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DDC in Sweden

Libraries in Sweden started using DDC in 2011, replacing the Swedish Classification System (SAB). Today the National Library, most university libraries and academic libraries use DDC. DDC is also used by a growing number of public libraries and school libraries in Sweden.

Classification is an important means for subject access in the Swedish National Library Catalogue LIBRIS, as a common system for subject headings in Sweden, the Swedish Subject Headings, was not developed until 2002. DDC is mapped to SAB and by using one of the classification systems it is possible to get records with the equivalent classification from the other system.

We are on the move to a data model and services based on linked data. Dewey.info is an important dataset whose availability we depend on to efficiently utilize our linkage to it.

User stories

As the National Library of Sweden, we want to use Dewey.info so that we can link to a stable and updated dataset for Dewey classification in our national bibliographic infrastructure LIBRIS XL.

As the National Library of Sweden, we want to publish Swedish captions and linksets on Dewey.info so that we can use Dewey.info as a hub to access distributed descriptions about DDC terms.

As end-users of the next LIBRIS web catalogue, we want the Swedish captions and linksets to be published so that we will be able to search by subject in free-text, without having to know the Dewey classification system and not having to think about using complicated search interfaces.

As end-users of all Swedish libraries, we want to be able to search by Swedish subject labels that match bibliographic descriptions that have been classified using Dewey classification codes in our Library OPAC:s, so that we don't have to know which Dewey codes to use.

As cataloguers from Swedish libraries, we would like to have a linkage from Dewey numbers to Dewey.info in the LIBRIS union cataloguing tool so that it will be easy to find the meaning of a Dewey number in records when we import records and do copy cataloguing.

As cataloguers from Swedish libraries, we would like to get an automatically shortened Dewey number suitable for shelving so that we do not have to produce and maintain a list of Dewey numbers at our library.

As the National Library of Sweden, we want to look up a specific full Dewey number on the web (using its URI) and receive the abridged Dewey number (among other descriptive data), so that libraries using the LIBRIS union catalogue easily can get a correct short number for call numbers / shelf marks instead of keeping lists of their own.

As managers of Swedish libraries, we want work with Dewey classification in the LIBRIS union catalogue and with imported records in our libraries to be less complicated, so that cataloguers can do other things than working with Dewey classification and call numbers / shelf marks.

As translators of Dewey to Swedish, we would find it useful with a team of Dewey editors led by a chief editor, so that the Dewey classification system can be developed and maintained, both as a classification system and as a technical dataset described with a standard vocabulary and accessible on the web.

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