

# USE OF THE UDC CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM IN SPAIN: IMPLEMENTATION, APPLICATION, TEACHING AND RESEARCH

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# Introduction of the UDC in Spanish libraries

- The classification system which was most widely implemented in Spanish libraries in the 19th century was the Brunet system
- It was implemented in the Royal Library, which was later to become the National Library, in popular and public libraries and in university libraries
- This system predominate until the thirty decade in the 20th century.

# First introducción of the UDC

- The librarian at the University of Salamanca Manuel Castillo was the first disseminator and translator of UDC in Spain in 1895
- The second attempt to implement the UDC in Spanish libraries was undertaken by the Library of Military Engineers by captain Leopoldo Giménez in 1908
- Ricardo Codorniú 1911 published a monograph on Decimal Classification, whit a translation of the numbers of the tables of Forestry

# Introducción of the UDC

- The librarian in the Provincial Library of the General and Technical Institute of Badajoz Román Gómez Villafranca made in 1911 a bibliography using of the Decimal System
- And Antonio Paz y Meliá tried unsuccessfully to implement the Decimal System in national libraries
- In the early 20th century the implementation of the UDC system in Spain was an isolated event

- Compared to the rest of Spain, in Catalonia, the historical evolution of libraries has been different
- In 1914, the librarian Sebastian Farnés did a different translated of to the UDC number which corresponded to the Catalan language
- Modification was due to the fact that the UDC notation included:
  - **France 44**
  - **Spain 46**
  - **Catalonia 449.9**
  - If, in the systematic tables of the UDC, number 4 represents Europe, 6 the Iberian Peninsula and 7 its eastern part the number for Catalonia must be represented by 467

# CATALONIA: Jordi Rubio i Balaguer

- Jordi Rubio I Balaguer was a Classification teacher and head of National library of Catalonia and public Libraries
- He published the first translation of the Decimal system of 1905 into the Catalan language
- Assigned to 467 for Catalonia no 449

# Dewey in Catalonia

- Rubió prefers the use in Catalonia of Decimal Classification of 1905, and not the UDC
- He did the translation of the tables into the Catalan language under the title "*Decimal Classification, an adaptation for Catalan libraries*"
- Today in Catalonia is implanted de Dewey Decimal Classification

# Implementation of the UDC in Spanish libraries

- In the year 1931, was proclaimed the 2nd Spanish Republic
- During this period the library policy developed and UDC was implemented in the National Library, in public libraries, in universities, municipal libraries and in others, although the implementation was not given legal status

# During the Spanish Civil War from 1936-1939

- The Republican Government created some organizations for development libraries

The Board drafted rules instructing on the organisation of libraries by means UDC

# First instructions while the war

- *"Instructions for the service of small libraries"*, in 1937 (Maria Moliner)
- *"Instructions for the organisation of front lines, barracks and hospitals"* In 1937 (Teresa Andres)
- These instructions are of enormous importance on account of their originality and because they were the first regulations of this type to shape the implementation of the UDC

# Definitively implementation of UDC 1931-1939

- During the period of the Spanish 2nd Republic(1931-1939) UDC was definitively implemented This implementation was not given legal status
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- In this way, the possibility was opened up of introducing reforms and modifications as regards classification

# Official implementation of the UDC

- In 1939, just a two month after the end of the Civil War the UDC was established by means of a ministerial order
- What was adopted was the "*Melvil Dewey Decimal System, modified by the Brussels International Institute of Bibliography and with the corrections introduced by its representation in Berlin*"

# Official implementation of the UDC in 1939

- En 1939 was adopted the UDC, (the 3rd international edition of 1934, in German, no or English editions 1936, and French editions in 1939 ) in keeping with Germany on account of the affinity existing at the time between Spain and Germany
- It was the librarian **Javier Lasso de la Vega**, Ministry of Franco government to allow the official implementation of the UDC

# Consequences of the implantation

- In respect of Europe, the Second World War hindered all the International Institute's work and activities
- When in Spain the use of the UDC was established, this event did not embrace the internationalist dimensions which were implicit in the UDC system and did not make an impact overseas

# 1939 UDC implantation

- The implication of this implantation was domestic and it only provided an already established practice with a legal framework.
- To sum up, in the aforementioned Order, the relationship between Spain and Germany predominated much more than a library policy which would comply with international recommendations in this area.

