
Opportunities and difficulties – Sweden goes Dewey

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Outline

- Cataloguing and classification in Sweden – some background
- The switch to DDC
- The Swedish translation of the DDC and other tools
- National Bibliography of Sweden
- Experiences of changing classification scheme
- Concluding remarks

LIBRIS – the Swedish union catalogue

- LIBRIS, the Swedish union catalogue of most Swedish research libraries exists since 1971.
- One bibliographic record for each resource, reused by all libraries
- International and national cooperation

Classification in Sweden

- A Swedish classification scheme, generally known as SAB-systemet, was created in 1921.
- During the 20th century SAB-systemet became the scheme used by most Swedish libraries
- Some research libraries used international systems like LCC, UDC and DDC

DDC in Sweden

- In 2008 it was decided that the National Library of Sweden would switch to DDC. The main arguments were:
- Internationalization
- Streamlining of the classification process through reuse of foreign DDC numbers
- Quality improvement

Libraries that switch to DDC

- 35 libraries have decided to switch to DDC
- The majority of the general university libraries
- Some special libraries
- One public library

The Swedish mixed translation of DDC

- The upper parts of all hierarchies are translated into Swedish
- English language classes are inserted to complete hierarchies where needed
- Separate indexes featuring the terminology available in each language

- The level in SAB is used as the guide for what is translated into Swedish
- The level in the English-language abridged edition is used as a complement in cases where there is no SAB equivalent
- All classes superordinate to a translated class are translated

Swedish WebDewey - example

394.26 Helgdagar

- [300](#) Samhällsvetenskaper
- [390](#) Seder, etikett & folklöre
- [391-394](#) Seder
- [394](#) Allmänna seder
- [394.2](#) Särskilda tillfällen
- 394.26 Helgdagar**
- [394\[.2609\]](#) Historisk, geografisk aspekt, grupper
- [394.261-394.264](#) Secular holidays
- [394.265](#) Religious holidays
- [394.266](#) Kristna helgdagar
- [394.267](#) Jewish holidays
- [394.269](#) Historical, geographic, persons treatment

Anmärkningar

Klassificera här karnevaler som inte rör förfastan och liknande högtider självständighetsdagar; nationaldagar; årstidsmässiga högtider; seku

Klassificera en tidsperiod som förknippas med en helg med helgen, t.e. Klassificera en teknik eller ett hantverk som förknippas med högtider m fyrverkeritillverkning [662.1](#), dekoration av påskägg [745.5944](#)

För Mardi Gras se [394.25](#)

Indextermer (svenska)



- Helgdagar
- Helgdagar--seder
- Högtider
- Högtider--seder
- Nationaldagar
- Sekulära helgdagar
- Självständighetsdagar
- Årstidshelgdagar

Indextermer (engelska)

Other tools

- Mappings från Swedish subject headings and names to DDC
- Conversion table SAB-DDC

Other tools - examples

Svenska ämnesord & namn  

- [Fester](#)
- [Festivaler](#)
- [Festseder](#)
- [Folkliga fester](#)
- [Helgdagar](#)
- [Hembygdsfester](#)
- [Högtider](#)
- [Högtidsseder](#)
- [Karnevaler](#)
- [Maskerader](#)
- [Nationaldagar](#)
- [Nationaldagsfirande](#)
- [Offentliga fester](#)
- [Vattenfester](#)

DEWEY	SAB	Relation
394.2	Mza	↔ C
394.25	Ik	C
394.26	Ik	≈
394.2663	Mzaj	=

The National Bibliography of Sweden

- Catalogues the Swedish national output
- Relies on legal deposit + special agreement with the largest database for the Swedish book-trade, Bokrondellen.
- Is generally very up to date: for commercially published books pre-publication or closely after publication, for “grey” literature there is a lag of maximum 3 months.
- The Swedish National Bibliography is a subdatabase in the LIBRIS-database.
- There are no printed National bibliographic products.
- The yearly statistics is published as a pdf-file on the National Librarys web page.

Experiences of changing classification scheme

- Some things are still hard
- Some things are easier than expected
- Some things are harder than expected

Still hard

- Subject analysis

What is it really about?

