

EDUG Working group on 930 Archaeology
Discussion paper for meeting at IFLA 2008

1. The division Ancient world /New world

One general remark on the 930 schedule is that the division in DDC between ancient world and new world is problematic. It reflects an old view of the world where civilization started in a few places in the world, and spread to the rest of the world from there. Humankind has a long history all over the world, and archaeological findings have been made in every continent. The organization of the schedule which makes it possible to separate between prehistory and history only for the ancient world is not satisfactory. This problem applies to America, most parts of Africa and Asia. In Europe, Belarus, Finland, Poland, Russia and the Baltic states are lacking numbers in **931-939 History of ancient world (to ca. 499) - Specific places / Table 2—3**. If the overall organisation of the scheme remains, there is a need for numbers for these areas in the 930 schedule / Table 2—3.

2. Geographic division of 931-939 History of ancient world (to ca. 499) - Specific places / Table 2--3

2.1. European areas that lack numbers in the 931-939 schedule / Table 2—3.

Belarus: Search in WorldCat on LCSH Belarus Antiquities: 218 hits
Finland: Search in WorldCat on LCSH Finland Antiquities: 286 hits
Russia: Search in WorldCat on LCSH Russia Antiquities: 4798 hits
Poland: Search in WorldCat on LCSH Poland Antiquities: 1594 hits
Baltic states: Search in WorldCat on LCSH Baltic states Antiquities: 95 hits
Estonia: Search in WorldCat on LCSH Estonia Antiquities: 123 hits
Latvia: Search in WorldCat on LCSH Latvia Antiquities: 175 hits
Lithuania: Search in WorldCat on LCSH Lithuania Antiquities: 100 hits

2.2. Further geographic division of 931-939 / Table 2—3

Some of the numbers in 931-939 / Table 2—3 have big literary warrant and need to be further divided.

Examples:

936.3 Germanic regions (1391 hits in WorldCat)

Search in WorldCat on 936.3 + LCSH Sweden: 44 hits.

Search in WorldCat on 936.3 + LCSH Scandinavia: 28 hits

Search in WorldCat on 936.3 + LCSH Denmark: 50 hits

Search in WorldCat on 936.3 + LCSH Norway: 23 hits

Search in WorldCat on 936.3 + LCSH Germany: 793 hits

Search in WorldCat on 936.3 + LCSH Austria: 113 hits

936.4 Celtic regions (1641 hits in WorldCat)

Search in WorldCat on 936.3 + LCSH France 899 hits

Search in WorldCat on 936.3 + LCSH Switzerland 112 hits

Search in WorldCat on 936.3 + LCSH Belgium: 42 hits

936.6 Iberian Peninsula and adjacent islands (1358 hits in WorldCat)
Search in WorldCat on 936.3 + LCSH Spain 1170 hits
Search in WorldCat on 936.3 + LCSH Portugal 135 hits

3. Time period of 930

The time period for archaeology in DDC is too restricted in two ways.

- Prehistory / Prehistorical archaeology. The period for which archaeological findings is the main source for knowledge about humankind is longer in the north of Europe than the time limit in DDC, A.D. 499. In Sweden, i.e., there are very few written sources up till the end of the Viking age, and the prehistoric period is considered to last until 1050.
- Archaeological findings and methods are not restricted to the prehistoric period. They can be used for all times up till today, as a complement to written sources. Medieval archaeology is one big field, and industrial archaeology is another.

The general limit for the prehistoric period should be adapted to the circumstances in each region. For Sweden the prehistoric period would end about 1050. As a solution to the second problem the general scope of archaeology must be broadened. If a work describes or discusses archaeological findings, it should be classed in archaeology regardless from which time period the findings stem. Works using both written sources and archaeological findings, or focusing on the interpretation of the findings it should be classed in history or another relevant field also in the future.

4. Chronological division of 931-939 History of ancient world (to ca. 499) - Specific places

Some of the numbers in 931-939 have big literary warrant and need further chronological division. One example is 936.4 Celtic regions where Swiss National Library made modification of DDC in the call numbers for their open shelf collection to express the time periods, following the pattern of 930.11-930.16.

5. Expansion of 930.1028 Archaeology - Techniques, procedures, apparatus, equipment, materials.

There is a need to clarify and expand 930.10282 and its subclasses to make it possible to express different archaeological methods and techniques.

Examples:

Search in WorldCat on LCSH Archaeological dating 642 hits
Search in WorldCat on LCSH Archaeological geology 505 hits
Search in WorldCat on LCSH Archaeometry 262 hits
Search in WorldCat on LCSH Magnetometry in archaeology 140 hits

6. Provision for specific topics of archaeology.

There are many possible classes for specific topics of archaeology. Works on specific types of archaeological findings can be classed with general works on the type of finding.

Archaeological works on buildings can be found in 720 Architecture, works on ceramics in 738 Ceramic arts and so on. Many works on different types of findings are also classed in 930.1028 and its subclasses, especially 930.10285 Interpretation. The principles for when to use 930 and when to class an archaeological work in another discipline need to be discussed and clarified. Provision for more types of archaeological findings in the 930 schedule is a possibility worth considering.

2008-06-25 / Magdalena Svanberg