - Option: replace class letters with patron-friendly mnemonic codes (e.g., N -> ART)
  - Cons:
    - Potentially confusing if keep LC classes in LC libraries
    - Patrons don’t understand these, especially in Dewey libraries
    - Classes not well suited to state publications
BISAC subject headings & codes

- Library of Congress adding “bisacsh” headings to MARC records since 2011
- Used by publishers, bookstores, Amazon
- Used instead of DDC by public and school libraries

Categories
- Make sense to patrons and reference librarians
- Good fit for public-oriented state publications
BISAC

@ 50 broad categories and 30,000+ subheadings

- Mnemonic, 3-letter prefixes for categories (e.g., ART, LAW, SCI)

Flexible for shelving:

- Prefix-only sufficient for small collections
- Use full codes for large collections on labels or on shelves (think Barnes and Noble shelves)
Examples of bisacsh in LOC records:

084  ___ |a TRA009000 |a HIS036010 |2 bisacsh
245   14 |a The race underground : |b Boston, New York, and the incredible rivalry that built America’s first subway / |c Doug Most.
650   _7 |a TRANSPORTATION / Public Transportation. |2 bisacsh
650   _7 |a HISTORY / United States / State & Local / General. |2 bisacsh

084  ___ |a POL000000 |2 bisacsh
245   02 |a A century of constitutional reform / |c edited by Philip Norton
650   _7 |a POLITICAL SCIENCE / General |2 bisacsh.

084  ___ |a SCI055000 |a SCI077000 |a TEC021000 |2 bisacsh
245   00 |a 100 years of superconductivity / |c edited by Horst Rogalla and Peter H. Kes.
650   _7 |a SCIENCE / Physics |2 bisacsh.
650   _7 |a SCIENCE / Solid State Physics |2 bisacsh.
650   _7 |a TECHNOLOGY & ENGINEERING / Material Science |2 bisacsh.
Phase 2, Agency Identifiers:

1. Hierarchical
2. Alphabetical, non-hierarchical
3. Pragmatic combination of methods, depending on whether agency is:
   - Agency unit
   - Academic institution
   - Independent board/commission
Top-Level Agency-Author Identifiers

Quick consensus: use an acronym for top-level agency / academic institution identifiers based on:

- All significant non-stop words in name (e.g., AF, TD)
- **Current** name of department / division
- No more mixed-case prefixes—now all caps
Examples of Top-Level Agency Acronyms:

- Division of Administration = A
- Dept. of Agriculture & Forestry = AF
- Dept. of Children & Family Services = CFS
- Dept. of Culture, Recreation, & Tourism = CRT
- Office of the Governor = GO
- Dept. of Health & Hospitals = HH
- Dept. of Transportation & Development = TD
- Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries = WF
Examples of Academic Institution Identifiers:

- Delgado CC = ZDGC
- Louisiana Delta CC = ZDTC
- LSU = ZLSU
- LSU at Alexandria = ZLSUA
- LSU at Shreveport = ZLSUS
- Nicholls State = ZNS
- Southeastern Louisiana = ZSLU
- SUNO = ZSUNO
Agency-Author Identifiers for Subordinate and Other Units:

Overall principles:

- Begin with top-level agency or academic institution acronym (e.g., AF, CFS, R, S; academics start with Z)
- Add Cutter for issuing unit following acronym for top-level department/division or academic institution
- Ignore any intervening layers of hierarchy

Miscellaneous: X[Cutter on name]

Boards & Commissions: Y[Cutter on name]
OCLC Cutter application

Quick and easy to use
Free and accessible for everyone at http://www.oclc.org/support/services/dewey/program.en.html
Note: does not work on Macs
Phase 3, Today--May 2014

- Work on draft of re-classification manual
- Share draft with depository libraries for feedback / comments
- Revise draft as needed
- Present draft of AC Committee’s work to AC meeting
- Tweak manual as needed based on feedback and comments from meeting
Phase 4, May 2014 ...

- Implementation (*i.e.*, Recorder assigning new numbers to documents) tentatively planned to begin @ July 1, 2014
- Decisions regarding re-class of older documents up to individual libraries
- Will maintain old numbers in ‡z for continuity
Summary: Something Old

Fundamental principles retained from current LaDocs:
- Unique document identifiers
- Numbers intended to be workable for shelving purposes for libraries opting to shelve by LaDoc

Practices to be continued include:
- Grouping publications by issuing agencies / academic institutions and their subordinate units together (though details will vary)
- “Colon means document”
- Essentials of current date/issue notation
Something New: Subject / Topic Organization

- Change from current LaDoc and Federal SuDoc
- Mirrors approach used by some other states
- Arranges documents using the same type of organization used for other library materials
- Easier for patrons and librarians to find what they want without having to know:
  - Current or past LA government structure
  - Issuing agency
Something New: Agency-Author

- Simplified system for generating agency / academic institution names
  - Systematic
  - Transparent
  - Flexible
  - Extensible
- Because no longer primary organizing principle, less complexity required in agency-author component to give unique numbering
Something borrowed:

- Broad principles / techniques adopted from other states’ document classification schemes
  - Special thanks to AK, CA, KS, NY, TX
- BISAC subject headings
- OCLC Cutter application
Primary organization by subject / topic may also facilitate improvements to the selection process.

Depository libraries should be better able to select publications of particular relevance to their patrons and institutions, removing the “grab bag” approach we now have.

Current selection categories often are confusing to non-librarians in issuing agencies:
- Subject categories may be more understandable to them.
- It will be easier for the Recorder to provide lists of titles falling into subject categories for guidance.
DISCUSSION AND FEEDBACK
Stay Involved in the Discussion:

- Contact Committee members with comments, suggestions, questions
- Participate during next AC meeting
- Participate in any survey or call for input on bayoudoc
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THANK YOU!