



EDUG Symposium 2014
Dewey-flokkunarkerfið – trending DDC topics
in Iceland and other parts of Europe

The Use of Dewey in Iceland and Subject Analysis - Interplay of Classification and Indexing

Þórdís T. Þórarinsdóttir

Library Director at Menntaskólinn við Sund Library



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Content overview

- Background information on Iceland
 - Overview of library and information services
- Introduction of Dewey in the year 1900
 - Translations of Dewey in Icelandic
- Development of Dewey in Iceland
- Usage of Dewey in different library types
- Classification as subject analysis
 - Interplay of classification and indexing
- Future perspectives



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Iceland - Background

- Size of the country: 103.000 km² (39.000 mi²)
- Population: 326.000 – 3 persons pro km²
- 65-70% of the population in the capital area
- The infrastructure: complicated and costly
- National language: Icelandic
- For centuries Danish colony, 1944 Republic
- Historical change after the Second World War
- Oct. 2008: Economic crisis – Considerable impact



Libraries in Iceland

Timeline 1

Not a longstanding library tradition

1790 the first reading society

- 1937 law passed on their operation

1818 National Library

- 1886 Law on legal deposit copies
- 1900 the Dewey system introduced

1911 University of Iceland in Reykjavík

- 1940 Faculty libraries merged – Dewey system

1923 Reykjavík City Library – Danish Dewey



Libraries in Iceland

Timeline 2

1955 the first public library law passed

- Directorate of Public and School Libraries

1956 Library Science, University of Iceland

Librarians Associations vs Library Associations

- 1960 Icelandic Librarians Association
- 1973 Association of Professional Librarians
- 1999 the associations merged: Upplýsing – the Library and Information Science Association

1994 National and University Library merged

Dewey comes to Iceland - timeline

1890s Jón Ólafsson works in libraries the US

- Management of libraries, Classification, Dewey

1900 Jón introduces Dewey to the National Library

1900-1913 Jón classifies and catalogues foreign material according to the Dewey system

1902 the first writing in Icelandic on library science

- Guidelines: classification, cataloging, management
- First translation (outline) of Dewey in Icelandic

Icelandic literature options

1902 Icelandic translation

810 Icelandic literature
general works

810.1 Poetry

810.2 Drama

810.3 Fiction

810.4 Collections

2002 Icelandic translation

810 Icelandic literature

811 Poetry

812 Drama

813 Fiction

814 Collections

Icelandic translations 1

1902 An outline printed as part of a journal article

1952 Abridged edition with an index printed as a book chapter

– based on the standard edition from 1951

1955 Booklet published with guidelines on classification for small libraries

1961 Booklet published with more comprehensive guidelines on classification



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Icelandic translations 2

1970 Based on the 16th & 17th eds, but abridged

– book, the first licenced translation

1987 based on the 11th & 12th abr. ed.- but shorter

2002 translation of the 13th abridged ed. from 1997

➤ **Translations - for the most part voluntary work and therefore the publication process takes long time - when the translation is out a new international edition is already out or coming soon**



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Icelandic options 1

- From the very first Icelandic translation (1902) the local emphasis options used in **language** and **literature** and from 1952 shorter numbers for **geographic areas**
- Historical periods and the geographic areas have been **expanded**
- Some other class numbers have also been **adapted**, e.g. for Nordic languages and for the Nordic countries

Icelandic options 2

Example 1 – 400 Languages

Class	Icelandic 2002 edition	International edition
400.1	# Philosophy and theory	
401	# Linguistics	Philosophy and theory
410	# Icelandic	Linguistics
436.6	# Norwegian	439.85
436.69	# Faeroese	439.699
439.8	# Danish	439.81

Icelandic language in the abridged and full edition (T6)

Comparision of some combinations

2002 Icelandic translation

Icelandic language –**1**

03**1** Icelandic encyclopedias

05**1** Icelandic serial publications

06**1** Icelandic organizations

08**1** Icelandic collections

19**1** Icelandic philosophy

75**1** Icelandic painting and paintings

International edition

Abridged –**439** - full ed.–**396 91**

03**4.39**

03**3.9691**

05**4.39**

05**3.9691**

06**4.39**

06**3.9691**

08**4.39**

08**3.9691**

19**4.39**

19**3.9691**

75**4.39**

75**3.9691**

Icelandic options 3

Example 2 - 800 Literature

Class	Icelandic 2002 edition	International edition
810	# Icelandic literature	American literature in English
819	# Old Icelandic literature	(American literature in English not requiring local emphasis)
820	# American English and English literatures	English and Old English literatures
839.6	# Norwegian literature	839.82
836.69	# Faeroese literature	439.699
839.79	# Finnish-Swedish lit.	
839.8	# Danish literature	839.81

Geographical areas Expanded – Example

Table 2: Icelandic edition –491 - International edition –491 2

An example of the geographic expansion
according to **Table 2** in the Icelandic edition

- 491 Country number for Iceland from Table 2
- 491 3 Vesturland (the Western part of Iceland)
- 491 31 Mýra- og Borgarfjarðarsýsla (county)
- 491 311 Akranes (small town)



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Historical periods

Icelandic Expansion

Class	Historical Periods
#949.1	Ísland (Iceland)
949.101	Forsaga til 874; söguskeið til 1262; landnám, 874-930
949.101 1	Þjóðveldisöld, 930-1262 (the Icelandic Free State)
949.102	Miðaldir, 1262-1550 (Icelandic Middle Ages)
949.103	Siðaskipti til stjórnarskrár, 1550-1874
949.104	Landshöfðingjatímabilið, 1874-1904
949.105	20. öld
949.105 1	Heimastjórn, 1904-1918 (Home Rule)
949.105 2	Fullveldistímabil, 1918-1940/1944 (Sovereignty)
949.105 21	Hernám Breta/skeið aðskilnaðar frá Dönum, 1940-1944
949.105 3	Lýðveldi, 1944- (Republic)



