Classification: Options and Opportunities

Alan R Thomas

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This new book explores a wide range of options surrounding the choice and application of library and bibliographic classification systems. It provides detailed descriptions of alternative provisions in the much-used Dewey Decimal and Library of Congress classification systems, as well as descriptions and discussions of several alternative systems, such as Bliss Bibliographic, Universal Decimal, and Reader-Interest. The book also treats the use of multiple classification systems within the same library. Classification: Options and Opportunities helps librarians determine which classification system to adopt and which options within the system to utilize. By selecting that solution most appropriate to their particular library or information center, library staff can make their facilities more efficient, saving time and energy for both staff and patrons.Many librarians and information specialists receive little exposure to the range and diversity of library and bibliographic classification. This book helps begin to fill that gap. It is divided into five sections which address:

- Basic Design Considerations--presents ideas and principles concerning the function, assessment, design, and construction of classifications
- Options Within Standard Classification Systems--covers the Library of Congress and Dewey Decimal Classification systems, focusing on choices available in these systems
- Alternative Classification Systems--includes classifications intended for wide adoption as well as some prepared for particular local settings
- Combination Platters and Reclassification--covers use of multiple classifications within the same institution or even the same collection, and includes the related decision and planning of reclassification
- Classification and the New Technology--includes an examination of classification options available through modern information technologies and a guide to features of electronic DeweyClassification: Options and Opportunities encourages fresh and wider interest in library and bibliographic classification decisions, illuminating the extent of choice in the field. The book is a helpful guide and reference for teachers and students of library and information science and for practicing librarians and information specialists.

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