

vocabularium bibliothecarii

2

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English	French	German	Spanish	Russian	Slovak
anglais	français	allemand	español	russe	slovaque
englisch	französisch	deutsch	spanisch	russisch	slowakisch
inglés	Francés	alemán	español	ruso	slovaco
английский	французский	немецкий	испанский	русский	словацкий
anglický	francúzsky	nemecký	španielský	ruský	slovenský

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U N E S C O

Since the *Vocabularium bibliothecarii* was first issued in English, French and German in 1953, Unesco has received many indications from librarians that they find this work extremely useful. Some have made helpful suggestions regarding improvements. Correction of errors and inclusion of additional terms were made in a 1958 supplement. Also, several countries, with Unesco's permission, have published vocabularies of equivalent terms in their national languages.

Although these steps have gone a long way to meet the need for a multilingual glossary of library terms, it has frequently been pointed out to Unesco that the scope of the *Vocabularium* should be extended to include two more languages spoken by millions of people: Russian and Spanish. In response to this demand which grew over the years, Unesco commissioned Anthony Thompson, the general editor of the first edition, to co-operate in the preparation of a revised and extended edition in five languages and engaged Professor E. I. Shamurin, in Moscow (USSR), and Domingo Buonocore, in Santa Fe (Argentina), to compile terms in Russian and Spanish, respectively.

Every effort has been made to make this enlarged edition as perfect as possible. However it is likely that there are still some errors and omissions, and Unesco would welcome any corrections which readers may wish to suggest.

Unesco is grateful to the many people whose co-operation made this publication possible.

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INTRODUCTION

HISTORY OF THE "VOCABULARIUM"

Before the war of 1939-1945 the late Henri Lemaître, with the help of many other librarians, started the compilation of an English-French-German vocabulary of librarianship with the title *Vocabulaire technique du bibliothécaire*. The International Institute of Intellectual Co-operation declared itself ready in principle to publish this work, and had it duplicated in 1939, in order to submit it to various librarians for criticism. The war then interrupted the work.

After the war, Unesco, as successor to the International Institute of Intellectual Co-operation, accepted responsibility for the completion and publication of the vocabulary. The first step, made in co-operation with the International Federation for Documentation (FID), was to request Dr. Marcel Godet, representing the former, and Dr. Pierre Bourgeois, representing the latter, to scrutinize the existing manuscript. This they did, filling certain gaps, adding some hundreds of terms and correcting errors of translation.

This revised version was duplicated in 1949, and was then sent to three other critics: Mrs. S. Briet (of the Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris), Dr. W. B. Ellinger (of the Library of Congress, Washington) and to myself in London. These critics reported that there was a lack of balance amongst the subjects covered, too many of the words having been taken, for example, from the field of printing, and too few from those of cataloguing and classification. In many cases also the English terms were found still to be inaccurate.

At the end of 1949 I took over the work. The vocabulary was given a classified form, according to the Universal Decimal Classification, and in the light of this it became possible to reconsider the balance of subjects. With the permission of their compilers, many words were added from Harrod's *Librarian's glossary*, and from the American Library Association's *Glossary of library terms*, and from a list of English terms kindly submitted

compiled in both Italian and Turkish, the latter with the assistance of Unesco, and these have been published in Italy (1956-1959) and in Turkey (1959).¹ A Hebrew version has been prepared by Mr. Hans Wellisch in Tel Aviv, but is not yet published. As originally intended, the Russian and Spanish terms have now been added in the second edition, and the blank column is again provided for the addition of notes or a sixth language.

DEFINITIONS

It has not been considered essential to give definitions, except where a word has two meanings, or where there is no equivalent in one of the languages. In these cases a definition or explanation is given in parenthesis. The librarian using the vocabulary is, naturally, expected to know his own subject, and will use it mainly for finding the equivalents in other languages of words already known to him. Many of the monolingual dictionaries quoted in the bibliography do in fact give definitions, to which the reader may refer.

