

10 : CONCLUSIONS AND POINTS FOR FURTHER STUDY

10.1 : Conclusions

The central theme of this study directionally has aimed towards developing an Unified Scheme of Common Subdivisions for the General Classification Systems. In this process it has followed the contemporary trend of classification research. Thus contextually the conclusions are correlated to the concurrent research in the Library Classification. The conclusions are enumerated here progressively with reference to the chapter numbers (Ch.).

1. The main concern of classification research has largely been the involvement of Universe of subjects. There has been a widespread application of postulational and systems approaches to probe into modes of formation of subjects. Lately, the theory of concept formation has added one more dimension to the available approaches. But on the other-hand the distinctive and disjunctive elements like Common Subdivisions as representative elements of all classification systems are rather neglected in the odd of other priority

researches. The subjects of this study are equally important as their characteristics speak, as most common, recurrent categories. Above all, the concept of 'common' was chiefly responsible for the advent of synthesis in classification and in addition to these attributes, their use has been almost perpetual since 17th century, from the first time of a rudimentary application. Presently the prominent focus of this study has rightly chosen common subdivisions as a relevant topic for research (Ch.1).

2. The above conclusion conversely implies that the opportunity should be fully utilized to fill-up the gap in research, and successfully bridging it, with new ideas, deriving new conceptual structures. The problem identified in the statement of Brussels's conference has concurrently supported the need for this research, thus the solutions sought in that statement are adequately fulfilled (Ch.2).

3. A unified approach in the organization of knowledge, in particular universe of subjects, is characteristically a pertinent attribute of classification research. This approach is successively employed in the design of compatible ordering systems.

for knowledge elements interconnecting 'global information networks'. Such contemporary developments in Classification Research are different from the earlier attempts described as 'on more or less ad-hoc basis', that considered mainly some named classification systems (Ch.2).

4. The changes as above towards unified approach are progressively conceived from three successful conferences on classification research, at Dorking, Einsnore and Bombay. The last conference though very significant in this respect, but the Einsnore Conference spelt the first syllable of universality in classification as 'One world' concept in knowledge organisation and creation of unified or universal order for knowledge precisely. This aim has been reflected in all subsequent researches too. In conformity to these pronounced trends, parallel objectives are invested in the design of structural models for, Form, Space, Period, Language, Racial, Ethnic and National Groups and Person Subdivisions, the six categories of Common Subdivisions (Ch.2).

5. Only four active classification systems, SC, USC, CC and BC, reasonably related on coherent attributes are selected for the intensive study. These systems are compared for compatibility associated six categories of

Common Subdivisions. The available general bases of comparability methodology are applied to result the comparison. Three methods, Structural, Linguistic and Pragmatic, are used as basic parameters to evaluate the systems in comparison. This eventually led to formulate appropriate guidelines in the creation of desired unified scheme for the Common Subdivisions (Ch.3).

6. The primary objective of the survey was to find the nature of provision of common subdivisions in General and Special Classification Systems. This unanimously appraised the universal application of some of the categories. The survey also helped to formally to compile a comprehensive list of Form Subdivisions, which intended to provide a potential strength required in a classification and as a preparation for pragmatic study.

A Preliminary evaluation following the survey was made to assemble the variations observed in individual systems, before entering into intensive study of comparison. This evaluation showed these are variations in order, number and sense of Tables in all systems comparatively, as well such differences are also found in individual systems (Ch.4 and 5).

7. The intensive study of comparison, by structural and linguistic parameters revealed, the systems in general lack compatibility among them. A ratio of compatibility derived out of the comparative tables and a superimposed graph method helped into arrive at certain normative conclusions to create unified schemes to the chosen categories.

The decision to evolve an essential number of categories of common subdivisions and to order them in logical and helpful sequence was one of the imposing demands of follow up research, as spelt in the Brussels conference proposition. Through pragmatic tests these two decision problems have been solved (Ch.6).

8. In pursuance to the objectives and to the trend of classification research towards universality, the present study has largely been successful in achieving the desired unified scheme for the components of the focus, namely the common subdivisions (Ch.7).

9. There has been, it is derived, a lack of methodological delineation of common subdivisions akin to modes of formation of subjects. The Postulational and Systems approaches, the Concept Relations are

successively employed in developing theoretical basis for subjects and knowledge organisation. No such theoretical basis found to have been employed to derive common subdivisions. This study has made a formal attempt, through available approaches to delineate and create theory for common subdivisions. It has also applied the Formal Logic Approach in addition to Postulational Approach and Concept Relations. The attempts are very nearly logical using more than one approach (Ch.7).

10. The Table of Form Subdivisions in many systems, it is observed, contains not only forms, but what are designated as Process subdivisions. A logical separation of these two types is made successfully using a terminology model (Ch.7).

11. The unified structures to other categories, based on their respective knowledge taxonomy are made formally at macro-level for further development. For example, Geographical subdivisions have been conceived more broadly under the denotation 'Space Subdivisions' to comprise terrestrial and celestial entities. In this context the structural organisation has followed the growth of Space concept from its knowledge ideology.

This is considered as one of the most rational and logical ways to conceive the structures for all the categories, in comparison with their respective earlier models. These are considered as developmental models, allowing them for further expansion (Ch.7).

