

Dear all,

Thank you for the opportunity to meet on Thursday, 21 January 2021. We believe it was a valuable and effective discussion and successfully clarified for us the concerns of the German National Library and the European Dewey Users Group (EDUG). We hope that we were able to alleviate your concerns and increase your confidence in OCLC's long-term commitment to the DDC. To this end, we thought it would be helpful to capture some of the key items in writing. Please let us know if there are questions about these or any other aspects of our discussion.

As we discussed, the work of managing the DDC has changed over the last eight years and has required us to move to a different staffing model. The generation of a print edition every seven years has been replaced with options for print-on-demand and online access to the continuously revised DDC through WebDewey. The generation and execution of a seven-year workplan for a four-volume print edition, which includes substantial writing of frontmatter and quality reviews, is no longer required. In addition, much of the work not directly related to managing and enhancing the DDC is now handled by a distributed team of specialists, freeing up the Editorial Team to focus almost entirely on editorial work and sharing their domain expertise with the community. We strongly believe the new staffing model provides greater flexibility and adaptability. It enables us to take advantage of opportunities like the creation and maintenance of a linked data version of Dewey. This is a critical step toward embedding the DDC as the bridge identifier in OCLC's strategy for a concepts graph, while continuing to ensure the ongoing utility of the DDC in its current form.

We are excited to expand the existing quarterly calls with EDUG officers to include all DDC translation partners. The goals will be to facilitate discussions on the status of open questions and possible software enhancements and to share ideas on improved workflows. We also anticipate that by increasing awareness of our strategy and the workplans to deliver on that strategy, we will uncover deeper collaboration opportunities across our teams.

Thank you again for your time, attention, and passion for the Dewey Decimal Classification system. We look forward to many more decades of collaboration with you and with the library community.

Best regards,

Mary Sauer-Games, VP Global Product Management,
Marti Heyman, Executive Director Metadata Strategy & Operations, and Eric van
Lubeek, Vice President Managing Director, EMEA & APAC