

# Survey of cataloguing and classification in New Zealand

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*Replies from a questionnaire sent out in the middle of 1973 show that Dewey classification is the most widely used in New Zealand and that the eighteenth edition is already proving very popular.*

In June 1973, the NZLA's Cataloguing and Classification Committee decided to send to libraries in New Zealand a short questionnaire on the use of classification schemes, cataloguing rules, and filing rules. One of the principal reasons for this exercise was to determine the extent of use of the eighteenth edition of Dewey (1), but the opportunity was taken to gain information on the extent of use of the basic cataloguing tool, the *Anglo-American cataloguing rules* (2). It was hoped that by keeping the questionnaire short (only six questions were asked) we would achieve a high percentage of return. We were certainly very pleased with the response.

Questionnaires were sent to all public libraries listed in the fifth *Summary of public library statistics* (3), and all non-public (academic and special) libraries listed in *New Zealand library symbols, 1971* (4). Unfortunately the 1973 edition of this publication arrived just too late for us to use. The questionnaire was due for return at the end of

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August, and the results were collated by two Library School students, Miss Alison Gordon and Mr Roger Martin, as part of their end-of-year option work. I am very grateful to them for the work they put into this project.

A total of 303 questionnaires were sent out, and 250 (82.5 per cent) were returned. Of the 303, 105 were sent to public libraries, of which 84 (80 per cent) were returned, and 198 went to non-public libraries, of which 166 (83.83 per cent) were returned.

To save space in the tables below, the following letters have been used with the meaning indicated:

- A—Results from all libraries. (250 returns).
- B—Results from all public libraries. (84 returns).
- C—Results from public libraries serving a population over 30,000. (16 returns).
- D—Results from public libraries serving a population of 15,000–30,000. (14 returns).
- E—Results from public libraries serving a population of 7,500–15,000. (19 returns).
- F—Results from public libraries serving a population of 2,500–7,500. (35 returns).
- V—Results from all non-public libraries. (166 returns).
- W—Results from university libraries. University schools and departments with their own libraries were sent separate questionnaires. (22 returns).
- X—Results from teachers college and technical institute libraries. Although these libraries differ somewhat in nature and function they form a helpful grouping of libraries serving tertiary educational institutions other than the universities. (17 returns).
- Y—Results from special (non-government) libraries. (58 returns).
- Z—Results from government libraries, including the National Library of New Zealand. (69 returns).

## Question one: classification scheme used

What classification scheme(s) is (are) used in your library?

- a. Dewey Decimal Classification
- b. Library of Congress Classification
- c. Universal Decimal Classification
- d. Bliss Bibliographic Classification
- e. Other (Please name the scheme).

There were 247 usable replies to this question.

| Question | A   |       | B   |     |
|----------|-----|-------|-----|-----|
|          | No. | %     | No. | %   |
| 1a.      | 139 | 54.51 | 84  | 100 |
| 1b.      | 15  | 5.88  |     |     |
| 1c.      | 56  | 21.96 |     |     |
| 1d.      | 6   | 2.35  |     |     |
| 1e.      | 39  | 15.29 |     |     |
| Total    | 255 | 99.99 | 84  | 100 |

Table 1a. Results from all libraries (A) and from public libraries (B) (The total is greater than the number of returns since some libraries use more than one classification scheme).

| Question | V   |       | W   |        | X   |       | Y   |        | Z   |        |
|----------|-----|-------|-----|--------|-----|-------|-----|--------|-----|--------|
|          | No. | %     | No. | %      | No. | %     | No. | %      | No. | %      |
| 1a.      | 55  | 32.16 | 6   | 26.09  | 9   | 52.94 | 6   | 9.09   | 34  | 52.31  |
| 1b.      | 15  | 8.77  | 6   | 26.09  | 1   | 5.88  | 7   | 10.61  | 1   | 1.54   |
| 1c.      | 56  | 32.75 | 2   | 8.70   | 5   | 29.41 | 22  | 33.33  | 27  | 41.54  |
| 1d.      | 6   | 3.50  | 4   | 17.39  | 2   | 11.76 | —   | —      | —   | —      |
| 1e.      | 39  | 22.80 | 5   | 21.74  | —   | —     | 31  | 46.97  | 3   | 4.62   |
| Total    | 171 | 99.98 | 23  | 100.01 | 17  | 99.99 | 66  | 100.00 | 65  | 100.01 |

Table 1b. Results from non-public libraries.

1. The category "other" (1e.) turned out to be somewhat larger than expected. The principal schemes named here were the National Library of Medicine's *Classification: medicine* (nine libraries), *The Oxford system of decimal classification for forestry* (four libraries), *Ci/Sf B* (three libraries) (5).

