

THE MANITOBA-WINDSOR-YORK CO-OPERATIVE CLASSIFICATION & CATALOGUING
SCHEME

May 1970.

HISTORY

From the early 1950's onwards Canadian Law librarians have been concerned about the problem of the best method of classifying their textbooks. They were aware that some of the American law libraries had evolved systems of their own, they knew that Harvard hoped eventually to publish details of its particular scheme, and they knew that one day the Library of Congress would publish its development of K. By 1960 Los Angeles County Law Library, which had worked out its own expansion of K, had begun making available photoreproductions of its shelf-list cards. Eunice Beeson came to Dalhousie law library from the United States and she began to classify their library according to the Los Angeles system. Shih Sheng Hu, then law librarian at Queen's University adapted the Los Angeles system for his collection also. The rest of the Canadian law libraries were intensely interested in what they were doing, but they lacked the necessary staff to begin, and had to continue to shelve their books by author or entry. It seems strange now, but there was not sufficient interest on the part of users of the libraries to help the librarians press for the necessary funds for additional staff - law teachers and practitioners were "managing" with things the way they were. The sixties brought the period of growth and change in legal education and consequently in law libraries, and the need for a more adequate system of handling the books was recognized by the users. The natural step to take was classification. In 1966 it was known that publications of the first schedules for K was imminent, and in the spring of 1967 KF appeared in final draft form. Three Canadian law schools were at that moment either starting or being completely rebuilt. It seemed obvious for the librarians involved to think seriously of using KF. During the summer and fall of 1967 they talked and thought about the problem, and in the spring of 1968 Mr. David Wilder, librarian at the University of Manitoba, and his law librarian, Shih Sheng Hu, decided that the time for talk was over and the time for action had come. They sent a letter of invitation to all Canadian law libraries to come to Winnipeg to discuss the whole question of classification and the possibility of some method of co-operation. Law librarians from the universities of B.C., Alberta, Saskatchewan, Western Ontario, Sherbrooke, Ottawa, Windsor and York, and from the Ontario Legislative library, attended the day and a half conference. Jane Hammond, law librarian from Villanova University in Pennsylvania, came to assist. She was using KF in her library and was reported to be very pleased with the results. Her wise counsel and practical advice proved to be the turning point in the discussion and the three law libraries of Manitoba, Windsor and York decided to begin a co-operative venture.

CLASSIFICATION
(See Appendices D & E)

U.S. federal and State

All three libraries are using the KF federal law classification with no changes or variations, for U.S. federal material. Two libraries, Manitoba and York, use KF federal law for all state material as well, while Windsor uses the separate schedules put out by L.C. for individual states.

Non U.S. common law

The three libraries use KF federal law numbers for all other common law jurisdictions as well as for Quebec. The classification numbers are taken without change for many subjects, which means that in this subjects U.S. material and material relating to other common law countries are intermingled on the shelves. However, in areas where it seemed necessary to separate the U.S. from non U.S. material within the subject, the libraries use a modification of L.C. called the G.D. (Geographical Division) which was drawn up by Shih Sheng Hu. Attached is an explanation of this modification written by Shih Sheng for the three libraries involved, a list of the numbers affected and G.D. numbers used (see Appendices A, B & C). Special extensions and tables have been worked out in areas which are uniquely American and which do not apply to non-U.S. common law (i.e. Constitutional law).

Foreign Law, Comparative Law, Jurisprudence, Law as related to other subjects, International Commercial, International Resources, etc. (no current L.C. number)

All these subjects are classed using Los Angeles County Law Library Class K. To preclude the interference of the notation "K" in the Los Angeles County scheme with the Library of Congress K class, the letter "X" was arbitrarily assigned as a prefatory notation before the Los Angeles number, e.g. Los Angeles number KF 1386 becomes XF 1386. All material classed in X will eventually be reclassified into the L.C. K numbers provided for Foreign Countries, Jurisprudence, etc. when these schedules are finally published, but it is anticipated that that will probably be many years from now.

CATALOGUING

The co-operative libraries send one another a copy of each catalogue card produced. These are filed separately by each library and used for card copy, classification information, etc.

Inter-library memos keep each library advised of difficulties,

solutions, etc. and provide the necessary running communication. Periodically the librarians meet to discuss matters of importance.

ADVANTAGES OF USING KF

KF is a Library of Congress classification scheme and therefore enables each library using it to take advantage of:

- 1) the continual revision and updating that L.C. publishes quarterly
- 2) the retrospective L.C. shelf list of material being classed into KF.
- 3) the printed cards, proof slips, etc. containing classification numbers.

ADVANTAGES OF USING THE LOS ANGELES CLASSIFICATION FOR FOREIGN LAW, etc.

- 1) Enables libraries to take advantage of the Los Angeles County Law Library shelf list published with their classification numbers.
- 2) This scheme is also being revised and updated periodically.
- 3) "X" provides a separate block of material from which to reclassify when the new L.C. schedules are finally published.

Arrangements will be made for libraries interested in joining the co-operative system to purchase copies of the cards in the York, Manitoba and Windsor shelf lists.

APPENDIX A

MODIFICATION KF

An Explanation of The Theory Behind the Use of the G.D.

1. Purpose:

The purpose of this modification is to provide room for the accommodation of the laws of Canada, Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand and other Common Law Jurisdictions. Thus, all Common Law materials will be grouped together by subject rather than by jurisdiction and further subdivided by jurisdiction if the quantity of the materials justify doing so.

2. Basic Philosophy:

All modifications should not conflict with the LC schedule. The best way to achieve this is not to touch KF itself. New numbers are created only when we find it absolutely necessary, the less new numbers used, the better.

3. Method:

(1) Basically, a Geographical Division (hereafter cited as G.D.) is designed to integrate other common law materials into U.S. Laws. G. D. is used only again on the theory of necessity. When applied, it should not break the logical sequence. There fore, it is better to add the G.D. numbers at the end of each topic rather than the beginning, e.g. 477-478 (Woman) 478 .ZA-AA

(2) I have deliberately avoided using cutter numbers, A1, A2, etc. or decimal numbers .1, .2, etc., for expansion purposes, because LC has frequently employed this device for its expansion, e.g. A1 for bibliography, 505.5 for Domestic relations courts.