Importance and Prospects of Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC) in Modern College Library Management System: A Case Study with Special Reference to Selected College Libraries of Sivasagar and Charaideo District of Assam.

Dr. Nijumoni Changmai
Asstt. Librarian
Sonari College Library
Dist: Charaideo,(Assam)
Pin :785690
Contact No:9435358049
e-mail Id: nchangmai30@gmail.com

Abstract
Modern library is regarded as backbone of a institution, which is also expected to convert the potential readers into actual reader. Classification helps to convert unorganized thoughts and impressions into a recognizable pattern. We cannot live at all without the power of being able to classify the things around us. The word classification comes from the Latin word "classis". Ordinarily classification is a process of grouping. It means putting together like entities and separating unlike entities. But in library classification we are concerned with documents and the aim is to create a system out of disorder and provides a comprehensive view of the documents on a subject. Once an orderly arrangement has been achieved then it will save the time of successive readers as well as the library management. Dewey decimal classification is a hierarchical scheme of classification, which proceeds from general to the specific. The basic arrangement is by discipline and specific subject can occur in any number of disciplines. In this context, I surveyed some selected college libraries of Sivasagar and Charaideo district of Assam to know about purpose and prospects of Dewey decimal classification system in their college libraries and find out which edition of DDC is using for smooth and quick service for their user benefit.

Keywords: *Classification, management, modern libraries, hierarchical, specific,*

1. Introduction:

College Libraries are regarded as the heart of a college. A college library can play very important role in helping the educational system to achieve its goal. This means that it is must adequately serve the needs and requirements of the teacher and students in reading, study, and research. The effectiveness of student learning- process is increased by various means especially the use of library.

Therefore the college library is the ultimate place for the students to supplement their class room teaching. In the changing environment, college libraries moved out from the four walls of library and are now acting as active players in the universe of knowledge. Computer has impact on almost every step of life. Libraries are not exceptions to use of computer and by using computer have changed the whole structure and working environment of the library. In the present day context, automation and information communication technology is needed in every library. On the other hand, teaching, learning and research the library is helping the users not only through its print resources but also with the electronic resources and ICT applications. It is very important to provide pin pointed and up-to-date information to the users and to save the time. So, classification is a system of arrangement of documents adopted by a library to enable users to find its documents quickly and easily. Now digital library, electronic library concept are being popularized in the modern society. During the past two decades college libraries in India has witnessed a great impact of electronic technology such as computer ,storage and communication media have overall changed the entire library and information system. Assam is also not an exception in this regard.DDC is the oldest and most widely used scheme of classification. It is used in different countries of the world. So, through the DDC classification system once an orderly arrangement has been achieved then it will save the time of successive readers as well as the library staff. DDC is published in two editions full and abridged. The classification is kept up-to –date electronically through electronic version. In this respect Dewey decimal classification greatly help in proper library management system

2. Objectives and Methodology:

i) To study the needs and prospect of DDC in modern college libraries.
ii) To study the view of library professional towards the classification scheme used by the surveyed libraries.
iii) To find out the problems faced by the users and library professional due to arrangement of documents by DDC.

In order to carry out the present study, field study and questionnaire method are applied. The primary sources included the information has been collected directly from the librarian as well as their staff and selected users.

3. DDC and its Importance

The term DDC (Dewey decimal classification) was first devised by Melvil Dewey in the year 1876. As Dewey had interest in arranging things in a systematic way, therefore in 1873 he conceived the idea of formulating a scheme of classification. Finally in the year 1876 the scheme was formulated anonymously under the title "A Classification and Subject Index for Cataloguing Arranging the Book Pamphlets of a Library." The first edition of DDC was published in 1876. The index provided at the end of the first edition has evolved into what is known as the Relative index. Then the second entitled Decimal Classification and Relative index appeared in 1885. Till the 19th editions the DDC have appeared at regular intervals. The 19th edition was published in the year 1979. The DDC is most widely used classification system in the world. Libraries of every type apply Dewey numbers on a daily basis and share these numbers through a variety means (including World Cat, the OCLC Online Union catalogue). Dewey is also used for other purpose as a browsing mechanism for resources on the web. One of Dewey's great strengths is that the system is developed and maintained in a national bibliographic agency, the Library of Congress. The universe of subject has been

divided into ten main classes. Each main class is further divided into ten divisions and each ten division into ten sections (not all the numbers for the divisions and sections have been used).The first main ten classes are as given below:

000 – Generalities
100 – Philosophy and related disciplines
200 – Religion
300 – Social Science
400 – Language
500 – Pure Science
600 – Technology (Applied science)
700 – The Arts
800 – Literature
900 – General Geography, History and their Auxiliaries. These first ten classes also called first summery of DDC. The second summery contains ten divisions. For example, 500 is used for general works on the science, 510 for mathematics, 520 for astronomy, 530 is for physics.