Nine libraries stated that they used their own scheme, whilst one or two replies stated "numerical arrangement" or "alphabetical arrangement". Among schemes used by one library only were *Classification of the Library of Union Theological Seminary*, C. C. Barnard's *Classification for medical and veterinary libraries*, E. R. Cunningham's *Classification for medical literature*, L. C. Uren's *Decimal system for classifying data pertaining to the petroleum industry*, and S. V. Frauendorfer's *Classification scheme of agricultural science* (6).

2. It is interesting to note in column V that the use of Dewey and Universal decimal classification (U D C) is almost the same.

3. Of the main or central libraries of the six universities, two use Dewey, three use Library of Congress classification (L C), and one uses Bliss classification.

4. In column X, the Bliss users are both teachers colleges; the U D C and L C users are technical institutes.

5. Column Y shows a high proportion of libraries with their own scheme, and this is also a significant area of U D C users.

6. The greater use of Dewey in column Z may be due to the influence of the National Library.

*Question two: edition of Dewey used*

If Dewey, which edition do you use mainly?

- 16th
- 17th
- 18th
- Others

There were 136 usable replies to this question.

|     | 16th  | 17th  | 18th  | Others | Total  |
|-----|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|
| No. | 55    | 25    | 32    | 24     | 136    |
| %   | 40.44 | 18.38 | 23.56 | 17.65  | 100.03 |

*Table 2a. Results from all libraries.*

1. The sixteenth edition is still the most used in New Zealand, but it is interesting to note that the eighteenth edition is already used more than the seventeenth edition.

2. The other editions in use are: twelfth edition (one library), fourteenth edition (three libraries), fifteenth edition (six libraries), eighth abridged edition (nine libraries), ninth abridged edition (five libraries).

| Edition | B   |       | C   |        | D   |       | E   |       | F   |        |
|---------|-----|-------|-----|--------|-----|-------|-----|-------|-----|--------|
|         | No. | %     | No. | %      | No. | %     | No. | %     | No. | %      |
| 16th    | 34  | 41.97 | 5   | 31.25  | 8   | 57.14 | 11  | 61.11 | 10  | 30.30  |
| 17th    | 16  | 19.75 | 3   | 18.75  | 4   | 28.57 | 4   | 22.22 | 5   | 15.15  |
| 18th    | 11  | 13.58 | 8   | 50.00  | 1   | 7.14  | 1   | 5.55  | 1   | 3.03   |
| Others  | 20  | 24.69 | —   | —      | 1   | 7.14  | 2   | 11.11 | 17  | 51.52  |
| Total   | 81  | 99.99 | 16  | 100.00 | 14  | 99.99 | 18  | 99.99 | 33  | 100.00 |

*Table 2b. Results from public libraries.*

1. The users of editions other than the sixteenth, seventeenth, or eighteenth are mostly public libraries (20 out of 24), and mostly the small public libraries (column F).

2. The large public libraries (column C) have adopted the eighteenth edition very much more quickly than the smaller ones among which the sixteenth edition is in greatest use.

| Edition | V   |       | W   |        | X   |       | Y   |       | Z   |       |
|---------|-----|-------|-----|--------|-----|-------|-----|-------|-----|-------|
|         | No. | %     | No. | %      | No. | %     | No. | %     | No. | %     |
| 16th    | 21  | 38.18 | 4   | 66.67  | 2   | 22.22 | 2   | 33.33 | 13  | 38.24 |
| 17th    | 9   | 16.36 | 1   | 16.67  | 3   | 33.33 | 2   | 33.33 | 3   | 8.82  |
| 18th    | 21  | 38.18 | 1   | 16.67  | 4   | 44.44 | 2   | 33.33 | 14  | 41.18 |
| Others  | 4   | 7.27  | —   | —      | —   | —     | —   | —     | 4   | 11.77 |
| Total   | 55  | 99.99 | 6   | 100.01 | 9   | 99.99 | 6   | 99.99 | 34  | 99.99 |

*Table 2c. Results from non-public libraries.*

1. Again we find a marked lack of use of the seventeenth edition.
2. It is interesting to note that, as yet, the university libraries using Dewey (column W) are staying with the sixteenth edition, but this needs to be considered in conjunction with the next question.

*Question three: proposing to change to eighteenth edition of Dewey*

If you are not using the eighteenth edition of Dewey, do you intend to change over to it?

- a. Yes, to as large an extent as possible
- b. Yes, but only in some areas
- c. No.

