Article : Classification schemes in Ayurved College Libraries in Maharashtra: a study

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Assesses how many *Ayurved* college libraries in Maharashtra follow the classification schemes and the commonly used ones. Considers the impressions and opinions of the librarians of the *Ayurved* colleges regarding application of the classification scheme. Survey of librarians of the 43 *Ayurved* college libraries in Maharashtra, literature review and information obtained from books, journals, articles and the internet were carried out to study about classification schemes in *Ayrved* college libraries. Finds that out of 43 *Ayurved* college libraries only 13 libraries make use of classification schemes while 30 *Ayurved* college libraries have adopted unconventional methods of classification. Out of the 13 *Ayurved* college libraries applying classification schemes, 12 of these libraries were using Dewey Decimal Classification and the remaining one was using the Colon Classification Scheme.

1.   INTRODUCTION

The word "Classification" is derived from a Latin word Classis, which was used in ancient Rome from groups of citizens according to their wealth. Classification is probably the simplest method of discovering order in the overwhelming multiplicity of nature. It is a process of sorting, which brings together like things / objects and separates unlike ones. The ideas or objects are collected into groups. These groups stand for certain qualities which its members possess. The procedure, necessary to form the groups is called classifying and the result is a classification.[1]

A classification is a structure; a map. Knowledge classification is a cognitive map of knowledge.[2] According to **Ranganathan** Library Classification is the translation of the name of the subject of a book into preferred artificial languages of ordinal numbers. [3]

According to Mann, classification is the arranging of things according to likeness and unlikeness. It is the sorting and grouping of things, but, in addition, classification of books is a knowledge classification with adjustments made necessary by the physical form of books [4] Sayers defined library classification as the arrangement of books on shelves, or description of them, in the manner which is most useful to those who read.[5]

Classification aims at demonstrating the way in which the human intellect transforms the chaos of sense impressions into a cosmos of concepts.[6] Human beings seem to have an innate need to organize entities. This need to organize large amount of knowledge and information led to the development of classification schemes and other organizational tools. The ultimate aim of all classification work is to make sense out of chaos by grouping similar things together. Library classification has mainly four purposes like order the fields of knowledge in a systematic way, bring related items together in the most helpful sequence, provide orderly access to the shelve, and lastly to provide an exact location for an item on the shelf.[7]

Classification has ruled traditional libraries for centuries in systematic arrangement of the books for their better retrieval. The classification, not only assists the memory, but also expresses the relationships of things. The need for a classification system is much more in today's electronic environment than ever before.

1.1   SCHEME OF CLASSIFICATION

According to **Ranganathan Scheme** of Classes is statement showing the filiatory sequence of the classes arising in the course of the successive divisions of the universe of knowledge.[8]   Scheme of Classification is Scheme of Classes fitted with terminology and notation.[9]

It is helpful to distinguish between a Scheme of Classes and a Scheme of Classification. The latter differs from the former in having a distinctive class number to documents or catalogue entries of documents. These are often taken out for use from out of their respective places in the collection. After use, they should be replaced in their correct places. The class number mechanises this replacement- that is, it eliminates the need for re-thinking about the relative positions of the documents or the entries of in it to. Again the universe of knowledge is continuously growing and throwing out new classes. The finding of the right, filiatory, helpful place for each such new class among the already existing ones is also rendered easier by representing each class by a unique class number. The class numbers constitute in effect an artificial language of ordinal number. It may be called a Classificatory Language. There should be no synonyms or homonyms in a classificatory language if the mechanization of the arrangement of the classes and of the documents embodying them or of the entries of the document is to be free from any ambiguity or noise. [10]

There are various schemes of classification which deal with universe of subjects in different ways. The main division of classification schemes is Enumerative Classification and Faceted Classification. [11]

1.1.1   Enumerative Classification Schemes :

According to Rangnathan an enumerative scheme for classification consists essentially of a single schedule enumerating all subjects – of the past, the present, and the anticipatable future. [12] The following are some examples of Enumerative Classification Schemes:

i)   Library of Congress Classification (LCC) :

