

Отчёт о работе Консорциума УДК
Report from the UDC Consortium
Звіт про роботу Консорціуму УДК

Алан Хопкинсон
Консорциум УДК, Гаага, Нидерланды

Alan Hopkinson
UDC Consortium, The Hague, The Netherlands

Алан Хопкінсон
Консорціум УДК, Гаага, Нідерланди

В Консорциум УДК входят партнёры из Бельгии, Чехии, России (ВИНИТИ), Испании и Великобритании, задачей которых является поддержка и постоянное совершенствование классификации УДК.

Разрабатываются новые руководящие указания по пересмотру классификации. К 20-летию Консорциума УДК будут опубликованы переводы классификации на несколько новых языков. В странах, где издания классификации уже устарели, будут подыскиваться издательства для выпуска новых версий.

Консорциум УДК создаёт многоязычную базу данных, которая упростит процедуру создания версий классификации на разных языках для партнёров и держателей лицензий. Её ядром является Эталонный мастер файл. Также разрабатываются дополнительные услуги, что говорит о том, что УДК – это система будущего.

The UDC Consortium consists of partners in Belgium, Czech Republic, Russia (VINITI), Spain and the UK whose task is to maintain the UDC Classification and constantly modernise it.

New guidelines for revision are being developed. Translations into additional languages will be promoted to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the UDCC. Publishers will be actively sought where editions are outdated.

UDCC is developing a multi-lingual database system which will enable the partners and other license holders to more easily develop their respective language versions. The Master Reference File is the core of this. Value-added services are being developed to ensure that UDC becomes the scheme of the future.

До Консорціуму УДК входять партнери з Бельгії, Чехії, Росії (ВІНІТІ), Іспанії та Великої Британії, завданням яких є підтримка та постійне удосконалення класифікації УДК.

Розробляються нові рекомендації щодо перегляду класифікації. До 20-ліття Консорціуму УДК будуть опубліковані переклади класифікації декількома новими мовами. В країнах, де видання класифікації вже застаріли, будуть шукатися видавництва для випуску нових версій.

Консорціум УДК створює багатомовну базу даних, яка спростить процедуру створення версій класифікації різними мовами для партнерів і власників ліцензій. Її ядром є Еталонний майстер-файл. Також розробляються додаткові послуги, що свідчить про те, що УДК – це система майбутнього.

UDC Summaries and the recent UDC Consortium conference which is now available on the web are mentioned.

1. Introduction

UDC is looked after by the UDC Consortium which is chaired by Alan Hopkinson. The editor-in-chief is Aida Slavic. It produces the UDC Master Reference File in English which is the definitive edition from which other UDC products are produced. UDC is very important in the Modern World of Science, Culture, Education, and Business, the theme of this conference and it is being used not only in library catalogues but in other places such as web-based databases. Its structure can be used as a terminology: indeed before multi-lingual dictionaries were common in science and technology, UDC was a good source of terminology and indeed still is.

At a recent meeting in Prague at the premises of the National Library, who are one of the members of the consortium, some new developments were discussed which are released here for the first time.

2. Re-use of numbers

VINITI also a consortium member were concerned at the re-use of numbers from the schedule after they had been withdrawn only 10 years earlier. This issue will be discussed at the next meeting. It is worth noting the great scientific interest VINITI takes in the technical detail of the UDC compared to some of the other members of the consortium.

3. Multi Lingual Database

Also revealed were plans to release a multi-lingual UDC database which will be accessible to anyone which will enable the partners and other license holders to more easily develop their respective language versions. The Master Reference File is the core of this. Value-added services are being developed to ensure that UDC becomes the scheme of the future.

3.1 Brief summary:

The idea for and the planning of a Multilingual UDC Online (M-UDC-O) product was proposed by Dr Aida Slavic back in 2010 just before she had been appointed Editor-in-Chief and discussed with the then editor-in-chief Dr Cordeiro and the UDCC chairman. The rationale was as follows:

- UDC sustainability depends on the number of users - the number of users depends on the provision of easy access to up to date national editions. M-UDC-O is the most cost-efficient and perhaps the only feasible way of promoting updated editions that can be made widely available to users;
- UDC use and popularity depends on the system being taught in library schools which means they need easy and cheap or free access to UDC schedules. M-UDC-O will create a long-term policy of supporting library schools to assure the future popularity of the UDC;
- Marketing potential - users and market confidence in UDC depends on the availability and ease of access to high quality products across languages - the biggest advantage of the UDC over other classification schemes is multilinguality and M-UDC-O would be a concrete example of the viability of UDC as an international standard.

3.2 Proposed service

Important elements of the proposed service will be:

- a) The database will be combined with a translation module to enable continuous and simultaneous translation;
- b) links between the UDC online interface and library catalogues (e.g. 'search this number in the union catalogue');
- c) the possibility to cooperate with national bibliographic services in linking UDC to national subject heading systems or other vocabularies;
- d) support in building, validating/parsing, filing complex UDC numbers;
- e) collecting and streaming the feedback from users directly into the editorial team: users could suggest translations, corrections or search term expansion for a particular class, indicate missing concepts or mistakes in the system, suggest links to subject heading systems;
- f) enabling user support in different languages through cooperation with UDC subject specialists.

3.3 Challenges

The following main challenges are foreseen:

- how to acquire a sufficient amount of language data in order to design and test the application?;
- how to create an incentive for individual publishers (currently publishing language versions of UDC in printed form) to sell their data through the UDCC online service?

3.4 Critical milestones reached in 2011

The following critical milestones were reached in 2011:

- Czech, Dutch, German, Spanish, Croatian languages in a single MRF database: acquiring, aligning and importing language data in the UDC MRF translation database and assessment of the quality of the multilingual data available;
- Launch of the translation online to fill in the missing data;
- Infrastructure tested successfully: improvement and the development of the mySQL database and extending of the UDC MRF data element to be able to support high a quality product (e.g. language and script management);
- Connections made with publishers, encouraging, initiating and supporting translations online to get nearer to our goal of having a full set of UDC MRF data in at least 3-5 languages.

4. UDC Summaries

The UDC Summary has been on line since September 2009 and since the start has seen a substantial expansion regarding the available languages. Currently it is published in 45 languages and many volunteers are working to add more translations.

5. UDC Seminar

Classification & Ontology was the third biennial conference in a series of UDC Seminars organized by the UDC Consortium and hosted by Koninklijke Bibliotheek. The conference took place on 19-20 September 2011 and was attended by 141 delegates from 30 countries from Europe, Asia, North America, South America and Australia. The keynote address by Patrick Hayes kick-started a two-day programme consisting of 21 talks and two poster presentations.

Following the opening talk, speakers from different domains expanded on their particular view of what ontologies and knowledge structures may mean in their specialised areas of work and what aspects of ontological analysis or formal ontology modelling are relevant in the world of knowledge classifications. A number of talks stressed the urgency for knowledge classification schemes to be published as linked data and the limitations of the existing web ontology standards in expressing semantics were also explained. Presentations about particular schemes illustrated that classifications may indeed require more thought with regards to modelling.

The conference outputs (slides and audio recordings) can be accessed from the conference page at <http://seminar.udcc.org/2011/index.htm>. Proceedings, published by Ergon can be purchased through the website.

6. UDC Consortium: the future

UDCC is committed to continuing into the future developing the classification and releasing new tools for users.

Acknowledgements: Thanks are due to the team of editors Aida Slavic, Gerhard Riesthuis, Edgardo Civillero, Jiri Pika and to Chris Overfield who is responsible for programming and database work.