

WEB-BASED LIBRARY CLASSIFICATION SCHEMES LEARNING ENVIRONMENT FOR LIS EDUCATION

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Abstract

The study highlights on Web-Based Library Classification Schemes in this paper. Web-based mode of teaching is gradually evolving as an important component of LIS education in India. Library Classification Schemes are extremely helpful to classify books which are important portion for study in LIS education. They use as a tool to classify universe of knowledge. The study deals with Online Accessible Library Classification Schemes especially 'WebDewey' (Online product of DDC 22nd ed.) and 'UDC Online' (UDC) in the paper. These are constantly updated Library Classification schemes. This study mainly describes Library Classification, Web-based learning, Impact of Web on Library Classification Schemes, Objectives of Web-based Library Classification Schemes, Web-Based Library Classification Schemes- WebDewey, UDC Online.

Keywords: *Web-based Library Classification Schemes, Dewey Decimal Classification, WebDewey, Universal Decimal Classification, UDC Online*

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Introduction

Library classification is very important part in LIS education. Thanks, to Melvil Dewey, Paul Otlet and Henry La Fontain and S.R. Ranganathan who originated great Library Classification Schemes. As a result, the students enable how to classify the books. So, this is the basic education gives to students in the field of Library and Information Science.

LIS course is more practical oriented and also expected that the students would come out with substantial gain after completing the course. The large growth of Libraries and Library and Information Science schools and fast changing technology on libraries and information handling have thrown greater threats and challenges to the LIS professionals.

1. Library Classification

Library Classification is a technique of knowledge organization. Library classification helps to arrange documents in a systematic order, which is most convenient, time saving and conserve energy of the readers and the library staff. So, it needs to use some method or device which is automatic, systematic and following helpful arrangement.

These are Dewey Decimal Classification, Universal Decimal Classification, Library of Congress Classification which are the topmost classification schemes all over the world. Classification allows managing and controlling ideas, so that it can be used conveniently.

2. Objectives of the Study

1. To identify Web-based Library Classification Schemes.
2. To collect information regarding Web-based Library Classification Schemes
3. To access the Web-based databases of Library Classification Schemes.
4. To study in detail, all these schemes.

3. Research Methodology

- 1) Surfing on the Internet with the Keyword “Web-based Library Classification Schemes”
- 2) Finding DDC, UDC, LCC are three Web-based Library Classification Schemes and information was collected from their official websites and using relevant appropriate keywords for searching on WWW.
- 3) The online databases have been accessed through Trial Accounts.

4. Limitations

The study is limited to select Two Web-based Library Classification Systems- WebDewey (Web product of DDC 22nd ed.) and UDC Online (UDC).

5. Web-based Learning

The World Wide Web can be described as enormous, distributed, multifarious, machine-driven, dynamic, and rapidly evolving. It provides nascent, pinpointed and up-to-date information to its users.

W3 is like an angel to access any information. It is the repository of information spread all over the world and all the sites are dynamically linked together. The users can access the web pages are linked to each other with hyperlinks. The users search for the terms; it carries out efficiently and enables the retrieval of more relevant results. There is a combination of subject categorization with terms searching has proven to be an effective and efficient approach in resource directory and data mining.

In web and multimedia based learning, the help menus provide support to the students to navigate through the course material.

6. Impact of Web on Library Classification Schemes

A great change of information technology is making libraries modern, advanced, developed, and automated. But, in the 21st century, libraries have become knowledge centres.

Web-based Library Classification Schemes are almost different from traditional classification schemes.

Traditionally, there are number of Library Classification Schemes like Dewey Decimal Classification, Universal Decimal Classification, Library of Congress Classification, Colon Classification, Subject Classification etc. They provide very limited types of indexes like alphabetical indexes, DDC provide its relative index. The students learn how to find out the class numbers using these indexes.