There were 100 usable replies to this question.

| Question | No. | %      |
|----------|-----|--------|
| 3a.      | 16  | 16.00  |
| 3b.      | 24  | 24.00  |
| 3c.      | 60  | 60.00  |
| Total    | 100 | 100.00 |

*Table 3a. Results from all libraries.*

1. Although 60 per cent of libraries not already using the eighteenth edition do not intend to use it wholly or in part, a number of returns showed that the librarian had not yet seen a copy for appraisal so that the final decision had not been able to be made.
2. If we combine these figures with those from Table 2a we find that of 136 libraries using Dewey, 32 are already using the eighteenth edition, and a further 40 intend to use it wholly or in part, a total of 52.94 per cent.

| Question | B   |       | C   |        | D   |        | E   |        | F   |       |
|----------|-----|-------|-----|--------|-----|--------|-----|--------|-----|-------|
|          | No. | %     | No. | %      | No. | %      | No. | %      | No. | %     |
| 3a.      | 13  | 19.69 | 2   | 25.00  | 4   | 28.57  | 4   | 23.53  | 3   | 11.11 |
| 3b.      | 6   | 9.09  | 2   | 25.00  | 2   | 14.29  | 1   | 5.88   | 1   | 3.70  |
| 3c.      | 47  | 71.21 | 4   | 50.00  | 8   | 57.14  | 12  | 70.59  | 23  | 85.18 |
| Total    | 66  | 99.99 | 8   | 100.00 | 14  | 100.00 | 17  | 100.00 | 27  | 99.99 |

*Table 3b. Results from all public libraries.*

1. A number of the smaller libraries stated that they would not buy the eighteenth edition because of the high cost involved (\$45 for the three volumes).

| Question | V   |        | W   |        | X   |        | Y   |        | Z   |        |
|----------|-----|--------|-----|--------|-----|--------|-----|--------|-----|--------|
|          | No. | %      | No. | %      | No. | %      | No. | %      | No. | %      |
| 3a.      | 3   | 8.82   | —   | —      | —   | —      | —   | —      | 3   | 15.00  |
| 3b.      | 18  | 52.94  | 3   | 60.00  | 3   | 60.00  | —   | —      | 12  | 60.00  |
| 3c.      | 13  | 38.24  | 2   | 40.00  | 2   | 40.00  | 4   | 100.00 | 5   | 25.00  |
| Total    | 34  | 100.00 | 5   | 100.00 | 5   | 100.00 | 4   | 100.00 | 20  | 100.00 |

*Table 3c. Results from all non-public libraries.*

1. Twenty-one of these 55 libraries are already using the eighteenth edition; of the remaining 34, 21 intend to use it wholly or in part.

2. Most of these libraries indicated that they will use the eighteenth edition only in part, which suggests that there will probably not be much re-classification undertaken where schedules have been changed from the seventeenth edition.

### *Question four: cataloguing rules used*

What cataloguing rules do you use mainly?

- a. A L A 1949
- b. A A C R (North American text)
- c. A A C R (British text).

There were 207 usable replies to this question.

| Question | No. | %      |
|----------|-----|--------|
| 4a.      | 63  | 30.43  |
| 4b.      | 83  | 40.10  |
| 4c.      | 61  | 29.47  |
| Total    | 207 | 100.00 |

*Table 4a. Results from all libraries.*

1. There was much greater use of the British text than we expected.

| Question | B   |        | C   |        | D   |        | E   |        | F   |       |
|----------|-----|--------|-----|--------|-----|--------|-----|--------|-----|-------|
|          | No. | %      | No. | %      | No. | %      | No. | %      | No. | %     |
| 4a.      | 35  | 53.85  | 4   | 25.00  | 5   | 35.71  | 9   | 52.94  | 17  | 94.44 |
| 4b.      | 18  | 27.69  | 5   | 31.25  | 6   | 42.86  | 6   | 35.29  | 1   | 5.55  |
| 4c.      | 12  | 18.46  | 7   | 43.75  | 3   | 21.43  | 2   | 11.77  | —   | —     |
| Total    | 65  | 100.00 | 16  | 100.00 | 14  | 100.00 | 17  | 100.00 | 18  | 99.99 |

*Table 4b. Results from all public libraries.*

1. There is still considerable use of the A L A rules (7) amongst public libraries, especially the smaller ones.

2. The rate of return from the smallest libraries (column F) was rather small; only 50 per cent answered this question. We suspect that the remainder have no cataloguing rules.

