

SUBJECT CATALOGUING: CONCEPT, PURPOSE AND PROBLEMS

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Introduction

- Library acquires documents to serve its users. In order to serve its users, a library does several activities such as acquisition, technical processing, circulation etc., out of which one very important and essential activity is library cataloguing. Thus, first of all let us know what is a library catalogue.

Library Catalogue

- “A library catalogue is the key to the holdings of the library.”
- “It is an explanatory, logically arranged inventory and key to the books and other library documents. This is arranged in a definite order containing specific bibliographic records for the purpose of identification and location of the documents.”

Subject Cataloguing

- Subject cataloguing is designed to provide subject access to the library contents. For doing this:
 1. One way is the arrangement of library materials using a classification scheme.
 2. Second indexing the library materials through the use of a subject heading list or controlled vocabulary.

Subject Cataloguing: Purpose

5

- To provide access by subject to all relevant material;
- To bring together the same subject regardless of disparities in terminology;
- To show affiliations among subjects fields.
- To provide an entry through any vocabulary common to any considerable group of users.

Cataloguing: Problems

6

- Subject approach

Subject is defined by;

- a. an area of interest
- b. an area in which one writes
- c. an area of knowledge which is studied

Contd...

7

- Alphabetical Subject Approach
 1. Synonyms
 2. Sometimes some of the subjects are having common and technical names. They need to be understood properly in subject cataloguing e.g. ‘Sodium Chloride’ and ‘Salt’, “Documentation.”

- Use of patterns of terms because due to change the term get its usage change.

- Sometime concepts are defined differently in different versions of one language. American and British English Language are example of such difference.

Contd...

- Use of plural and singular form
 - Library as concept
 - Libraries as types
- Multi-word Concepts
 - when single word can not adequately describe its subject e.g. Information Retrieval, Country Walks etc.
- Common subjects
 - e.g. History of science is the same as science of history.

Any doubts...

Any Questions...

Thanks!!!