The third summery contains, 530 is used for general works on physics, 531 for classical mechanics, 532 for fluid mechanics, 533 for gas mechanics etc etc.

DDC have seven step, these are

i) Basic Plan – The above mention main classes indicate that each main class represents either a major discipline or group of related disciplines.
ii) Decimal System- DDC is a decimal classification system. The universe of subject is divided into ten main classes. Each class is again divided into ten divisions. Each division gets divided into ten sections. So at each stage of division, a given number is subdivided decimally.
iii) Classification by discipline- The primary basis of DDC arrangement and development of subject is by discipline.
iv) Hierarchical notation- Hierarchical system of DDC is based on the main classes, 100divisions and 1000sections.

v) Hierarchy in disciplinary and subject relationship- DDC is basically hierarchical in notation as well in disciplinary and subject relationship.
vi) Memory aids- There are a number of memory aids, which are available for subject synthesis.
vii) Adaptability of notation- DDC can be used for broad classification as well as for close classification.
viii) Tables- DDC 19th has provided seven tables and latest 23rd edition provided six tables, which aid in number building and also serve a mnemonic functions.

3.1 Importance of Library Classification:

In ordinary classification we deal with arrangement of ideas and objects in a systematic order. But in library classification, we are mostly concerned with documents and the aim is to arrange these in the helpful and permanent order. These are arranged so that their use increases to the optimum level. A library classification aims to achieve the same. According to the fifth law of library science, library is a growing organization in this purpose when the collection grows beyond limit than it is essential to arrange them systematically on the shelves. In present context, modern college libraries are basically adopting open access system. Here users are allowed browsing amongst shelves without any hindrance. In open access having adequate number of shelf guide, bay guides barcode system etc. Therefore classification system will lead to save the time of reader as well as the staff.

3.2 Advantage of DDC in Modern College Libraries:

Some of the basic advantage of DDC as follows –

Its content is compact.
ii) It is convenient because of Arabic numerals

iii) It arranges subjects from general to specific in a logical order.

iv) It is easily modified to meet the needs of different libraries and various modification and minor rearrangements are authorized in the introduction schedule.

v) DDC is basically hierarchical in notation as well in disciplinary subject relationship.

vi) DDC revision has been done keeping in view the international use and value of the scheme, for this purpose options and other aids have been further develop.

3.4. **Disadvantage of classification:**

i) The length and complexity of call number discourage the classifiers as well as user.

ii) It is create some problem regarding special libraries.

iii) Without sound knowledge of classification it is difficult to handle smoothly.

4. Findings and analysis:

Taking into consideration of objectives, as the time of survey population has taken for the study basically library staff and their regular users. In this study the surveyed libraries data are represented in tabular from.

Table No 1 – Classification scheme used in surveyed college libraries

Sl No	District	Name of the College library	Total Collection	Year of establishment	Classification Scheme used
1	Sivasagar	Sibsagar college library	37,000	1947	DDC 21st ed
2	Do	Sibsagar Girls College Library	31,000	1964	DDC 21st ed
3	Do	Nazira College Library	18,000	1981	DDC 19th ed
4	Do	Gargoan College Library	26,000	1959	DDC 19th ed
5	Charaideo	Moran College Library	27,000	1964	DDC 21st ed
6	Do	Sonari College Library	22,000	1970	DDC 23rd ed
7	Do	Sonari Commerce College Libray	5,000	1991	DDC 19th ed
8	Do	Borhat BPB Memorial College ibrary	5,000	1995	DDC 19th ed

In this table it has seen that all the college libraries have good collection and using DDC for arrangement of their documents.