The outline of the Library of Congress Classification was determined in 1901, but the scheme took nearly forty years to reach somewhere near approximate completion. The scheme consists of a series of special classification, each special classification covering a major class. Each class has been devised by subject specialists on the library staff. The subject schedules have been published by the US Printing Office since 1901. The revisions are made when necessary.   The outline of LC closely resembles that of C.A. Cutter's Expansive classification, but the scheme was tailor-made for the collections of the Library of Congress. LC is backed by the full resources of great national libraries of USA. It has good prospects.[13]

The LCC is now available in US MARCK Format. With this the US MARC format for Classification Data joins the family of MARC. The format was developed between 1988 and 1990.[14]

ii)   Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC) :

Melvil Dewey is the author of Dewey decimal classification. The word "decimal" has been in use from the middle of the sixteenth century to the middle of the nineteenth century, and stood for the use of the integral number expressed through the sale of ten. But Dewey used the pure decimal fraction notation. In 1876, DDC was published under the title A classification and subject index. The 19th edition was published in 1979. Before the DDC came out, libraries used the fixed location for materials. Each document was assigned to a certain location fixed for a given subject. Very often, the shelves were numbered and each document was allotted a specific location on a particular point on the shelf. DDC adopted the relative location system. It uses simple and easy to understand notation. The notation is pure decimal fraction one. DDC continues to be used by many libraries all over the world. It is being revised continuously, and used for a variety of purposes such as shelf arrangement, arrangement of bibliographies, arrangement of entries in catalogue, arrangement of private papers, and so on. [15]

In January 1984, a research team in the OCLC Office of Research undertook the DDC online project. The project was supported by the Council on Library Resources, Forest Press, and OCLC. The project team incorporated records from DDC 19 Schedules and Relative Index into an experimental online catalogue. The libraries which provided machine readable cataloguing records to

the experimental online catalogues.[16]   Now in its 22nd edition, and available in print and web versions.

1.1.2   Faceted Classification:

A Faceted Scheme for Classification consists of schedules of Basic Classes, Common Isolates, and Special Isolates only. In a Faceted Classification there will be no schedule enumerating Compound Subjects. The class number of any Compound Subject is constructed with the aid of the Basic Subjects, the Common Isolates, and the Special Isolates enumerated for each subject. All the schedules are usually short. Many of them may not extend to more than two or three columns. A Faceted Classification will not be overpowered by the emergence of new subjects. They may at best call for new schedules of Isolates and or extensions of the existing schedules of Basic Subjects and of Isolates. The class numbers of a Compound Subject will have connecting digits of species different from the semantically rich digits used in the schedules for the Basic Class Numbers and the Isolate Numbers. Therefore, all the Compound Class Numbers of a Faceted Classification will be Polylithic. [17] The following are some examples of Enumerative Classification Schemes:

i)   Universal Decimal Classification:

In 1895 following the first International Conference on Bibliography, the newly founded Institut International de Bibliogrphie (IIB) sponsored a scheme

initiated by two Belgians, Paul Otlet and Henri La Fontaine. By an arrangement with Melvil Dewey, who had just published the fifth edition of DDC (1894), the IIB began expanding the schedules in parts, and in 1905 published the first complete international edition in French entitled *Manuel du Repertoire bibliographique universal.* At present, a variety of editions in different languages are available at a variety of levels. FID is the body which has overall responsibility for UDC. [18] UDC is in worldwide use, and has been published in whole or in part in 39 different languages.[19] UDC is used by a large number of libraries around the world. According to Aida Slavic "UDC used in 60 % countries, in 28% countries UDC is the main classification system used across national information networks." [20]

ii)   Colon Classification (CC) :

