

NEW

UDC Online and
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3.072

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Universal Decimal Classification

The world's foremost classification system for organizing bibliographic records of information, in any medium, for:

- Libraries
- Museums archives
- Bibliographies
- Bibliographic databases
- Information services
- Internet

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Business
Information

Universal Decimal Classification

What is UDC?

Universal Decimal Classification (UDC) is the world's foremost classification scheme for all fields of knowledge used for sophisticated indexing and retrieval.

Since first published over 100 years ago, UDC has developed into a highly flexible and effective system for organizing bibliographic records for all kinds of information in any medium, and is used internationally.

Structure

UDC is structured according to traditional disciplines of study, but is highly flexible to allow for constant revision in order to keep pace with development of knowledge. The UDC Master Reference File (MRF) is updated yearly.

UDC's most innovative and influential feature is its ability to express not just simple subjects but relations between subjects. This facility is added to a hierarchic structure, in which knowledge is divided into ten classes, then each class is subdivided into its logical parts, each subdivision is further subdivided, and so on.

UDC Hierarchy

The ten top-level tables:

- 0 Generalities
- 1 Philosophy. Psychology
- 2 Religion. Theology
- 3 Social sciences
- 4 (Under development)
- 5 Mathematics and natural sciences
- 6 Applied sciences. Medicine. Technology
- 7 The arts. Recreation. Entertainment. Sport
- 8 Language. Linguistics. Literature
- 9 Geography. Biography. History

How to use

Originally intended for organizing documentation on everything that had ever been written, UDC has exceeded its parent, the Dewey Decimal Classification, both in the size of its vocabulary and its indexing capabilities. Its main strength however is that it preserves a logical structure and works equally well whether it is used only at an abridged level or applied to the fullest extent.

UDC can be used for organizing and recording different kinds of objects, files, books or information resources. The scheme has been used to classify motion pictures by subject; map collections by place; and cataloguing collections of stamps, coins and medal soldiers. In fact, UDC can be used to index anything to exploit a field of interest to the full and for enabling efficient retrieval of information. UDC is now being used to arrange directories on the Internet.

Its application spreads almost universally across:

Libraries

- shelf arrangement
- information retrieval (classified catalogues)
- collection management (acquisition, circulation statistics, weeding)

Museums and archives

- collection management
- objects indexing and retrieval
- collection display

Bibliographies and bibliographic databases

- subject information navigation
- information retrieval

Information services

- selective dissemination of information (user's profile description)

Internet

- subject gateways (information presentation and navigation)
- metadata (information discovery)

Universal Decimal Classification Complete Edition

NEW

This is the first complete update of UDC in hardcopy since 1993.

Derived from the Master Reference File (MRF) from the UDC Consortium, this is the newly revised *Complete Edition*, containing all available references and classifications.

UDC Complete Edition contains over 65,000 entries and comes in two volumes:



Volume 1 – Systematic Tables

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Formerly known as the Pocket Edition, *UDC Abridged Edition* contains c. 4,100 classes and incorporates major changes to the scheme since 1999. It includes the new properties table (1k-02) and new and revised classes for management, religion, population, tourism, social welfare, environment studies, biotechnology and cinema.

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The online version is the *Complete Edition* of UDC available electronically, and with additional functionality.



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- Search and view online
- Cut and paste functionality – save time and effort and avoid transcription errors
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The Universal Decimal Classification: A Guide to its Use



I C McIlwaine

This book is an extension and total revision of McIlwaine's 1993 earlier *Guide to the Use of UDC*. It provides practical hints on UDC's application and works through all the auxiliary and main tables highlighting aspects that need to be noted in applying the scheme.

It also provides guidance on the use of the MRF and discusses the way in which classification is used in the 21st century and its suitability as an aid to subject description in tagging metadata and consequently for application on the Internet.

The guide is for practical usage by classifiers in their daily work and as a guide to those learning how to apply the classification.

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