Table No 2- Automation system in surveyed college libraries

Sl No	District	Name of the College library	Total Staff	Fullly Automated or partially
1	Sivasagar	Sibsagar college library	8	Partially
2	Do	Sibsagar Girls College Library	5	Partially

3	Do	Nazira College Library	4	Partially
4	Do	Gargoan College Library	7	Partially
5	Charaideo	Moran College Library	8	Partially
6	Do	Sonari College Library	5	Partially
7	Do	Sonari Commerce College Libray	3	Processing
8	Do	Borhat BPB Memorial College ibrary	3	Processing

From the above table it has seen that average number of college library are partially automated and only two college library are undergoing process for automation . At the survey time it has been noticed that most of the college libraries are not available professional staff except librarian. Information technologies help their collection development and retrieve information. But lack of professional staff, librarian is facing various problems in every step to run their library smooth and effectively.

Table No 3: Satisfactions by using the DDC in the libraries

Sl. No	District	Name of the college libraries	Daily users	Staff satisfaction	Users satisfaction
1	Sivasagar	Sibsagar college library	More than 250	Yes	Yes
2	Do	Sibsagar Girls College Library	250	Yes	Yes
3	Do	Nazira College Library	150	Yes	Need User education
4	Do	Gargoan College Library	200	Yes	Yes
5	Charaideo	Moran College Library	200	Yes	Yes
6	Do	Sonari College Library	150	Yes	Need user education
7	Do	Sonari Commerce College Libray	50	Yes	Need user education
8	Do	Borhat BPB Memorial College ibrary	50	Yes	Need user education

Table 3 reflects particular libraries daily users, their satisfaction level at library in using documents which are arranged by DDC, and also their staff satisfaction level. Important is that due to lack of proper training of staff and lack of user orientation program at their libraries both staff and users are feeling uncomfortable for searching their documents at right time. At the surveyed time it also notice that all college libraries classified and arranged their documents only main basic class, due to lack of trained professional they are avoid decimal points ,specific degree of classification needed. So without staff support and user orientation programme it is impossible to render effective and efficient service to their user.

5. Prospects of DDC:

The universe of knowledge is dynamic and new in various forms is always coming up, at an accelerated speed. Not only the number of

subjects in existence is extremely large but relationships between various subjects are varied in nature. A service library acquires books for use. These are arranged so that their use increases to the optimum level. A library classification aims to achieve the same. A systematic arrangement will lead to maximum use of the collection. In turn, this would satisfy the laws of library science as formulated by S.R. Ranganathan. Classifying a work with DDC requires determining the subject, the disciplinary focus and if applicable the approach or form. But as the length of call number in DDC is quite long, so it is unsuitable to use, specially in the reference section. In spite of it has been adopted in libraries all over the world. It has been mainly adopted due to its simple notation, ease in application, and adoptability of its notation to the requirements of libraries of different sizes and nature, availability of variety of editions, its use in bibliographies and on printed catalogue cards. In this regard the revision has been done keeping in view the international use and value of the scheme.

6. Conclusion:

Library classification is necessity in a service library. Library classification is no more a simple operation as it is used to be in early days. It is becoming more and more complicated as well as sophisticated in nature. However due to the need of standardization cooperation required in large information system, classification has to face a new role. Beside the availability of computer technology has added a new dimension to its role posing a challenge to those concerns with classification research. Throughout the study it can be seen that DDC gave a new direction to the whole field of classification because DDC is being used in thousands of reading lists, bibliographies, book guides etc. One of the reasons of its worldwide popularity is mainly

because it is continuously being revised to accommodate new and latest developments in different discipline of human knowledge. DDC has always been backed by an organizational force emanating either from an individual or a corporate body.

Reference

[1]. Barmon,B .(2013).*Library and Information Science UGC-NET Guide*. Gauhati: DVS Publisher
[2]. Davision, K (1979). *Theory of Classification*. New Delhi: Asia Publishing.
[3]. Dhyani, P (2000*) Classifying with DDC: Editions19and 20*. New Delhi: Ess Ess Publication.
[4]. Kumar, Krishan (2000*) Library Manual*. New Delhi: Vikash Publishing House Pvt.Ltd
[5]. Sagar,P. Vaidya (2005) *Library Classification* . New Delhi: Sonali Publication.