"Colon Classification (1st Ed.1933) by S.R. Ranganathan (1892 – 19720) is thoroughly faceted and theory based classification. It is now in its 7th Edition published in 1987, though the sixth edition (1960) continues to be popular. Ranganathan was very particular about the order of main classes and of facets in a class number."[21]   Colon was the only general scheme of classification which fully employed analysis and synthesis of all the facets within a compound subject. The ideas regarding fundamental categories and analytic-synthetic approach revolutionized the theory of library classification. Ranganathan's thoughts were

greatly appreciated, and criticized, by many library professionals. One of the basic ideas behind CC is to provide autonomy for the classifier. It, in fact, provides a set of rules and devices which help classifiers to construct class numbers of new foci, not listed in the schedule. Another remarkable contribution of Ranganathan was the development of Dynamic Theory of Classification, published in Prolegomena to Library classification in 1937. The postulates, canons and principles formulated by him provided a scientific basis to the theory of library classification. His ideas formed the basis of much of the progress made in classification theory in England during 1950's. Ranganathan, as a theoretician, cannot be paralleled with any other classficationist. However, the frequent changes that have occurred in different editions in CC could not allow it to become much popular, even in Indian libraries. [22]

1.2   Ayurveda :

Ayurved is an indigenous, traditional and time-tested method of health studies and assessment developed in the Indian Subcontinent. It is most familiar with the South-Asian cultures and countries such as India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The branch of *Ayurved* studies is also accepted as an optional as well as subsidiary method of health assessment in several countries of the world [23]. The meaning of the word *Ayurved* originated from the classical Sanskrit language. It is the combination of the *Ayu* meaning Life and *Veda* i.e. *Vidya* of study.[24]   It

means that the science which is devoted to explore the knowledge and secrets of healthy life or it also indicates a scientific way by which one can acquire a healthy life.[25]

The roots of the *Ayurved* methods of treatment can be traced with the South Asian regions. The science of *Ayurved* is devoted to the study of human body, disease, therapy, treatment and a complete and healthy lifestyle. The method of *Ayurved* has developed for centuries since ancient days. The history of the development of *Ayurved* can be traced to the *Buddhha* period i.e. 5th B.C.[26] The system of *Ayurved* developed over the time span of more than twenty centuries, is proved as a unique system of study because "more than two millennia, thousands of authors in South Asia produced a very extensive literature on *Ayurved*".[27] The recognition of the disease, finding the medicine and method of treatment and above all preservation of the research finding for the future generations was simply great.

1.2.1   Ayurved Colleges :

Presently there are 240 *Ayurved* colleges spread across India with intake capacity of about eleven thousand students every year.[28]   Out of them, 55 colleges offer Post Graduate Courses in *Ayurved.* These colleges are affiliated to various Indian Universities and are approved by the Central Council of Indian Medicine.[29]

The *Ayurved* colleges in Maharashtra are affiliated to Maharashtra Health Science University, Nashik and fall into three categories such as Government colleges, Government aided colleges and non-aided colleges.   There are 63 colleges including three constituent units of deemed universities in Maharashtra.[30]

"Government of Maharashtra has promoted and inspired the study of *Ayurved* by establishing four *Ayurved* colleges and providing grants to 15 *Ayurved* colleges from urban and rural areas. The mainstream efforts on the government side have been supported by the 44 private non-aided colleges.[31]   The efforts taken by the non-aided colleges are admissible one to retain, sustain and creation of the *Ayurved* related knowledge.

Classification is very important for knowledge organization and is used in libraries to organize the library collection. There are several classification schemes including Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC), Universal Decimal Classification (UDC), Library of Congress Classification (LCC), Colon Classification (CC) and National Library of Medicine Classification (NLM). The present paper aims to examine the use of classification schemes by the *Ayurved* college libraries in Maharashtra. This paper also considers the impressions and opinions of the librarians of the *Ayurved* colleges regarding application of the classification scheme.

2.   OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

☐   To examine the classification schemes being used by *Ayurved* college libraries in Maharashtra;

☐   To understand the applicability of standard classification schemes in *Ayurved* libraries

3.   METHODOLOGY

This study was based primary data collected from 43 out of 63 *Ayurved* college libraries in Maharashtra through the questionnaire and direct interview method. The information published in various information resources viz. books, journals, and internet pages was also used for making out the opinions in study. These one also property cited in the text. The data thus collected was analysed.

4.   ANALYSIS

4.1   Use of classification schemes

In order to make maximum use of the reference books, classification of the material available is of great importance. Moreover, classification is the foundation of library and information science. It is a common place to say that one of the following classification schemes have been used for the classification of materials in *Ayurved* college libraries.

1) Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC)

2) Universal Decimal Classification (UDC)

3) Library of Congress Classification (LCC)

4) Colon Classification (CC)

5) National Library of Medicine Classification (NLM) etc.

It is equally important to see that how many college libraries have been using these schemes for the purpose of classification.
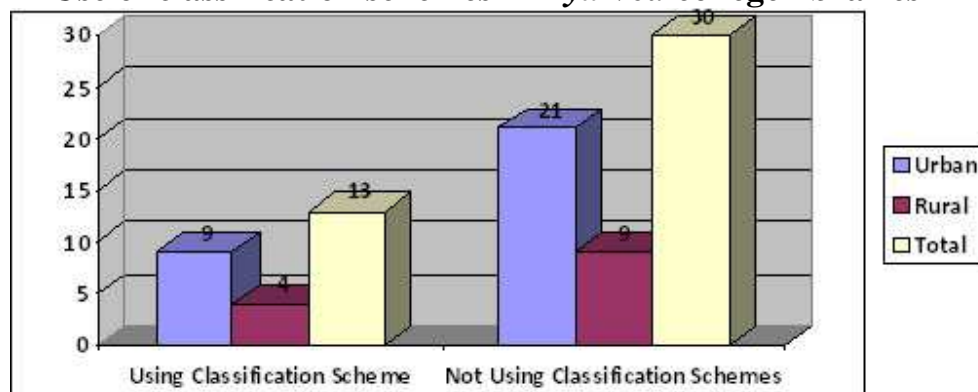
The classification schemes are used in large libraries to fix the place of document / book on the shelf in the library. The analysis of usage of the library classification scheme is divided in to two groups of libraries viz. libraries in cities and metros are grouped in Urban area, where as libraries at Taluka & Village areas etc are grouped in rural area. The aim behind this evaluation is to et an idea of usage at lower level libraries i.e. in the rural areas. The analysis is pointed below.

Table 1
Use of classification scheme in *Ayurved* college libraries in Maharashtra

Particulars	Urban		Rural		Total	%
	No. of Ayurved College Libraries	%	No. of Ayurved College Libraries	%		
Libraries which are using classification scheme	09	20.93	04	9.30	13	30.23

Libraries which are not using classification scheme but they have arranging their collection with their own ideas	21	48.84	09	20.93	30	69.77
Total	30	69.77	13	30.23	43	100

Graph 1
Use of classification schemes in *Ayurved* college libraries in Maharashtra

Graph 2 indicates that out of 43 libraries of the *Ayurved* colleges, 9 (20.93%) from urban and 4 (9.30%) from rural areas which is in all 13 (30.23%) have used the classification schemes for the classification of books and materials. Out of the remaining 30 (69.77%) *Ayurved* colleges, 21 (48.84%) from urban and 9 (20.93%) from rural areas have not used the classification schemes but they have arranging their collection with their own ideas

4.2   Mostly used classification schemes:

The researchers could collect information from 43 *Ayurved* college libraries from the state of Maharashtra and out of which only 13 (30.23) *Ayurved* college libraries make use of the classification schemes to serve their purpose. The chart appended below indicates the present status of the classification schemes in various *Ayurved* colleges libraries situated in urban as well as rural areas in Maharashtra.

Table 2
Present status of use of classification schemes
in *Ayurved* college libraries

Name of the classification scheme	*Ayurved* college libraries using classification scheme					
	Urban		Rural		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	**%**
Dewey Decimal Classification Scheme	08	61.54	04	30.76	12	92.30
Universal Decimal Classification	0	0	0	0	0	0
Library of Congress Classification Scheme	0	0	0	0	0	0
Colon Classification Scheme	01	7.70	0	0	01	7.70
National Library of Medicine Classification Scheme	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	09	69.24	04	30.76	13	100

