DEUTSCHE NATIONAL BIBLIOTHEK

Changes to subject cataloguing procedures at the German National Library from 1 July 2019

Series A

In May 2017, the German National Library published its concept for the development of subject cataloguing procedures, which is now being implemented step by step. One important element of this concept is the use of automated cataloguing subject cataloguing processes, also for physical media works. However, it also states that core intellectual cataloguing activities will continue, e.g. in the case of subjects for which machine-based cataloguing processes do not deliver satisfactory results; intellectual cataloguing will also be carried out for the purpose of developing machine-based processes further and maintaining the GND.

At present, it is impossible to say which subjects and publications will have to be catalogued intellectually on a long-term or permanent basis. The German National Library is currently continuing to catalogue Series A publications intellectually and guarantees that this will continue until the end of the 2nd quarter of 2019.

1 July 2019 will mark the start of a transition scenario developed by the DNB in cooperation with the subject cataloguing initiative group of the Committee for Library Standards and approved by the Committee itself. This specifies which academic publications in Series A are guaranteed to undergo intellectual subject cataloguing by the DNB over the next 3-5 years.

The interim scenario is oriented on requirements pertaining to book-related subject categories. The decision as to which a subject is book-related and which users clearly require printed academic literature issued by German publishers was made by the DNB in agreement with the subject cataloguing initiative group of the Committee for Library Standards.

For these book-related subjects, the DNB guarantees to continue cataloguing printed monographs in Series A intellectually by subject during the transition period with subject headings, DDC numbers and DDC Subject Categories provided the monographs concerned are classified as academic literature. Intellectual cataloguing will also continue for monographs of non-book-related subjects, e.g. if they address historical, ethical or legal aspects of the subject. All publications of non-book-related subjects will be assigned DDC Subject Categories.

You will find the list of subjects below. For practical reasons and purposes of comprehensibility, the table is divided into DDC Subject Categories.

Series B

As part of the process of implementing the above-mentioned subject cataloguing concept, work on the automated assignment of subject headings to Series B and H publications began in 2017. The data services began delivering this data in autumn that year.

Subject headings are assigned automatically on the basis of the bibliographic data and digitised tables of contents. Machine-based subject cataloguing processes undergo continuous quality assurance and regular evaluation so that they can be improved. During the course of one of these evaluations, which encompassed a large quantity of Series B and H documents, it was found that the percentage of incorrectly assigned subject headings in Series B was at 30 % relatively high, and that the percentage of useful and very useful subject headings was less than 50 %. This is largely due to a number of factors including the high proportion of works in the field of social sciences and the emphasis placed by key subject-specific terms on persons, corporate bodies and geographical information, leading in turn to cataloguing errors.

The DNB has therefore decided that as of 1 July 2019, machine-based cataloguing for Series B publications will cease until further notice. However, it is working on alternatives for the subject cataloguing of this group of publications, e.g. by integrating more external data.

The machine-based assignment of subject headings to Series H publications will continue, as the majority of machine-generated subject headings were rated either useful or very useful (59 % in all), while the percentage of incorrectly assigned subject headings was just 18 %.

Publications of the Series B and H will further be assigned DDC Subject Categories and for some subjects machine-generated DDC Short Numbers.

Attachment

Transition scenario – intellectual subject cataloguing for series A monographs

DDC Subject Categories – book-related and non-book-related subjects

From 1 July 2019, the German National Library will be putting an transition scenario for intellectual subject cataloguing to put into force as part of the implementation of its concept for the further development of subject cataloguing procedures. A distinction is made between book-related and non-book-related subjects.

For book-related subject, the DNB guarantees to continue cataloguing printed monographs in Series A intellectually by subject for an interim period of 3 - 5 years provided the monographs concerned are classified as academic literature. Non-book-related subjects will not be intellectually catalogued with subject headings and DDC numbers unless the publications in question are academic monographs, i.e. publications that address historical, ethical or legal aspects of the subject in question. All publications of non-book-related subjects will be assigned DDC Subject Categories.

