

UDC in Lithuania

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The Universal Decimal Classification was not very well known in Independent Lithuania. It is recorded, however, that bibliographers Izidorius Kisinis, Aleksandras Ružancovas and librarian Vincas Ruzgas were the pioneers of UDC application in Lithuania and that in the period from 1918 to 1940 the scheme was used in several libraries.

During the period from 1945 to 1988, the UDC version used in the then Soviet Lithuania was the extended Russian language edition. This edition, apart from being available only in Russian, also contained many politically-biased extensions and modifications, which disturbed the logical order of UDC and was not suitable outside its intended political context. Finally, in 1991, UDC schedules were translated from Russian and were for the first time published in the Lithuanian language, as an abridged UDC edition adapted for Lithuanian public libraries. In the period 1992-1993 separate fascicles of complete Russian UDC tables continued to be translated, adapted and published for Lithuanian libraries.

As the need for a standard Lithuanian edition has become more apparent, the Lithuanian National Library has purchased a publishing license from the UDC Consortium. The License agreement between the National Library of Lithuania and the UDC Consortium was signed in 1995 and the UDC Master Reference File (in ISO 2709 format), containing over 65,000 classes was obtained for translation and publishing. The computer program for UDC data loading and translation was created in the National Library of Lithuania by Sintagma Company. The translation program allows the editor to see the screen divided in two parts. The same English text of the UDC numbers is on the both sides. The left side of the English version is being gradually changed by inputting the same content translated into Lithuanian. The additional printing program, especially prepared for UDC, facilitates text editing before publication.

The useful contacts between the UDC Consortium and the National Library of Lithuania were interrupted because of organizational and staff changes in the UDC Consortium and financial difficulties in our Library, in 2000-2002. We then also experienced difficulties loading into our translation database the UDC MRF version of 2000 as some UDC numbers, which were marked in Extensions and Corrections to the UDC as cancelled were not presented as cancelled in the MRF records. It was not possible to correct this inconsistencies and continue the work on translation until the contacts with the UDC Consortium were resumed and we have received the correct UDC MRF cancellation files.

At the time of this report more than 64,000 classes of the UDC Database are translated into Lithuanian. The database requires annual updates and corrections and an alignments with the UDC extensions and corrections updates. The work on the database includes textual changes of the text of the scheme, subject-alphabetical index editing and translation of new headings. There are plans for the new Lithuanian UDC database to be used as a classification tool for librarians and for this purpose an additional program for UDC has been prepared recently. This application allows users to search UDC database using UDC numbers, captions or subject-alphabetical index. The subject-alphabetical index can be viewed and browsed separately and allows users to access UDC numbers through word searching.

Up until now, only Class 0 – *Generalities*, Class 1 – *Philosophy. Psychology* and Common Auxiliary Tables are published as a printed edition. Class 8 - *Language. Linguistics. Literature.* and Class 9 - *Geography. Biography. History* are already prepared for publication. Class 2 - *Religion. Theology* is under preparation. Upon publication of individual UDC classes, the Lithuanian database version is extended with compound numbers. The annual UDC updates distributed by UDCC contain many changes and it takes time to adapt these changes for the use in Lithuanian libraries.

We will continue to develop the Lithuanian UDC database in order to enable its use in the Lithuanian Integrated Information System (LIBIS). Our UDC database is being implemented in a new library system with improved search functionalities. Because of this, a special attention has to be paid to the maintenance process and, apart from the UDC MRF, we also use the *Extensions and Corrections to the UDC* for double-checking of UDC data. The team working on UDC publication in the National Library of Lithuania is rather small and the pace of the work is, therefore, rather slow. We hope that a closer cooperation with the UDC Consortium will help us manage updates more efficiently and will result in the faster completion of the UDC publication.