But, in the 21st century, with the impact of IT some traditional Library Classification Schemes have changed in a glorious way. DDC and UDC are the top most and web based Library Classification schemes. They provide a variety of online services to the users. Users can browse and search the class number by clicking on that it is used to organize electronic data as well as classify libraries. It is the power of hypertext on the web, any item or class number placed at multiple positions in a web based classification schemes. It provides several ways how to get the same class number and the concept. The design of traditional scheme is quite different the design of web based schemes and tends.

- User-centered
- Users can create their own notes. Ex. DDC facilitates personal and institutional notes.

Online library classification system plays an exclusive role on web. Online editions have many additional features over the print version and allow multiple searching by terms and numbers and have user friendly browsing option.

7. Objectives of Web-based Library Classification Schemes

1. To provide schedules Online.
2. To provide online services.
3. To provide searching and browsing facility
4. To provide multiple indexes to access class numbers

5. To provide Online Subject Heading
6. To provide links to OPAC
7. To provide Glossary, Dictionary
8. To facilitate Tutorials
9. To provide Help to users
10. To hyperlink WebPages
11. To make available Users Notes
12. To facilitate Truncation searches
13. To avail Wild cards
14. To avail Boolean operators for advance searches
15. To provide built numbers
16. To show hierarchical and relative classes at one place
17. To provide links to relevant important sites.

8. Web-Based Library Classification Schemes

There are two Web-based Library Classification Schemes.

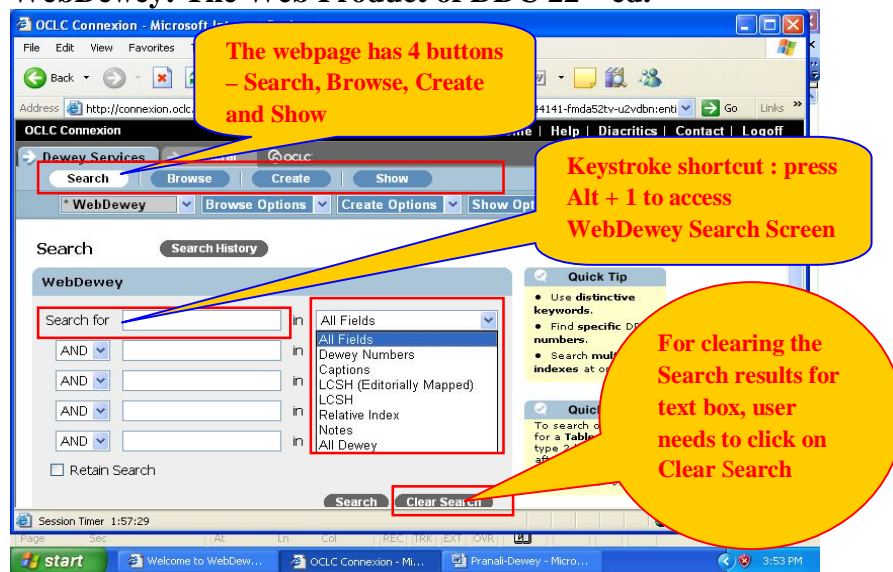
- WebDewey (DDC 22nd ed.)
- UDC Online

Electronic versions of the DDC and UDC make it possible to realize the potential of Library Classification to improve subject retrieval. It creates renewed interest in classification as an organizing and retrieval device for information resources has been sparked by the growth in usage of the Internet and World Wide Web (WWW). UDC is also powerful on web.

8.1 WebDewey (DDC 22nd ed.)

DDC is the oldest and most prevalent system all over the world. It is a universal classification system. It is efficiently working not only in print, but in online environment also.

WebDewey: The Web Product of DDC 22nd ed.



[Source: <http://connexion.oclc.org/> (Last Accessed on 28/7/2011)]

‘WebDewey’, the online exclusive product of Dewey Decimal Classification 22nd ed.

8.1.1 Main Features of WebDewey

- The webpage has 04 buttons under Dewey Services.
- It facilitates search and browse to the users. It avails 8 searchable and 6 browsable indexes to search DDC class numbers and terms.
- It provides create user notes and search for users notes.
- WebDewey avails use of truncation and wildcards for expanding a term to include variant endings.
- It provides readymade Build numbers to the users according to ‘Add to base no.’ instructions and avails work area for building DDC number.
- It provides Tutorials as well as Trial account to users to learn more about WebDewey.
- It also provides OPAC links to the users.