# Abolition of the obligatory use of the UDC in 1989

- As regards the present day, in 1989 the *Regulations on State Public Libraries and the Spanish Library System* were approved
- the "*Order of 1939 which implements the decimal bibliographical system in the classification of the collections in State Public Libraries*" was abolished (or Dewey Decimal Classification in its German version of 1934)

# No legal system

- There currently exists a legal vacuum or *Vacuo legis* regarding the classification system to be used
- Nevertheless, this legal vacuum could be prevented through the provisions issued by transitory law, which would mean it would be obligatory for the professionals in state libraries to use the UDC, (or the German version of the Decimal System),

# Consequences of abolition in 1989

- The UDC has currently been fully introduced into almost all Spanish libraries, although there are some cases of the implementation of another system such as the LCC
- And, with the creation of the Statutes of the Autonomous Regions between 1979 and 1983, specific competences were created in the area of libraries in each one of them

# Teaching of the UDC within the university framework of Library and Information Science studies

- The UDC system is currently studied at all Spanish universities where Library and Information Science is taught in first and second stage courses. In all cases, it is a core subject whose study is compulsory

# Library and Information Science university studies

- 1. The Department of Librarianship and Documentation of the Complutense University of Madrid offers: Document languages I, II
- 2. The Department of Librarianship and Documentation of the Carlos III University of Madrid:
  - Classification systems
- 3. The Faculty of Librarianship and Documentation University of the Alcalá de Henares:
  - Document languages

# Library and Information Science university studies

- 4. Faculty of Humanidades de la Universidad de La Coruña
- Document languages
- 5. Faculty of de Biblioteconomía y Documentación de Badajoz en la Universidad de Extremadura
- Document languages
- 6. Faculty of Comunicación y Documentación en la Universidad de Murcia
- Documental Lingüistic

# Library and Information Science university studies

- 7. Faculty of Biblioteconomía y Documentación en la Universidad de Granada:
  - Documental languages
- 8. Área of Biblioteconomía y Documentación en la Universidad de León :
  - Subject languages
- 9. Faculty of Traducción y Documentación en la Universidad de Salamanca:
  - Systematic indexing

# Library and Information Science university studies

- 11. Degree in Biblioteconomía y Documentación en la Universidad de Zaragoza.
- 12 Diplomat en Biblioteconomia i Documentació en la Universitat de Valencia
- 13. Faculty of Informática en la Universidad Politécnica de Valencia .

# Library and Information Science university studies

- 14. Faculty of Ciències Humanes, Traducció i Documentació de la Universidad de Vic
- 15. Licenciatura in Documentación en la Universitat Oberta de Catalunya
- 16. Faculty of Ciències de la Comunicació de la Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

# Library and Information Science university studies

- The UDC is taught within the framework of regulated Library and Information Science courses, both from a theoretical and from a practical point of view

# The development of research on the UDC in Spain

- The development of research in the area of Information Science is practically all undertaken within the university framework
- Research in Spain on the UDC is already quite important; translations, adaptations and versions of the tables have been undertaken and there are also analytical works on different aspects of the UDC system..

# The research of UDC

- As regards the subject of Classification Systems, most research is occurring in this subject:
- the history of the UDC in Spain has been completed; possible uses and applications of the UDC in an electronic environment have been researched; the tables have been adapted and translated; the guide to using the UDC has been translated and adapted; and classification manuals and practical exercise manuals using the tables have been created

# Projects

- There is currently a research project in progress in conjunction with AENOR, the Library and Information Department of Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, and National Library of Madrid to create an electronic UDC system using the associated **subject headings** of the National Library of Madrid  
*UDC for windows*

# Conclusions

- The introduction of the UDC in Spain is almost complete in libraries, bibliographies and studies
- Absolutely all regulated university Librarianship and Documentation courses include learning the theory and the practical application of the UDC tables. Research in Spain in this area is already significant and has seen the publication of theoretical and historical aspects; practical applications; proposals for its new implementation; versions and translations of the tables and of the usage guide and many other aspects.

# Future

- In the 20th century in Spain, the UDC system was fully implemented and its development, in the 21st century, finds itself in the electronic environment
- The structure, notation and implementation of the CDU system means that, in this century which has just begun, yet it can be considered a valid instrument for organising information

# Thank you very much

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