Danish Dewey

Some examples

International edition

110 Metaphysics

130 Paranormal phenomena

140 Philosophical schools

150 Psychology

400 Language

890 Other literatures

910 Geography & travel

990 Other parts of world

Danish edition

110 Logic

130 Psychology

140 Paranormal phen.

150 Ethics

400 Geography & travel

890 Language

910 Historical periods

990 Biography

Use of Dewey 1

- **Elementary school libraries**
 - Icelandic edition – broad classification
- **Secondary school libraries**
 - Full international edition and Icelandic edition combined
- **Public Libraries**
 - Reykjavík City Library – Danish version of Dewey
 - Other Public Libraries: Icelandic edition.

Use of Dewey 2

- **Research and special libraries**
 - Mainly full international DDC edition
 - Landspítali - The National University Hospital of Iceland
 - also NLM Classification
- **National and University Library of Iceland (NULI)**
 - Full international edition - Often very close classification with in-depth use of the tables, especially before indexing – which came with the automation



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Use of Dewey

- **The National and University Library (NULI)**
 - Leading position among Icelandic libraries
 - Full int. edition and Icelandic edition combined
 - From 1994 Dewey in electronic form
 - From 2001 WebDewey, from 2011 Consortium
 - Publishes the National Bibliography – Dewey numbers
- **Union Catalogue of Icelandic Libraries**
 - No organized coordination in classification
 - For subject analysis - main emphasis on subject indexing

Classification vs Indexing in Iceland

- Little cooperation regarding classification.
- Before the automation of libraries classification used for subject analysis
 - Class numbers instead of subject headings.
- With the automation of catalogues in the 80s and the publication of an Icelandic thesaurus (1992) subject headings assigned
 - Now main emphasis on subject indexing
- Classification mainly used for shelving



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Dewey numbers as subject headings

+327.174

355

Bla

Blacker, Coit D.

Reluctant warriors : the United States, the

Soviet Union and arms control / Coit D.

Blacker. - New York : Freeman, c1987. -

xiv, 193 s.: myndir, teikn.

T

355 - 327.174

21/05/2014

Interplay of classification and subject indexing

- Dewey numbers for classification – overview
- Subject indexing for more detailed analysis
- ❖ Increased globalization results in demand for interoperability of online catalogues.
- ❖ Dewey numbers “translated” into subject headings – break down language barriers
- ❖ Prerequisite to follow the same edition and not to use the special options and provisions



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Future perspectives

- Dewey used in Icelandic libraries in the future
- A new translation is due since the latest one is based on the abridged 13th edition from 1997
 - Mixed translation model possible?
- With subject indexing close classification not as important as before – classification for shelving
 - No classification coordination in Icelandic libraries
- Classification nevertheless important subject access tool



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“Knowledge orgainzed is knowledge kept.”

John P. Comaromi, 1976

Thank you for your attention

See also:

Þórdís T. Þórarinsdóttir. (2009). On subject classification and the use of DDC in Iceland. In Gunnar Þór Jóhannesson & Helga Björnsdóttir (eds), *Rannsóknir í félagsvísindum X. Félags- og mannvísindadeild. Erindi flutt á ráðstefnu í október 2009* (pp. 127-141). Reykjavík: Félagsvísindastofnun Háskóla Íslands. Retrieved on May 15, 2014 from http://skemman.is/stream/get/1946/7600/20217/1/F%C3%A9lags-og_mannv%C3%ADsindadeild_2009.pdf

DDC: Icelandic translations (reverse chronological order)

Dewey Dewey, Melvil. (2002). *Flokkunarkerfi Deweys ásamt afstæðum efnislykli*. Stytt íslensk útgáfa. Ritstjóri: Guðrún Karlsdóttir. Reykjavík: Landsbókasafn Íslands – Háskólabókasafn. [Translation of the 13th abridged edition of DDC, published 1997 by Forest Press, Albany, NY, based on the 21st unabridged edition from 1996.]

Dewey, Melvil. (1987) *Flokkunarkerfi*. Reykjavík: Samstarfsnefnd um upplýsingamál. [Based on the 11th abridged edition and on a draft of the 12th edition.]

Dewey, Melvil. (1970) *Flokkunarkerfi fyrir íslensk bókasöfn*. Reykjavík: Bókafulltrúi ríkisins. [Based on the 16th and 17th (1965) unabridged editions of the Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC) but abbreviated.]

Guðmundur G. Hagalín (1955). *Leiðbeiningar um flokkun og skráningu bóka*. Reykjavík, Fræðslumálaskrifstofan. [Adapted translation of the first and second summary.]

1955 and 1961 booklets with short guidelines on classification.

Björn Sigfússon, Ólafur F. Hjartar. (1952). *Bókasafnsrit 1. Myndunar- og skráningarstörf. Afgreiðsla. Bókaval*. Reykjavík: Menntamálaráðuneytið. 56-74. [Chapter in a book. The top three levels are shown and in some cases the fourth level as well.]

Jón Ólafsson (1902). Smábókasöfn – ýmislegt um fyrirkomulag þeirra, einkum röðun og skrásetning. *Tímarit Hins íslenska bókmenntafélags*, 23, 84-110. [Discussion on classification in a journal article, main classes and some more summaries.]