Table – 8.1.1

WebDewey Search Indexes

WebDewey Search Indexes (Label)	Abbreviations	Fields included	Display Results	Example
All Fields	(al:)	All fields/data are included in all indexes of the WebDewey database	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It improves results when a search on another index produces too few hits. • It finds all occurrences of a term in the database. 	Economics (330)
Dewey Numbers	(dd:)	All Dewey entry numbers in the schedules, tables, manual and Relative Index	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It finds all occurrences of a specific DDC Class Number. • It uses truncation to match all class numbers that begin with the same sequence of digits. 	020 (Library and Information Science)
Captions	(cp:)	Words in the captions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It finds a record for a DDC number when you know the caption or part of the caption. • It determines whether a term is part of a DDC caption. 	Chemistry (540)
LCSH (Editorially Mapped)	(em:)	Words in the editorially mapped Library of Congress subject headings (LCSH) only	It determines whether an LCSH term has been associated with a DDC class number by the DDC editors	Women Education (370.82)
LCSH	(lc:)	Words in all Library of Congress subject headings (LCSH) that have been mapped to DDC class numbers, either editorially or statistically	It determines whether an LCSH term has been associated with a DDC class number, either by the DDC editors or by a statistical process	Electronics
Relative Index	(ri:)	Words in the Relative Index, including See Also and See Manual	It finds records that encompass a subject in the context of	Marathi (491.46)

		Entries	various disciplines	
Notes	(nt:)	Words and Dewey numbers in the notes, fields of the schedules, tables and manual	It finds special instructions regarding a subject or a class number	Ecology (577)
All Dewey	(ad:)	All data included in these indexes: Dewey Numbers, Captions, Relative Index and Notes	It omits the mapped LCSH from the search	Psychology (150)

Table 8.1.1 describes eight types of search indexes for easy searching of a DDC number or caption.

Table – 8.1.2
WebDewey Browse Indexes

WebDewey Browse Indexes (label)	Fields included	Results Display	Example
Dewey Numbers with Captions	All Dewey entry numbers in the schedules, tables, manual, and Relative Index. Results show number and associated caption in Dewey number order.	Browse for a Dewey number. It displays the Dewey number the user entered in the context of all Dewey entry numbers in sequence, with captions. It is easy to navigate from the number user browsed for to others in the immediate vicinity.	510
LCSH	Words and phrases in all Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH) associated with Dewey numbers in the WebDewey database listed alphabetically by first word.	Browse for a heading by typing the first word (or several words). It includes punctuation such as parentheses and hyphen /s to find an exact match for a specific heading. Displays the heading in an alphabetical list of all subject headings so it is easy to navigate from the heading user browsed for to others in the immediate vicinity.	web.
LCSH (KWIC)	Words in all associated Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH) listed alphabetically in context.	Browse for a word that occurs anywhere in an indexed heading. It displays headings that begin with the word, and then headings that contain the word in positions other than the beginning, in alphabetical	lions

		order.	
LCSH (Editorially Mapped)	Words and phrases in the editorially mapped Library of Congress subject headings (LCSH) listed alphabetically by first word.	Browse for a heading by typing the first word (or several words). It includes punctuation such as parentheses and hyphens to find an exact match for a specific heading.	mice
Relative Index	Words and phrases in the Relative Index, including See Also and See Manual entries, listed alphabetically by first word	Browse for an entry by typing the first word (or several words). It includes punctuation such as parentheses and hyphen / s to find an exact match for a specific entry.	. telephone
Relative Index (KWIC)	Words in the Relative Index, including See Also and See Manual entries, listed alphabetically in context	Browse for a word that occurs anywhere in a Relative Index entry. It displays entries that begin with the word, and then entries that contain the word in positions other than the beginning, in alphabetical order.	birds

Table 8.1.2 provides 06 types of browse indexes for easy search of a DDC number or caption.

