UDC activities in Russia: a VINITI report

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VINITI is the publisher of UDC schedules in Russian language and the only publisher that still maintains, develops and publishes a full UDC edition. Much of VINITI's effort is put into research and development of the classification, user support and training. Being part of the Russian Academy of Science, VINITI's main strength as classification publisher comes from its team of scientists, researchers and subject specialists that work on the development and maintenance of the knowledge organization terminology. VINITI maintains a Russian UDC database and is also responsible for the alignment of the UDC with the Russian Rubricator for Science and Technology, the official scientific taxonomy that serves as a unified indexing language for information exchange in the fields of scientific research and technology.

Publications

The 4th full edition in Russian language is the most extensive and up-to-date printed edition of the UDC system. It comes in ten volumes and contains significantly more classes than the UDC Master Reference File. Most importantly, each volume is accompanied with a detailed subject alphabetical index developed by VINITI's subject specialists. From 2001 to 2007 the first seven volumes were published and followed by a series of four updates (extensions). In 2008, VINITI published volume IX of its full edition containing classes 67/69 - Industries, Trades and handicrafts:

> UDK: *Universal'naja destjatičnaja klassifikacija*: tom IX: 67/69 *Različn'e otrasli prom'išlennosti i remesel. Stroitel'stvo [Universal Decimal* Classification (UDC): vol. 9: 67/69 Various industries and trades. Building trade]. 4th full ed. in Russian language. Ed. Ju. M. Arskij; O. A. Antoškova: T. S. Astahova et al. Moskva : VINITI; RAN, 2008. 270 pages. (Publication No UDC-PO52). ISBN 978-5-94577-037-9. [Russian]

The last, Volume X of the 4th full edition, containing classes 7/9 - *Art. Linguistics. Literature. Geography. History*, is now in preparation. The work on this volume is conducted by a team of leading specialists comprising art historians, musicologists and linguists.

Due to the extensive work put into the full edition in the last years, the edition is larger than originally planned.

In 2008 VINITI also published two more titles of practical importance for UDC research and training. The first is a textbook issued in connection with the VINITI's annual UDC Method Seminar. It is a practical pocket size book with training in mind, consisting of four chapters: UDC history; general information about UDC; description of UDC system and content and structure of UDC classes. It includes a small glossary of UDC terminology at the end:

> *Učebnoe posobie po Universalnoj desjatičnoj klassifikacii* [Study book on the Universal Decimal Classification]. Editor in chief Ju. M. Arskij, scientific editor V. N. Belozeroov. Moscow: VINITI, 2008. 150 pp. ISBN 978-5-94577-045-4

The second book is the third revised and extended edition of the VINITI' UDC pocket edition:

> *Universal Decimal Classification*: concise edition. 3rd revised and extended ed. Editor-in-Chief Ju. M. Arskij. Moscow: VINITI RAS 2008. 177 pp.

UDC VINITI Seminar

In cooperation with the Russian Academy of Science (RAS), RAS Natural Science Library, Russian State Library, and sponsored by Prom Invest Trade Ltd., VINITI organized "The Third Seminar on UDC Application Methodology" that took place in Moscow, 16-18 April 2008. Due to its success the seminar has now become a regular annual event aimed at practitioners and researchers. The 2008 Seminar was devoted to the suitability of UDC in indexing and retrieval in the context of modern information technology.

For the first time the seminar also included a 'master class' i.e. an advanced workshop for librarians working on content indexing and classification. Topics covered by this seminar included:

- indexing rules and method of classification according to UDC
- classification procedure organization and management
- UDC structure review
- schedule's corrections and extensions
- UDC application methodology

In total, fourteen reports were presented concerning UDC printed publications, terminology, current trends in classification use and building of classification numbers. There was also opportunity to learn more about UDC maintenance automation. In addition, the issues of application of new auxiliary numbers were discussed and the Seminar offered an opportunity for librarians to exchange and share practical experience in indexing with UDC. The UDC editorial team of specialists from Tomsk and Moskow shared their experiences on UDC translation, schedules interpretation and use. VINITI specialists were available to answer specific questions in UDC number building and synthesis.

There were over 70 participants, librarians, indexing and abstracting specialists and lecturers in librarianship from countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS): Kazakhstan, Belarus and Russia. Russian participants came from Tomsk, Krasnoyarsk, Ukhta, Arkhangelsk, Kurgan, Samara, Sent-Petersburg, Tula, Rostov-on-Don, Yekaterinburg, Yakutsk, Saratov, Kaliningrad, Perm, Twer, Nizhny Novgorod, Almetyevsk, Volgograd, Moskow and Moskow district.

The Fourth UDC Seminar by VINITI is planned for April 2009.