European DDC Users Group

The Dewey Journey in Europe: a case study of classification in the 21st century

7 April 2011
The Role of a Bibliographic Agency In Promoting, Maintaining and Supporting Dewey

Lesley Whyte
Managing Director
Objectives

- Introduce BDS
- Explain core activities
- Literary warrant in the UK
- Maintenance of Dewey
- Promotion of Dewey
- Support of Dewey
- Conclusions
Business Profile

• Established in 1995
• Bases in Dumfries and London
• Independent, privately owned company
• 5 business units
• 60 staff
• 30 staff are bibliographic cataloguers
Core Activities of BDS

- Pre-publication records
- Book-in-hand catalogue records
- Audio books
- Digital publications
- Extended content
Bibliographic Data Standards

- AACR2
- MARC21
- DDC
- LCC
- LCCSH
- NACO
Customer Base

• National institutions
• Library suppliers and trade wholesalers
• Libraries
• Systems suppliers
• International bibliographic agencies
• Publishers
• Industry bodies
Records Created by BDS in 2010
Categorised by Dewey

- Class 300: 21%
- Class 800: 25%
- Class 700: 12%
- Class 600: 15%
- Class 500: 7%
- Class 400: 3%
- Class 900: 8%
- Class 200: 3%
- Class 100: 3%
- Class 000: 3%
The Medieval Gentry/Malcolm Mercer

| 305 | SOCIAL GROUPS |
| 305.5 | SOCIAL CLASSES |
| 305.5'232 | LANDED GENTRY |
| TABLE 1 0942 | ENGLAND |
| TABLE 1 09024 | 15TH CENTURY |
How Do We Maintain Dewey?

• Foresee trends
• Comprehensive overview of UK publishing
• Insight into the use of Dewey in libraries
• Cater for the needs of different types of institution
• Exposed to both pre-publication information and the published item
• Counter a theoretical approach with a pragmatic view based on literary warrant
How Do We Promote Dewey?

• Encourage libraries to embrace new edition
• Advise libraries on the implications of change
• Advise libraries swiftly on the creation of new numbers
How Do We Support Dewey?

- Representation on the Dewey Committee
- Provide feedback from our customers
- Identify potential for phoenix schedules, discontinuing numbers or conflict
- Advocate the benefits of classification versus categorisation
- Universal availability of numbers leads to standardisation and secures the future of the classification code
To Recap

- Introduced BDS
- Explained core activities
- Considered literary warrant in the UK
- Maintenance of Dewey
- Promotion of Dewey
- Support of Dewey
In Conclusion

• Mutually beneficial arrangement
• BDS can convey the requirements of the whole library community to the committee
• Closeness to the schedules assists our work
• BDS provides an international solution
Contacts

lesley.whyte@bibdsl.co.uk
www.bibliographicdata.com