Non-book-related Subject Categories are marked with an Asterisk (*) in the table.

<u>NOTE</u>: As of 1 January 2021, Subject Categories 710 and 720 are also treated as book-related; this means that intellectual subject cataloguing is guaranteed.

000 Generalities, computers, information

| 000 Generalities
| 004 Computer science (*)
| 010 Bibliography
| 020 Library and information sciences
| 030 Encyclopedic works (*)
| 050 Magazines, journals and serials (*)
| 060 Organizations and museology
| 070 News media, journalism, publishing
| 080 General collections (*)
| 090 Manuscripts and rare books

100 Philosophy and psychology

| 100 Philosophy
| 130 Parapsychology, occultism (*)
| 150 Psychology (*)

200 Religion

| 200 Religion, Philosophy and theory of religion
| 220 Bible
| 230 Theology, Christianity
| 290 Other religions

300 Social sciences

| 300 Social sciences, sociology, anthropology
| 310 General statistics
| 320 Political science
| 330 Economics
| 333.7 Natural resources, energy and environment (*)
| 340 Law
| 350 Public administration
| 355 Military science
| 360 Social problems, social services, insurance
| 370 Education
| 380 Commerce, communications, transportation
| 390 Customs, etiquette, folklore

400 Language

| 400 Language, linguistics
| 420 English
| 430 German
| 439 Other Germanic languages
| 440 French, Romance languages in general
| 450 Italian, Romanian, Rhaeto-Romanic
| 460 Spanish and Portuguese languages
| 470 Latin
| 480 Greek
| 490 Other languages
| 491.8 Slavic (Slavonic) languages

500 Science and mathematics

| 500 Science (*)
| 510 Mathematics (*)
| 520 Astronomy, cartography (*)
| 530 Physics (*)
| 540 Chemistry (*)
| 550 Earth sciences and geology (*)
| 560 Paleontology (*)
| 570 Life sciences, biology (*)
| 580 Plants (botany) (*)
| 590 Animals (zoology) (*)

600 Technology, medicine, applied sciences

| 600 Technology (*)
| 610 Medicine and health (*)
| 620 Engineering and machine engineering
| 621.3 Electrical engineering, electronics
| 624 Civil engineering and environmental protection engineering
| 630 Agriculture, veterinary medicine (*)
| 640 Home and family management (*)
| 650 Management
| 660 Chemical engineering
| 670 Manufacturing (*)
| 690 Building and construction (*)

700 Arts and recreation

| | 700 Arts
| | 710 Landscaping and area planning
| | 720 Architecture
| | 730 Plastic arts, numismatics, ceramics, metalwork
| | 740 Graphic arts, decorative arts
| | 741.5 Comics, cartoons, caricatures
| | 750 Painting
| | 760 Printmaking, prints
| | 770 Photography, videography, computer art
| | 780 Music
| | 790 Recreational and performing arts
| | 791 Public performances, film, radio, television
| | 792 Theatre, dance
| | 793 Games (*)
| | 796 Sports (*)

800 Literature

| | 800 Literature, rhetoric and criticism
| | 810 American literature in English
| | 820 English literature
| | 830 German literature
| | 839 Other Germanic literatures
| | 840 French literature
| | 850 Italian, Romanian, Rhaeto-Romanic literatures
| | 860 Spanish and Portuguese literatures
| | 870 Latin literature
| | 880 Greek literature
| | 890 Other literatures
| | 891.8 Slavic (Slavonic) literatures

900 History and geography

| | 900 History
| | 910 Geography, travel
| | 914.3 Geography, travel (Germany)
| | 920 Biography, genealogy, heraldry
| | 930 History of the ancient world to ca. 499, archaeology
| | 940 History of Europe
| | 943 History of Germany
| | 950 History of Asia
| | 960 History of Africa
| | 970 History of North America
| | 980 History of South America
| | 990 History of other regions

B Fiction (*)

K Juvenile literature (*)

S School textbooks (*)

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