The 'religion class' of DDC: an analysis of Buddhism discipline

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Abstract

Classifying books are the most important technical process in the library. It plays an important role in the physical arrangement, access and retrieval library materials. Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC) is one of the most popular classification systems in the world. There are ten main classes in the schedule According to the DDC class number 200 is given to religion. It mainly highlights on Christianity. Buddhism is one of the great religions in the world. This study aims to discuss problems encountered by the librarians when classifying Buddhist Books. The study mainly based on printed materials such as scholarly articles, research papers, DDC volumes etc. In addition to that authors' experience was used as principal tool. The classification numbers for Buddhism are assigned in 294.3. When it compares with Christianity, Buddhism is in a very narrow space. According to given space in the schedule, it can be assigned more specific numbers for Buddhist materials such as Nirvana, Buddhist ethics, Meditation, Buddhist Monks, education and research etc. In addition to that, The DDC provides some instructions to build numbers using other class number such as 291. Further it was revealed that some numbers were long. It is difficult to remember. It is observed that the class numbers assigned to the Buddhism is not enough to describe some specific aspects in Buddhism. Especially Sacred books (Tripitaka) in Buddhism, not only main books such as commentaries, tika, modern translation of Tripitaka, oral transmission, etc. It is timely needed for expanding numbers for them; hence, classifier could assign more specific class numbers. There is a possibility to the users and staff to find a book within limited time. The study was revealed that the need more class numbers to classify books with rich Buddhist collections. The expansion of numbers is most important to authority control of libraries with Buddhist collections.

Keywords: *Authority control, Buddhism discipline, Subject classification, professional experiences*