12. The Language and Racial Ethnic Groups of Subdivisions manifest both broad taxonomic classes, as well as new structures based on interacting changes resulting from socio-cultural and econ-political developments. The environmental changes, cross cultural relations and mass migrations are agents to create new and hybrid groups. The study has therefore maintained two mode conceptual structures for them; by their basic natural elements, the manifestations influenced by modern developments. In this context the structures are made to represent the respective subdivisions (Ch.7).

13. As one of the most important surrogates in the classification domain, and established by their uninterrupted use, the form category is dealt in more detail scientifically, than attempted before, if there are any such studies available. On the other count, they are equitably applicable to all subjects of the

universe, and deserved to be given special attention to organize. A detailed scheme is worked out for this category only (Ch.9. App. 1).

14. It is often contended that the Table of Form subdivisions contains some heterogeneous elements and insufficient number of subdivisions required for classifying, at all situations. The subdivisions being non-hierarchical, there is difficulty in evolving a logical order for all of them in one sequence. The Profile of 20 groups is created consisting of a very comprehensive strength of over 240 subdivisions, and this Profile would successfully overcome persistent shortcomings. The Profile has homogeneous and coherent groups or clusters of subdivisions, bearing aggregate characteristics (Ch.9. App. 1).

15. The pragmatic study based on literary warrant, involving Form subdivisions in some broader groups, was conducted. This showed that there are some subdivisions which generate substantial literature output, but either their non-inclusion is injudicious or the use is not rationalised. The empirical test of literary warrant based on a comprehensive bibliography helped to point out, the recurrent subdivisions, follow nearly a

definite pattern of descending order, based on their literature strength. The relational graph drawn on two sets of quantified data of two consecutive periods, proved this as nearly conclusive. There is some formal attempt to arrange them based on literary warrant, and yet this is not the precise method to do the most logical arrangement and needs further examination using a larger data base (Ch.8).

16. The improvements to DC, contextually involving the Table of Standard Subdivisions are made in the form of an empirical study, to the test of feasibility of one of the developmental models, in an active system. The implications of suggested devices are highly encouraging and desirably eradicate the 'Zero Syndrome' in that system (Ch.9).

17. The new devices or notational symbols suggested to, are employed to convert the linear Uni-dimensional order into a four-dimensional or multi-dimensional linear order. This multi-dimensional order is correlated as basic approach in gaining knowledge, and has been evenly sought in many earlier researches. This study correlating new and traditional educational needs, and uses approaches in acquiring or pursuing

knowledge, has been successful in creating a multi-dimensional linear order. In the process, this also maintains the distinct identity, in two or more dimensions for the subdivisions used in compound class numbers (Ch.9).

10. The new models, besides being multi-dimensionally linear, also provide avenues for suitable interpolation within respective logical groups without disturbing their structures, because these structures are based on their 'knowledge' and are nearly absolute (Ch.9).

10.2: Points for Further Study

1. A Concordance of Common Subdivisions categories based on the structural models created may be prepared as an elongation of this study. This concordance will help to interconnect the systems without adopting the models in them.

2. The feasibility test conducted in this study is only to an almost enumerative system. Similar studies could be employed to faceted and analytical-synthetic systems, like USC, CC and CC. It is envisaged such detailed applications will eliminate all trace ambiguities.

3. To develop a standard nomenclature for all the systems in common for all categories in detail, and could be done using various source documents, representing them.

4. This study has kept aside the notational plane as it needs an exceptionally detailed investigation for each system, because they vary considerably in this respect. The notational parameters that vary in them are, for example, rigid facet sequence to freely faceted arrangement as found in 'Retrospective' notational technique. These variations are not only very conspicuous, but interesting to adopt the models within their respective notational techniques.

5. To test the application of new structure of Generalia subdivisions category in automatic classification, using Decimal classification with new notational symbols.

6. UDC is another widely used classification system by the libraries world over. It is gradually being developed also as an universal system. The tables of auxiliaries as they are named in it, though reasonably detail, but organisationally are not very clear to impart distinction among the constituent subdivisions.

Therefore, the logical structures created here have rather good potential to reorganise the whole lot of these subdivisions in UDC.

7. The pattern of Common subdivisions in General and Special Classification systems, all or some of the categories, could be compared, because the latter systems have some deviations from the former. Such deviations and exclusive categories in Special Classification systems will have to be examined.

8. The Special Classification Systems primarily include some exclusive categories which are not identically same in two systems. The materials subdivisions in UDC and Matter and Property Isolates in CC, the examples of General Classification Systems, have attributes of special subdivisions. An opportunity is open for a study to evolve categories and subdivisions which are common to most Special and to both General and Special Classification Systems. Some broad subject fields such as Engineering and Technology may be profiled in this attempt to compile subdivisions.

9. The scheme of common subdivisions developed here has potentialities to adopt it to broad system of ordering, as the latter has at present suspended expansion of 'Optional facet'.

10. The quantification study that conducted involves comprehensive data of two years period spanning five years between them. A similar kind of study, preferably computer based investigation, with extensive coverage of published literature of atleast 10 years database, is suggested. This could be similar to CCDC study, but involving INS database. This study with extensive coverage of literary warrant, would either show such a method as very pertinent or prove it otherwise, to suggest some other method of pragmatic conclusions. This incidently knows the pattern of use of Common Subdivisions in classification and indexing, contextually in RIL, for more concrete evidences.

All three proposals are suggested either for individual examination or by integrating some of them for a comprehensive research study.