Chain Indexing

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Chain Indexing

- Postulates and principles of colon classification system form the basis for the formation of subject headings in Chain Indexing.

- Though this indexing technique takes the class number of the document as the base for deriving subject headings, Ranganathan formulated a set of rules and procedures of Chain Procedure for Classified Catalogue Code with the object of deriving class index entries (i.e. subject index entries).

- Other classification schemes can be used for the same purpose also.

- Chain Procedure has also been used to derive specific subject entries and subject reference entries in a Dictionary Catalogue.

Formation of Subject Headings

The formation of subject headings according to Chain Indexing consists of the following steps:

1. Classification of the subject of the document;
2. Representation of the Class Number in the Form of a Chain;
3. Digit by Digit Interpretation of Class Number;
4. Determination of Different Kinds of Links;
5. Derivation of Subject Headings;
6. Construction of Subject heading.

Classification of the Subject of the Document

- The Class Number of a document according to colon classification is obtained by the application of postulates of Basic Subject, Fundamental categories, Rounds and levels and Principles of Facet Sequence.

- This involves subject analysis of documents into their facet ideas and appropriating them to the Fundamental Categories of PMEST and fixing their sequence.

- The Eight steps in construction of Class Number as provided by Ranganathan are as follows:

1. **Raw Title (RT)** (=Title as found in the document).

2. **Expressive Title** (Title expressing each of the relevant basic and isolate ideas in the subject of the document, got by filling up all the ellipses in the Raw Title).

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3. Kernel Terms (KT) (=full Title minus all the auxiliary or apparatus words and with each composite term denoting a composite idea replaced by the fundamental constituent terms denoting its fundamental constituent ideas).

4. Analyzed title (=Kernel Title with each kernel terms marked by a symbol, denoting a composite idea replaced by the fundamental constituent terms denoting its fundamental constituent ideas).

5. Transformed Title (=Analytical title with the kernel terms re-arranged according to the symbols of analysis attached to them).

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6. Standardized Title (=Transformed Title with the kernel terms replaced, wherever necessary, by their respective equivalents as given in the appropriate schedules).

7. Title in Facet Numbers (=title in Standard Terms with the kernel terms replaced by their equivalent numbers).

8. Classification Number (got by removing the symbols of analysis and inserting the appropriate connecting symbols between the facet numbers in accordance with the rules.

Representation of the Class Number in the Form of a Chain

- Once the Class Number of the document is constructed, it is used by the subject cataloguer for the purpose of deriving subject headings. Therefore, there is no need for the subject cataloguer to determine independently the subject of a document once the class number is available to him/her.

- Class number is to be represented then in the form of a chain in which each link consists of two parts; class number and its verbal translation into standard terms used in the preferred classification scheme.

Digit by Digit Interpretation of Class Number

- Make sure first link from first digit.
- Make the second link out of two digits and so on, upto the last link which is to be made of all digits.
- Write the links one below the other in succession.
- Write against each link its translation into natural language.

Determination of Different Kinds of Links

1. **Sought Link (SL):** a link in a chain representing a subject which is likely to be sought by the user. This link only will receive index entry.

2. **Unsought Link (UL):** A link in a chain representing a subject on which reading material is not likely to be looked up y any user. This rule admits of local variation in its application. This link will not receive any index entry.

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3. **Missing Link (ML):** A link in chain-with-gap corresponding to the missing isolate in the chain. Class number for a particular component idea may not be available in a preferred classification scheme and this will result in ML in a chain. In representing the class number in the form of a chain, every ML is to be inserted at the proper place by means of verbal extension whenever there is such a need.

4. **False Link (FL):** A link, which does not represent a subject with definite name. For example, digit(s) representing connecting symbol or indicator digit, time and phase relation.

Derivation of Subject Headings

- Subject heading for the Specific subject Entry is to be derived from the last SL and moving upwards by taking the necessary and sufficient upper SL (s) in a reverse or backward rendering process.

- Subject heading for the subject reference is to be derived from each of the Upper SL terms.

- The process will continue until all the terms of upper SLs are exhausted or indexed. Each term constituting the specific Subject Heading and Subject References is to be separated by comma (,).

Construction of Subject Heading

- The specific subject entry or subject reference entry is to be constructed with minimum number of terms of upper links as are necessary and sufficient to make the subject heading meaningful and individualized.

- We shall illustrate the steps involved in the formation of subject headings by chain procedure as following example of Class Number from colon classification, edition 6.

Example;

234:7.44'N9,t   A report on reference service in University libraries in India during 1990s

The representation of this class number in the form of a chain would be as follows:

2   =   Library Science (Sought Link)

234 = University Library (Sought Link)

234: =   (False Link)

234:7   = (Reference Service in University Library (Sought Link)

Contd…

234:7. = (False Link)

234:7.4 Reference Service in University Library in Asia (Sought Link)

234:7.44' = (False Link)

234:7.44'N = 20th Century (False Link)

234:7.44'N9 = Reference service in University Library in India during 1990s (False Link)

234:7.44'N9t = A report on Reference Service in University Library in India during 1990s (Sought Link)

In the above example, according to Ranganathan's modifications, the subject reference headings are to be derived for each of the SL of the whole class number starting from the last SL and ignoring different parts of the class number.

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- Subject headings are to be constructed with necessary and sufficient upper SL terms to make them meaningful and individualized. Applying this rule, we get the following subject reference headings for the above example:

  Report, India, Reference Service, University Library.

  India, Reference service, University Library.

  Reference Service, University Library.

  University Libraries.

  Library Science.

  Subject Reference Headings are to be linked to the specific subject heading by means of *'see also''* references.

THANKS