UDC activities in Russia: a report from VINITI

O. Antoshkova and N. Thumakova
VINITI

A training workshop on ***The Universal Decimal Classification: Current State and Methodology of Use*** was held in Moscow, 5–6 April 2006, organized by VINITI (*All-Russian Institute of Scientific and Technical Information of the Russian Academy of Sciences*, http://www.viniti.ru).

This seminar, the first of its kind organized by this Institute, was attended by over 80 representatives of libraries and information centres from Moscow and other regions of Russia and CIS (Belarus, Kazakhstan, Turkmenia, Moldova). The main goals of the workshop were to inform UDC users on the current state of the classification system, to demonstrate applications and search facilities of systems using UDC and to exchange UDC related experiences among libraries, publishers and other stakeholders of information activities.

The seminar was conducted by leading Russian experts, and covered a wide range of topics: history of the UDC creation and development; linguistic provision of information processes and the UDC place in it; organizational provisions of UDC introduction and use; the current state of UDC schedules and major changes in recent years; principles of indexing and searching UDC and their adaptation to present-day information activities; automation of UDC, experience of UDC catalogues in the system of RAS natural sciences libraries and the UDC in the book trade.

More than 20 papers were presented by VINITI staff members and representatives from the Russian State Library (RSL), the State Public Scientific and Technical Library (SPSTL) of Russia, All-Russian Book Chamber, Library on Natural Sciences of RAS, Association of Electronic Libraries of Russia, Central Scientific Agricultural Library as well as other organizations. All reports and presentations will be published in the collection "Scientific and Technical Information", series 1, no 10, 2006, and will be also available at http://www.udcc.ru.

The active participation in the workshop from both leading libraries and numerous other organizations from different regions of Russia demonstrated the currentness of the work being carried out by VINITI regarding UDC, and its importance as an international system for the organization of information.

Common interest in organizing methodical work on UDC use in different information agencies was highlighted and the perspective of widening the UDC use on the Internet were also underlined. The seminar participants approved a number of concrete recommendations for further work on UDC, needed to support the library and scientific and technical information system in Russia.

Issues related to improving UDC to be addressed by VINITI RAS were identified at the Seminar, notably:

- The need to support the maintenance of the authoritative and full-scale UDC tables created by VINITI in Russian;

- The authoritative UDC database should be available for search, used as the base source for preparing different UDC publications, both electronic and in print, and should be exportable to library automated systems;

- The 4th full edition of UDC schedules in Russian should continue to be published;

- There is a need to continue to publish extensions and corrections to the UDC, as they are required by all users, following what is published by the Consortium regarding the UDC database maintenance;

- It is necessary to proceed with the preliminary discussion of revisions needed in the UDC authoritative tables. Preparatory information on revisions should be published in advance;

- As methods of working with UDC are quite complex, there is a need for the preparation and publication of guidelines and instructions, and for conducting methodological seminars for experts;

- The establishment of a permanent committee on UDC, similar to the Methodical Council on STI rubricators, was recommended.

Since 1963, following the Resolution of the USSR Council of Ministers no 445, 11th May 1962, UDC has been used extensively by Russian libraries, publishers and scientific journals, notably in all literature on natural and technical sciences. By a government resolution of 1997, VINITI has been the agency in charge of the UDC management for Russia. As a member of the UDC Consortium, represented in the UDCC Executive Committee by its Director, Dr. Arskiy, since 2000, VINITI has the exclusive right to publish and distribute the UDC in the Russian language.

The first edition of Russian UDC was published in the period of 1963-1966, the second was issued in the years 1969-1971 and the third between 1982-1987. The current and 4th edition was launched in 1997 and after a period of interruption has been carried out continuously by VINITI since 2000.

For purposes of training, dissemination and development, VINITI plans to continue the realization of UDC seminars similar to the one held in April, on an annual basis.

[End]