Table – 8.1.3
Boolean Operators Search

Boolean Operators	Retrieval	With Examples
AND (default)	Records that contain both of the combined terms in the field(s) specified for each term.	Dog AND Dogs
OR	Records that contain at least 1 of the combined terms in the field(s) specified for that term; records can contain either term or both terms.	Marathi OR Hindi
NOT	Records that do not contain the term that follows NOT in the field(s) specified.	Marathi NOT Hindi

Table – 8.1.3 highlights on the Boolean operator (AND, OR, NOT) for doing the advance search in the WebDewey.

Table – 8.1.4
Fields in Dewey User Notes (Steps)

Fields Includes	Purpose to Use	Required
DDC#	It should identify the number to which the note applies and using a number from the schedules, tables or manuals.	No
Title	It describe the content of note in Title. It indicates when or how the note applies to a classification task. It displays in brief entries for retrieved notes in search results.	Yes
Type of Note	It enables selective display of notes by typing. It enables using of note type as a restrictor when searching the notes database.	Yes
Keywords	It allows adding multiple keywords in the keyword box using comma or semicolon.	No
Note	It includes the information about the instructions, guidelines, tips, supplemental information, examples of numbers and/or examples of subjects to classify under the number.	Yes

Table – 8.1.4 describes User notes. They are attached to the records and it appears in a separate area labeled User Notes, immediately following the Notes area.

8.1.2 Current Outlook of DDC -

Currently, DDC published its 23rd edition full 2011 and 14th abridged ed. in 2004 both in print and online version. There are several major changes included in publication of print and web version WebDewey 2.0 simultaneously. It is dynamic, much revised, updated and easy to navigate on the online version.

8.2 Universal Decimal Classification

Universal Decimal Classification is a wide-ranging scheme for classifying the whole universe of knowledge. It is one of most expanded, most prevalent, developed, revised, up-to-date Library Classification System in the world. UDC has always been a major international

scheme, but now that the UDCC (Universal Decimal Classification Consortium) has created an international (and eventually multilingual) database. Today, UDC is on the second position in using the schemes all over the world. UDC is a system which provides the place for all branches of knowledge, though traditionally it is considered stronger in sciences and technology subjects.

UDC ONLINE

It is the homepage of UDC Online. It facilitates searching and browsing UDC Class number. It avails browse UDC database and showing number building area.

UDC Online provides two types of searches
1. Search For A Term
2. Search For Numbers

[Source: <http://www.udconline.net/> (Last Accessed on 3/11/2009)]

‘UDC Online’ is the online product of Universal Decimal Classification. UDC is available on Web from 2001. UDC Online is a well developed database performing very well the current needs of the users. It works extremely fine with computers and using software as it did with earlier automatic sorting devices.

8.2.1 Main Features of UDC Online

- UDC Online is an international database.
- It has developed colour combined numbers specially Main Tables, Common Auxiliaries and Special Auxiliaries
- It provides powerful search and browse.
- It enables broadening and narrowing searches.
- It enables to cover new subjects easily.

- There are two different search methods available.
- It provides search through 'UDC Dictionary'.
- It keeps good control over truncation/stemming.
- Number building boxes are provided for synthesized complex numbers.
- Special Auxiliaries are not shown separately. It is displayed with specific colour when search results are displayed.
- It includes a 'Hierarchy Tree'.
- UDC Online is a colourful database recognizing numbers specially with a particular colour.
- It gives easy and quick checking of related and associated classes.
- It gives also quicker finding and building of UDC numbers.

9. Conclusion

On the basis of whole study it is observed that both DDC and UDC are well known Web-based Library Classification Systems. They published in print, electronic version (CD-ROM), web version. They are easy accessing and user friendly databases. They are more handy, easy to use and navigate to all the users. They also provide 'Trial Accounts' to the users how to learn these databases.

WebDewey has the extraordinary features like multiple indexes to the users to find out the class numbers, Tutorials, Boolean Operators, Links to OPAC, Glossary, Thousands of Built numbers, User Notes comparatively to UDC Online database. The students must learn these databases how can access the class numbers.

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