Opportunities and difficulties – Sweden goes Dewey

Magdalena Svanberg & Miriam Nauri, National Library of Sweden
Outline

• Cataloguing and classification in Sweden – some background
• The switch to DDC
• The Swedish translation of the DDC and other tools
• National Bibliography of Sweden
• Experiences of changing classification scheme
• Concluding remarks
LIBRIS – the Swedish union catalogue

• LIBRIS, the Swedish union catalogue of most Swedish research libraries exists since 1971.
• One bibliographic record for each resource, reused by all libraries
• International and national cooperation
Classification in Sweden

• A Swedish classification scheme, generally known as SAB-systemet, was created in 1921.

• During the 20th century SAB-systemet became the scheme used by most Swedish libraries

• Some research libraries used international systems like LCC, UDC and DDC
DDC in Sweden

• In 2008 it was decided that the National Library of Sweden would switch to DDC. The main arguments were:

• Internationalization

• Streamlining of the classification process through reuse of foreign DDC numbers

• Quality improvement
Libraries that switch to DDC

• 35 libraries have decided to switch to DDC
• The majority of the general university libraries
• Some special libraries
• One public library
The Swedish mixed translation of DDC

- The upper parts of all hierarchies are translated into Swedish
- English language classes are inserted to complete hierarchies where needed
- Separate indexes featuring the terminology available in each language

- The level in SAB is used as the guide for what is translated into Swedish
- The level in the English-language abridged edition is used as a complement in cases where there is no SAB equivalent
- All classes superordinate to a translated class are translated
Swedish WebDewey - example

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>394.26 Helgdagar</th>
<th>Anmärkningar</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>300 Samhällsvetenskaper</td>
<td>Klassificera här kamevaler som inte rör förfasta och liknande högtider självtändighets قول</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>390 Seder, etikett &amp; folkskole</td>
<td>självtändighets قول</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>391-394 Seder</td>
<td>Klassificera en tidsperiod som förknippas med en helg med helgen, t.ex.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>394 Allmänna seder</td>
<td>Klassificera en teknik eller ett hantverk som förknippas med högtider m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>394.2 Sarskiida tillfällen</td>
<td>fyverkentilverkning 862.1, dekoration av påskägg 745.5944</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>394.26 Helgdagar</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>394 [2809] Historisk, geografisk aspekt, grupper</td>
<td>För Mardi Gras se 394.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>394 261 394 264 Secular holidays</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>394.265 Religious holidays</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>394.266 Kristna helgdagar</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>394.267 Jewish holidays</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>394.269 Historical, geographic, persons treatment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Indextermer (svenska)

- Helgdagar
- Helgdagar--seder
- Högtider
- Högtider--seder
- Nationaldagar
- Sekulära helgdagar
- Självtändighetsdagar
- Årstidshelgdagar

Indextermer (engelska)

- Helgdagar
- Helgdagar--seder
- Högtider
- Högtider--seder
- Nationaldagar
- Sekulära helgdagar
- Självtändighetsdagar
- Årstidshelgdagar
Other tools

• Mappings från Swedish subject headings and names to DDC
• Conversion table SAB-DDC
Other tools - examples

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Svenska ämnesord &amp; namn</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fester</td>
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<tr>
<td>Festivaler</td>
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<tr>
<td>Festsöder</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folkliga fester</td>
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<tr>
<td>Helodagar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hernbygdsfester</td>
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<tr>
<td>Högtider</td>
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<tr>
<td>Högjidsöder</td>
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<tr>
<td>Karnevaler</td>
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<td>Maskerader</td>
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<td>Nationalciagar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nationalciagsfirande</td>
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<tr>
<td>Offentliga fester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vattenfester</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DEWEY</th>
<th>SAB</th>
<th>Relation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>394.2</td>
<td>Mza</td>
<td>← C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>394.25</td>
<td>Ik</td>
<td>C</td>
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<td>394.26</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>394.2663</td>
<td>Mzai</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The National Bibliography of Sweden

- Catalogues the Swedish national output

- Relies on legal deposit + special agreement with the largest database for the Swedish book-trade, Bokrondellen.