| Question | V   |        | W   |        | X   |        | Y   |       | Z   |       |
|----------|-----|--------|-----|--------|-----|--------|-----|-------|-----|-------|
|          | No. | %      | No. | %      | No. | %      | No. | %     | No. | %     |
| 4a.      | 28  | 19.72  | 1   | 5.26   | 2   | 12.50  | 17  | 35.41 | 8   | 13.54 |
| 4b.      | 65  | 45.78  | 13  | 68.42  | 7   | 43.75  | 18  | 37.50 | 27  | 45.76 |
| 4c.      | 49  | 34.51  | 5   | 26.32  | 7   | 43.75  | 13  | 27.08 | 24  | 40.68 |
| Total    | 142 | 100.01 | 19  | 100.00 | 16  | 100.00 | 48  | 99.99 | 59  | 99.98 |

*Table 4c. Results from all non-public libraries.*

1. The change to the *Anglo-American cataloguing rules* has been much greater in this group than among public libraries.
2. The only significant use of the *A L A rules* here is by non-government special libraries (column Y).
3. Two libraries reported using the provisions of *International Standard Bibliographic Description* for descriptive cataloguing (8).

### Question five: type of public catalogue

What type of public catalogue do you have?

- a. Classified
- b. Dictionary (i.e., authors, titles, and subjects in one sequence)
- c. Divided. (Please state how it is divided.)

Although there were 216 usable replies to this question it is clear that there is some confusion among librarians concerning the different types of catalogues. For example, some replies crossed out the top two lines and said that their catalogue was divided, having a classified sequence, an author sequence, and a title sequence. The question arose whether this was not in fact a classified catalogue, or whether the classified sequence was a shelf list. Because of the great difficulty in interpreting the replies, therefore, we feel that no helpful conclusions can be drawn from the tables given below which have been constructed strictly from the information given.

| Question | No. | %     |
|----------|-----|-------|
| 5a.      | 54  | 25.00 |
| 5b.      | 78  | 36.11 |
| 5c.      | 84  | 38.88 |
| Total    | 216 | 99.99 |

Table 5a. Results from all libraries.

| Question | B   |        | C   |       | D   |       | E   |        | F   |        |
|----------|-----|--------|-----|-------|-----|-------|-----|--------|-----|--------|
|          | No. | %      | No. | %     | No. | %     | No. | %      | No. | %      |
| 5a.      | 16  | 19.05  | 7   | 38.88 | 4   | 23.53 | 3   | 15.79  | 2   | 6.67   |
| 5b.      | 41  | 48.81  | 9   | 50.00 | 8   | 47.05 | 10  | 52.63  | 14  | 46.67  |
| 5c.      | 27  | 32.14  | 2   | 11.11 | 5   | 29.41 | 6   | 31.58  | 14  | 46.67  |
| Total    | 84  | 100.00 | 18  | 99.99 | 17  | 99.99 | 19  | 100.00 | 30  | 100.01 |

Table 5b. Results from all public libraries.

| Question | V   |        | W   |        | X   |       | Y   |        | Z   |        |
|----------|-----|--------|-----|--------|-----|-------|-----|--------|-----|--------|
|          | No. | %      | No. | %      | No. | %     | No. | %      | No. | %      |
| 5a.      | 38  | 28.79  | 1   | 4.55   | 7   | 36.83 | 13  | 40.63  | 17  | 28.81  |
| 5b.      | 37  | 28.03  | 8   | 36.36  | 8   | 42.11 | 1   | 3.13   | 20  | 33.90  |
| 5c.      | 57  | 43.18  | 13  | 59.09  | 4   | 21.05 | 18  | 56.26  | 22  | 37.29  |
| Total    | 132 | 100.00 | 22  | 100.00 | 19  | 99.99 | 32  | 100.02 | 59  | 100.00 |

Table 5c. Results from all non-public libraries.

### Question six: filing rules used

Which filing rules do you follow?

- a. A L A rules 1942
- b. A L A rules 2d ed. 1968
- c. A L A rules 2d ed. abridged 1968
- d. L C filing rules
- e. Other (Please name.).

There were only 195 usable replies to this question. Many libraries left it unanswered whilst a number stated that they followed no printed set of filing rules.

| Question | No. | %      |
|----------|-----|--------|
| 6a.      | 90  | 46.14  |
| 6b.      | 49  | 25.16  |
| 6c.      | 32  | 16.40  |
| 6d.      | 10  | 5.16   |
| 6e.      | 14  | 7.16   |
| Total    | 195 | 100.02 |

Table 6a. Results from all libraries.

1. The 1942 A L A rules (9) are still receiving a great deal of use. These rules are, however, full of alternatives and the simplest order approximates fairly closely to the order that results from the use of the second edition.

