The introduction of the DDC as shelf classification at the Upper Austrian Regional Library

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Overview of presentation

- The library
- The reconstruction of the building
- The decision
- The practice
- The shelf numbers / The labels
- The users
- The advantages
The library

- Founded in 1774
- Federal library called 'Bundesstaatliche Studienbibliothek'
- Since 1999 'Oberösterreichische Landesbibliothek'
- General library
- Member of the Austrian Library Network
- Ca. 500,000 items / 25 librarians
The reconstruction

• Building erected 1930 – 1931
• Closed stacks library, shelving in accession order
• Reconstruction and expansion of the building 2007 – 2009
• Total area expanded from 3600 to 6000 m²
• Open access area expanded from 200 to 2200 m²
The reconstruction (2)
The decision

• Two options: DDC and RVK
• Preference for RVK – weekly meetings

RVK:
– Letters and numbers
– enumerative
– almost no notational synthesis
– 33 main classes
– Coherence?
The decision (2)

- DDC originally only our second choice
- German edition but only printed version available
- Unanimous decision for the DDC
- The 'charm' of the DDC
- Need for instruction and learning
- DDC notations in German National Bibliography
The practice

• Start around the beginning of 2007
• Learning by doing – MelvilClass
• 80% of bibliographic records carry Dewey number from German National Library
• ’Difficult cases’: Checks in
  – Dewey index of Austrian Central Catalog
  – Catalog of German National Library
  – Dewey browse index of British Library
# The shelf numbers

- **No Cutter numbers but letters from authors name and title instead**

  - 833.914_BERN2_ausl\(_{(2010)}\) Und ein Buch soll ja sein wie ein Kreuzworträtsel
  - 833.914_BERN2_char Zrod tří románů Thomase Bernharda
  - 833.914_BERN2_flei\_[DVD + Beil] Monologe auf Mallorca + Die Ursache bin ich selbst
  - 833.914_BERN2_haas Arbeit am Abscheu
  - 833.914_BERN2_jude Thomas Bernhard
  - 833.914_BERN2_pfab Thomas Bernhard
  - 833.914_BERN2_schmi\(_{(2008)}\) Thomas Bernhard
  - 833.914_BETA_ich Ich liebe mich
  - 833.914_BICH_deze Dezembergeschichten
  - 833.914_BLÄU_stac Stackler oder die Maschinerie der Nacht
  - 833.914_BOBR_levi Levins Mühle
  - 833.914_BOBR_lita Litauische Claviere
  - 833.914_BOBR2_wolf Beschreibung eines Zimmers
  - 833.914_BÖLL Ansi\(_{(2007)}\) Ansichten eines Clowns

- **Many rules applying to specific cases:**
  - the case of -092 Dewey numbers
  - the field of literature

- **Rules for dealing with overlong Dewey numbers:**
  - 943.4706092 \(\rightarrow\) 943.06092
  - 709.05074434124 \(\rightarrow\) 709.05074
The labels

• Split up meaningfully – small 'macro'
• Easily understandable
• Helpful in shelving

Shelf labeling:
Hierarchical structure of DDC as advantage
– 839.7 Swedish literature
– GW 5330 – GW 5340 Swedish literature
The users

- Many users who are not familiar with libraries
- Due to the basic structure of the DDC orientation is very easy
- Little need for explanation
- Experiences very positive
Library pilot
The advantages

• Easy orientation
• 'Understandability' [Nachvollziehbarkeit]
• Semantic structure
• Internationality
• Geographical divisions in table 2
• MelvilClass tool
• Fun in working
Thank you

Danke

Tack så mycket

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