Dear all,

I would like to add a few words to conclude this two days' meeting about Dewey, past, present and future.

We have been very pleased to welcome you at the BnF for EDUG's annual conference. It has been a fantastic opportunity to meet up here.

During this symposium, Dewey has been shown to be a common hub where very different needs and uses are connected : it is far from simply being librarians' favourite game of skill before scrabble (794.822).

According to our three speakers this morning, the structure of Dewey language allows :

- a simple use as a browsing tool based on the major knowledge classes : it helps the readers of physical libraries find their way through the premises ; it also helps librarians with managing collections or processing mass data automatically.

- a complex use : Dewey is also a very precise indexing system which describes the scientific contents of our items very accurately.

Sometimes those two approaches of DDC conflict with each other, resulting, as Jean Maury pointed out this morning, in two different numbers for the same document, corresponding to two different and legitimate uses.

What do those two approaches have in common ?

- First, they have in common the number itself, even when it is simplified. No more languages or translation problems, Dewey is a universal language, more efficient than Esperanto…, which can go beyond diverging practices, from a library – and also from a culture – to another. So, when we use Dewey, we are able to tag our

resources, to organize them inside knowledge classes, from general to more specific topics. Therefore, it is easier to access documents all around the world, which is a common goal for us, librarians.

- Second, all of us librarians need to enforce cooperation between Dewey users. EDUG plays a major collective role as a discussion platform where we can share ideas about practices, tools and tips so that we can form an opinion and, through community action, make OCLC more aware of our common needs and reactive to our demands, which is essential.

Finally, I want to speak about web challenges. Dewey is both an indexing system and a classification, as Michel Renouf perfectly explained this morning, and it's a great opportunity for us : Dewey is one of the few tools able to deal with the almost centrifugal forces of the use of data on the web.

On one hand, by enabling users to to search for concepts and general entities, Dewey is perfectly in conformity with search engines practices.

On the other hand, Dewey can be viewed as a a hub able to bring together the principal entities that emerge in the context of the evolution of data conceptual models (such as subjects, places, events, document types). We can find all these entities in the IFLA LRM model as "res", the Latin word for "thing". In this context, the more refined Dewey is, the more it can be seen as a bridge between the knowledge different entities.

Dewey will have a bright future on one condition : Dewey must be connected and coordinated with the general evolution of the main indexing systems, that are made or used by libraries.

In France, for example, the French librarians' community is now working on improving and changing RAMEAU, our French indexing language, in order to make a distinction between what is the core of the subject and what relates to geographic indexing, chronological indexing and form and genre indexing (such as handbooks or conference proceedings). We have the feeling that, in this context, Dewey could make its role and its position in the data general ecosystem more legitimate. The OSLO mapping project will be a great inspiration for the BnF for connecting Dewey and RAMEAU.

However, in order to reach this target, Dewey really needs to open itself more and more and it is also in need of a strong strategic vision.

The BnF will always be available, for EDUG and EDUG partners, while respecting the national bibliographic policies, to start again this discussion with OCLC.

As a conclusion, I would like to thank this whole assembly of librarians, who have come from places all over Europe to discuss about Dewey. I would also like to thank the speakers for the quality of their speech and their capacity to share with us their Dewey practices. I believe it was very enlightening for all of us. I also have a special thought for Patricia Bellec, BnF's previous Dewey coordinator, who gave a lot of energy to translate Dewey's 23rd edition into French language. Hosting EDUG today in Paris is a way of paying tribute to her work.

And, special thanks to our organization team : Dalila da Silva, Vincent Boulet, Jean Maury, of course, and the whole metadata department.

I hope that these two days have been as fruitful for you as for us, and I wish you a safe trip home....