Update on UDC in Russia

VINITI RAN
All-Russian Institute of Scientific and Technical Information
Russian Academy of Science
Moscow

Publishing activity

The Universal Decimal Classification is the main system for the organization of scientific and technical information (STI) in Russia. UDC indexing is obligatory for all published output of computer-managed STI systems. The *All-Russian Institute of Scientific and Technical Information* (*Vserossijskij institut naučnoj i tehničeskoj infomracii* - VINITI) of the Russian Academy of Sciences (*Rossijskaja Akademija Nauk* - RAN) is the national centre in charge of development and maintenance of the UDC editions in the Russian language. VINITI maintains a database with the full edition of the UDC in Russian, which is being updated on a regular basis in accordance with the extensions and corrections published by the UDC Consortium. This database is distributed on compact disks, and it is used as a basis for the annual issues of the fourth, full UDC edition in Russian. Of the ten originally planned volumes of this full edition, eight have been already published covering the following classes:

Common auxiliary tables	
0	Generalities
1	Philosophy. Psychology
2	Religion. Theology
3	Social sciences
5	Mathematics and natural sciences
60	Biotechnology
61	Medical sciences. Public health service
62	Engineering. Technology in general
63	Agriculture. Forestry. Farming. Fishing. Wildlife exploitation
64	Home economics. Domestic science. Housekeeping
654/659	Telecommunications. Publishing. Transport. Post. Advertising. Accountancy.Business management. Publicity
66	Chemical technology. Chemical and related industries. Metallurgy

In parallel, the Bulletins relating to the updates to earlier published volumes are regularly being published. They are based on the UDCC publication *Extensions and Corrections to the UDC*.

VINITI's contribution to the UDC revision and update

Developments in science and technology make the maintenance and development of the UDC rather difficult and complex. Many UDC sections should have been updated long ago. Such updates have been proposed for Class 53 Physics by VINITI in cooperation with the Library of Natural Sciences of the Russian Academy of Sciences and these changes were adapted and introduced by the UDC Consortium in 2006. Prior to these changes,

concepts in physics such as classical and quantum field theory, non-linear phenomena, chaos theory, synergetics, non-linear optics, static physics, systems with low dimensions, symmetry, theories and models of fundamental interactions etc. - were either missing or arranged in a way that reflected an obsolete view of the discipline.

VINITI specialists have also revised and extended several sections of Class 51 Mathematic with relevant concepts in the area of logic, algebra, analysis. These proposals were adopted by the UDC Consortium and were also published in the *Extensions & Corrections* in 2006, and were distributed with the updated version of the UDC MRF during 2007. This work on class 51 Mathematics and 53 Physics is planned to continue.

In the process of revision, VINITI still respects the "rule of 10 years", which means that for a period of 10 years cancelled UDC numbers should not be re-used to denote new concepts. VINITI has been maintaining and applying UDC in online bibliographic databases for a long time, and our experience with the matter of changing UDC numbers shows that the "10 year rule" should be re-instated in some form and respected in the revision of UDC, as possible.

UDC maintenance, dissemination and training

In addition to a 'flat' file of UDC schedules (full edition), VINITI is now creating a relational database system for UDC maintenance that will be accessible via an SQL-server. The system will enable better control over the integrity and consistency of data and it will offer better technological support for publishing the Russian language editions, for using UDC schedules online and for creating indexing tools that would enable distributed and collaborative indexing of documents in an online environment.

Communication and dissemination concerning works on UDC take place through a collaborative forum service that is available at *http://www.udcc.ru*. This is the place for operational discussions regarding suggested corrections and changes, the collection of user opinions and proposals aimed at improvements to the classification system, and consultations and discussions on complicated indexing cases. The latter are utilized by libraries and publishing houses of various cities and towns in Russia as well as in former Soviet republics (Ukraine, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Lithuania etc.).

With UDC users support and training in mind, we have set up regular annual seminars with the focus on education and methods of UDC application. These seminars are aimed at the dissemination and exchange of practical indexing experience and methods in relation to the indexing using UDC in various specialized subject areas or for different kinds of information resources and materials. The second seminar in the series was held in April 2007 and was attended by over 50 UDC specialists mainly from scientific and technical libraries of Russia and the former Soviet republics. Reports and round tables covered the following themes:

- Centralized UDC indexing
- UDC Indexing rules and methods
- Survey of the new GOST standard for the Russian UDC edition
- Main UDC schedules
- Modernization of UDC structure

- The latest changes in UDC
- Methods for the handling of common auxiliaries
- Alphabetical-subject indexes to the UDC schedules or to document collections
- UDC Manual Survey
- Working environment for UDC users
- SQL database system for UDC maintenance
- Consultations for UDC indexers

The participants were handed UDC textbooks and a "pocket-edition" of UDC containing first 4-5 levels of the subdivision. The most important materials of the seminar will be published in a special issue of the journal *Scientific and Technical Information* (Naučno tehničeskaja informacija, ISSN 0548-0019).

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