2. Under "other" the most commonly used scheme was British Standard 1749: *Specification for alphabetical arrangement and the filing order of numerals and symbols*, used by five libraries. Other sets of rules used wholly or in part by a single library include the Air University Library's *Filing rules based on the A L A rules for filing catalog cards, alphabetic method*, Moakley's *Basic filing rules for medium-sized libraries*, the Cincinnati Public Library's *Filing rules for the arrangement of the dictionary catalog of the Public Library of Cincinnati, county library district of Hamilton County, Ohio*, and the rules of the University of Chicago (10).

| Question | B   |        | C   |        | D   |        | E   |       | F   |        |
|----------|-----|--------|-----|--------|-----|--------|-----|-------|-----|--------|
|          | No. | %      | No. | %      | No. | %      | No. | %     | No. | %      |
| 6a.      | 42  | 65.63  | 8   | 50.00  | 8   | 57.14  | 14  | 82.35 | 12  | 70.58  |
| 6b.      | 10  | 15.63  | 5   | 31.25  | 2   | 14.29  | 1   | 5.88  | 2   | 11.77  |
| 6c.      | 7   | 10.94  | 1   | 6.25   | 4   | 28.57  | 1   | 5.88  | 1   | 5.88   |
| 6d.      | 2   | 3.13   | 1   | 6.25   | —   | —      | 1   | 5.88  | —   | —      |
| 6e.      | 3   | 4.69   | 1   | 6.25   | —   | —      | —   | —     | 2   | 11.77  |
| Total    | 64  | 100.02 | 16  | 100.00 | 14  | 100.00 | 17  | 99.99 | 17  | 100.00 |

Table 6b. Results from all public libraries.

1. The abridged edition, which looks as if it would fulfil the needs of most public libraries, is receiving surprisingly little use.



| Question | V   |        | W   |       | X   |       | Y   |        | Z   |        |
|----------|-----|--------|-----|-------|-----|-------|-----|--------|-----|--------|
|          | No. | %      | No. | %     | No. | %     | No. | %      | No. | %      |
| 6a.      | 48  | 36.64  | 7   | 33.33 | 4   | 22.22 | 16  | 41.03  | 21  | 39.62  |
| 6b.      | 39  | 29.77  | 7   | 33.33 | 6   | 33.33 | 8   | 20.51  | 18  | 33.96  |
| 6c.      | 25  | 19.08  | 4   | 19.05 | 4   | 22.22 | 7   | 17.97  | 10  | 18.87  |
| 6d.      | 8   | 6.11   | 2   | 9.52  | 2   | 11.11 | 3   | 7.69   | 1   | 1.89   |
| 6e.      | 11  | 8.40   | 1   | 4.76  | 2   | 11.11 | 5   | 12.82  | 3   | 5.66   |
| Total    | 131 | 100.00 | 21  | 99.99 | 18  | 99.99 | 39  | 100.02 | 53  | 100.00 |

Table 6c. Results from all non-public libraries.

1. These libraries make the greatest use of the Library of Congress *Filing rules* (11), but the number of libraries using them is still small.
2. Although the ALA *rules* (second edition) (12) were published specifically to accompany the *Anglo-American cataloguing rules*, adoption of the filing rules has been much less marked. In most cases we presume that the libraries are unwilling to embark on a set of rules which will inevitably mean some re-filing.

We were very pleased with the high rate of return to this questionnaire, and wish to thank those libraries which replied and enabled us to collect some worthwhile results. In any future survey similar to this one, it may be more helpful to take out the question on the type of public catalogue and replace it with an inquiry as to which list of subject headings is used as the basis for subject cataloguing. It would be interesting in another 12 months or so to find out if the adoption of the eighteenth edition of Dewey had proceeded as these results suggest.

### Postscript

The Summer 1973 issue of *Catalogue and index* includes the results of a survey on the use of Dewey classification in Great Britain. This came into my hands after the results of the New Zealand survey had been analysed and I had written the above report on them. The British survey was conducted in July 1972, and although the questions asked were different from those asked in New Zealand some of the results make an interesting comparison with our findings.

Of 447 public libraries which responded 441 use Dewey classification, while 27 out of 90 university libraries also use Dewey. Of these 27, nine had a book stock of over 500,000.

Figures on the edition of Dewey used were as follows: 181 libraries use the sixteenth edition, 90 use the sixteenth together with a later edition, 91 use the seventeenth edition, 38 use the seventeenth and eighteenth together, and 152 use the eighteenth edition.

When asked whether they were considering changing to the current standard edition of Dewey classification (eighteenth edition or tenth edition abridged) within the next two years 203 libraries said yes (107 public libraries, 11 university libraries), and 289 said no (155 public libraries, eight university libraries) (13).

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