- Is generally very up to date: for commercially published books pre-publication or closely after publication, for “grey” literature there is a lag of maximum 3 moths.

- The Swedish National Bibliography is a subdatabase in the LIBRIS-database.

- There are no printed National bibliographic products.

- The yearly statistics is published as a pdf-file on the National Library's web page.
Experiences of changing classification scheme

- Some things are still hard
- Some things are easier than expected
- Some things are harder than expected
Still hard

• Subject analysis
What is it really about?

Parents’ experience after the death of a child through Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), with special attention to the function of rituals. A psychology of religion study
Author: Carin Åblad Lundström; Uppsala Universitet.; [2010]
Keywords: HUMANITIES and RELIGION; rituals; religious rituals; psychosocial functions; unexpected death; parents; children; SIDS; Spädbarnsfonden; liminoid; time; mixed methods design; Psychology of Religion;
Abstract: The study examines rituals’ psychosocial functions for Swedish parents with experience of SIDS. Focus is on: the parents’ experience of religious rituals such as funerals; private individual rituals such as interaction with things belonging to the child; private collective rituals in the Swedish SIDS Society for parents who have lost an infant through SIDS (Spädbarnsfonden); and, informal and formal help support structures. The study’s mixed methods design has a qualitative approach, with qualitative (semi-structured interview) and quantitative (survey) methods. The qualitative method is central...
Easier than expected

• Replacing one knowledge organisation system with another one
• Leaving the extra classification notations common in SAB behind
• Specific Swedish phenomena – maybe not that specifically Swedish after all?
Swedish phenomena with Dewey numbers

394.263

636.2948 (new)
Harder than expected

- Standing room
- Using the mixed translation – lacking interdisciplinary numbers
- Inconsistencies in DDC, e.g. in the number of zeros and in the hierarchies
- Complex number building in areas where classification was easy in SAB

A collection of Swedish short stories about sports, written in the 21st century:
SAB: Hc.016(s)
DDC: 839.73010835790905
Harder than expected (continued)

- Using foreign DDC number – numbers applied by different libraries differ

Chart from Classify
Cultural dependency in unexpected areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>641.865 Pastries</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>600</td>
<td>Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>640</td>
<td>Home &amp; family management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>641</td>
<td>Food and drink</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>641.8</td>
<td>Cooking specific kinds of dishes and preparing beverages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>641.86</td>
<td>Desserts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>641.865</td>
<td>Pastries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>641.8652</td>
<td>Pies and tarts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>641.8653</td>
<td>Cakes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>641.8654</td>
<td>Cookies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>641.8659</td>
<td>Danish, French, related pastries</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Spitzes and primitive dogs – Nordic hunting dogs

636.753 Hounds

636.72 Nonsporting dogs

636.73 Working and herding dogs
Special challenges for the National Bibliography division

All of the above are true for the cataloguers at the Swedish National Bibliography. Special challenges:

• The other libraries in the LIBRIS-community rely on correct bibliographic records for Swedish publications. The issue of trust. We are expected to become experts in a very short period of time.

• Possible negative effect on work-flow and up-to-dateness caused by need to study the new classification system. The issue of time.
Solutions to these challenges

1. Gradual transition:
   September-October 2010: 1 weeks DDC-course for about 1/3 of the cataloguers at the Swedish NB at the time.
   When back from the DDC-course those cataloguers started to classify about 1/3 of all the books that they catalogued with DDC (and SAB). Initially focus on commercially published translations for which there often were DDC-codes in other databases.
   On the 1st of Januari 2011 full transition to DDC!

2. Refining of what is included in the Swedish National Bibliography:
   Exclusion of "grey" literature.
Side effects

• Even more focus on cooperation, in the library, national and international
• Subject analysis in focus
• A fresh look at familiar things
• Refining of what is included in the National Bibliography
• Shelving – chance to rethink
• Weeding
Shelving
– example from Linnaeus university library
Concluding remarks

• Changing classification systems is both a challenge and an opportunity
• Hard work
• Lots of positive side effects
• Rethinking is good for you!
Thank you!

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