Parents' experience after the death of a child through Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), with special attention to the function of rituals. A psychology of religion study

Author: [Carin Åblad Lundström](#); [Uppsala Universitet.](#); [2010]

Keywords: [HUMANITIES and RELIGION](#); [rituals](#); [religious rituals](#); [psychosocial functions](#); [unexpected death](#); [parents](#); [children](#); [SIDS](#); [Spädbarnsfonden](#); [liminoid](#); [time](#); [mixed methods design](#); [Psychology of Religion](#);

Abstract: The study examines rituals' psychosocial functions for Swedish parents with experience of SIDS. Focus is on: the parents' experience of religious rituals such as funerals; private individual rituals such as interaction with things belonging to the child; private collective rituals in the Swedish SIDS Society for parents who have lost an infant through SIDS (Spädbarnsfonden); and, informal and formal help support structures. The study's mixed methods design has a qualitative approach, with qualitative (semi-structured interview) and quantitative (survey) methods. The qualitative method is central...

Easier than expected

- Replacing one knowledge organisation system with another one
- Leaving the extra classification notations common in SAB behind
- Specific Swedish phenomena – maybe not that specifically Swedish after all?

Swedish phenomena with Dewey numbers



Harder than expected

- Standing room
- Using the mixed translation – lacking interdisciplinary numbers
- Inconsistencies in DDC, e.g. in the number of zeros and in the hierarchies
- Complex number building in areas where classification was easy in SAB
A collection of Swedish short stories about sports, written in the 21st century :
SAB: Hc.016(s)
DDC: 839.73010835790905

Harder than expected (continued)

- Using foreign DDC number – numbers applied by different libraries differ

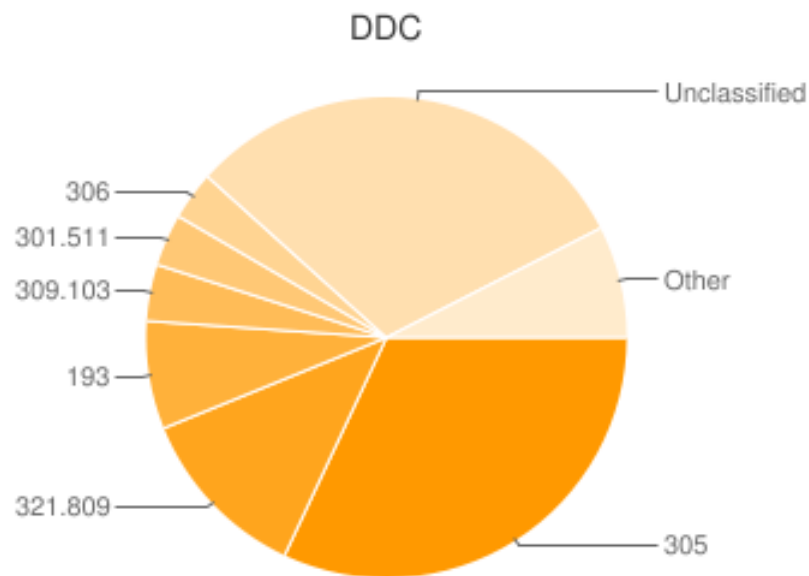


Chart from Classify

Cultural dependency in unexpected areas

641.865 Pastries

- [600](#) Technology
- [640](#) Home & family management
- [641](#) Food and drink
- [641.8](#) Cooking specific kinds of dishes and preparing beverages
- [641.86](#) Desserts
- 641.865 Pastries**
- [641.8652](#) Pies and tarts
- [641.8653](#) Cakes
- [641.8654](#) Cookies
- [641.8659](#) Danish, French, related pastries



Spitzes and primitive dogs – Nordic hunting dogs



Special challenges for the National Bibliography division

All of the above are true for the cataloguers at the Swedish National Bibliography. Special challenges:

- The other libraries in the LIBRIS-community rely on correct bibliographic records for Swedish publications. The issue of *trust*. We are expected to become experts in a very short period of time.
- Possible negative effect on work-flow and up-to-dateness caused by need to study the new classification system. The issue of *time*.

Solutions to these challenges

1. Gradual transition:

September-October 2010: 1 weeks DDC-course for about 1/3 of the cataloguers at the Swedish NB at the time.

When back from the DDC-course those cataloguers started to classify about 1/3 of all the books that they catalogued with DDC (and SAB). Initially focus on commercially published translations for which there often were DDC-codes in other databases.

On the 1st of Januari 2011 full transition to DDC!

2. Refining of what is included in the Swedish National Bibliography:

Exclusion of "grey" literature.

Side effects

- Even more focus on cooperation, in the library, national and international
- Subject analysis in focus
- A fresh look at familiar things
- Refining of what is included in the National Bibliography
- Shelving – chance to rethink
- Weeding

Shelving

– example from Linnaeus university library



National Library of Sweden

Concluding remarks

- Changing classification systems is both a challenge and an opportunity
- Hard work
- Lots of positive side effects
- Rethinking is good for you!

Thank you!

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