ARRANGEMENT

The arrangement of the 1949 provisional draft was in the alphabetical order of the French words. Although some critics considered this satisfactory, the conclusion reached by the majority was that the arrangement must be acceptable to all nationalities, and that the *Vocabularium* must not be made for any one nation more than for others. This is particularly important in view of the intention of adding further languages. Another reason for abandoning alphabetical arrangement was the desire to provide the librarian with a bird's-eye view of his essential vocabulary.² This could only be done by classifying the words, and so led immediately to the problem of choosing a system of classification. For an international vocabulary, which must certainly include languages not written in the Latin alphabet, it is clear that the notation of the classification must be international. Any system using the Latin alphabet as classification symbols would not be understood easily in all countries. It was also essential to use a system already known to the public, and especially a system known to librarians. The only systems which combine the international notation of the Arabic numerals with a considerable popularity among librarians

1. See bibliography, page 53.

2. See above, "Purpose: a basic vocabulary for the librarian"

are the Dewey system and the Universal Decimal Classification. So the UDC was chosen for this vocabulary, because it was found also to be the most suitable for analysing and classifying the words. The point and colon and parentheses, which divide the terms into their elements, were found to be very useful as a cross-referencing device, which is expressed not in any one language, but in Arabic numerals understood by all. The fact that English, French and German editions of the Universal Decimal Classification already exist has of course also been a great help in verifying some of the terms.

Our adoption of the Universal Decimal Classification for grouping the equivalent expressions in the three languages and for referring from the alphabetical indexes may strike some readers as contradicting what was recommended in a Unesco document, entitled *Report on scientific and technical dictionaries*, by Dr. J. E. Holmstrom, which appeared in 1951. It is true that this author, after weighing the merits and demerits of six different ways of achieving the desired object, concluded that the adoption of an arbitrary reference number to correspond with each concept covered by a given dictionary would on balance be preferable to using the Universal Decimal Classification. His opinion, however, was not reached until the first edition of the present work was nearly completed, and the reasons for it do not apply as strongly to a dictionary intended for librarians as to one intended for scientists and technologists. For the purpose of grouping dictionaries according to their main subjects, as distinct from that of grouping the terms within a dictionary, Dr. Holmstrom himself has used the Universal Decimal Classification in the *Bibliography of interlingual scientific and technical dictionaries*, published by Unesco.

After the publication of the first edition of the *Vocabularium* some criticisms were received of the way in which the Universal Decimal Classification had been used. In order to ensure correctness in the second edition I asked the FID to examine and comment upon the UDC as used in the first edition. This was kindly done most carefully by the Central Classification Committee, and I have followed their comments in this second edition with a very few exceptions; these exceptions are numbers where I have preferred, for example, a synthetic number 002 : 34 for copyright rather than the official 347.78, and (083.74) for standardization rather than 389.6, in order to preserve the collocation of related terms under 002 and (083.74) respectively. Similarly I have preferred 026 (086.7) for gramophone record libraries to the official 026.062, to preserve the valuable cross-referencing device which leads the reader automatically also to (086.7). It is interesting to notice that the UDC has been found here to serve best where it is properly "faceted" and synthetic.

The main core of the vocabulary consists of Librarianship proper, under

the Universal Decimal Classification heading "02 Librarianship". Grouped round this core, however, is an array of related subjects, beginning with "(0...) Forms of publication" and ending with "655 Publishing, Bookselling and Printing", "676 Paper", "686.1 Binding" and "77 Photography". Under these subjects, which are on the borderland of librarianship, an attempt has been made to include only those words which are essential to the librarian in his studies and in practice. Critics will perhaps say that there are still too many technical words in the fields of printing and paper. The answer is that these subjects are part of the librarian's studies, and that he may need to refer to them at any time during his career; they must therefore be included in any dictionary for librarians. The terminology of technical processes in printing and paper has of course been largely omitted. It is to be found in other special dictionaries.

In this edition, the languages have been arranged in the following order: English, French, German, Spanish, Russian. Bold type has been used for the first English term so as to distinguish the groups of terms from one another.

Anthony THOMPSON