Graph 2
Present status of classification schemes
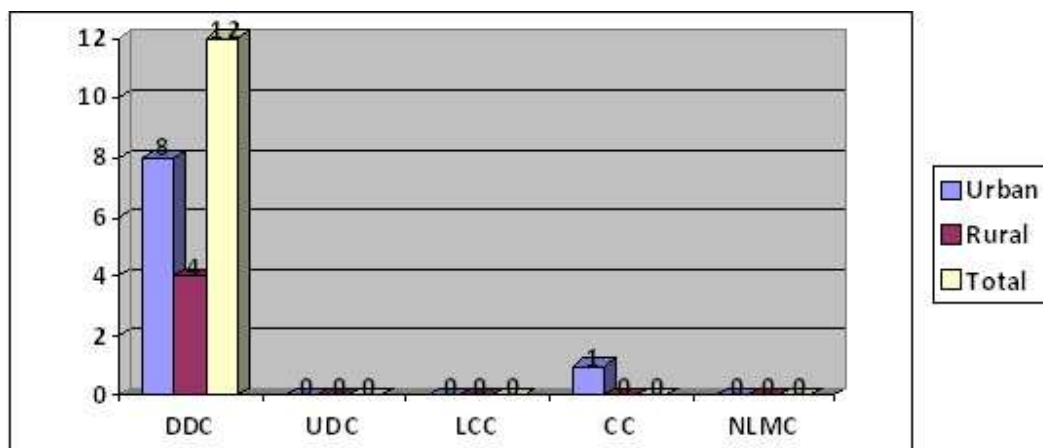**in *Ayurved* college libraries**

Table 2 and graph 2 indicates that none of the *Ayurved* college libraries have used Library of Congress Classification Scheme, National Library of Medicinal Classification Scheme and Universal Decimal Classification Scheme. Only one college library (7.70 %) has made use of the Colon Classification Scheme while the rest of the colleges i.e. 08 (61.54%) from urban area and 04 (30.76%) from rural areas which is in all 12 (92.30 %) have used Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC) Scheme. On the basis of graph 2 and table 2 it can be said that the Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC) Scheme is mostly used classification schemes in out of 13 *Ayurved* college libraries in Maharashtra.

4.3   The tact's for classification of the subjects which are not covered by the present   methods of classification schemes:

The methods of classification which are applied and approved do not denote the class numbers for various subjects and sub branches of *Ayurved.* Therefore, during classification a number of obstacles have been occurred. Still it

remains the responsibility of the librarians to classify the available material in such a way by which it is made available to the users. In this connection the librarians of various *Ayurved* college libraries have made provisions and apply the new tact's according to their knowledge and at their discretion.

1) *Ayurved* being science of medicine has much similarity with other branches of medical science, hence the material which cannot be included directly under *Ayurved,* is placed along with the material which indicates close similarity with the subject of modern medical science. It is observed that, 9 *Ayurved* college libraries from the urban areas and 4 *Ayurved* college libraries from the rural areas have been making use of such provision for the purpose of classification.

2) Library is an institution developed in keeping students centered approach and the classification inside the libraries should cater the need of students. If classification is not possible as per above tact, almost 9 *Ayurved* college libraries from the urban areas and 4 *Ayurved* college libraries from rural areas believe in the classification of *Ayurved* books and materials on the basis of the syllabuses designed for various classes.

3) It is very interesting to see that some of the libraries have referred to the class numbers of the main subject and have further classified the books according to the author's name.

4) It is also seen that none of the colleges from urban as well as rural areas have classified the books and materials according to the author name.

On the whole, it can be said that majority of the *Ayurved* college libraries prefer to go for subject wise classification of books and materials.

4.4   Reasons for not using the classification scheme:

It is observed that out of 43 *Ayurved* college libraries, 21(48.84%) from urban area and 9 (20.93%) from rural areas which is totally 30 (69.77) have not used the classification scheme for the classification of books and materials. The reasons for the same are mentioned below:

1) According to the librarians of 08 *Ayurved* college libraries from urban areas and 02 from rural areas the classification scheme have not been designed by keeping in view the system of classification needed for the materials and books of *Ayurved* studies.

2) In the opinion of 13 librarians from the urban area and 06 librarians from the rural area, the present method of classification for the *Ayurved* material and books consider only the main branch of *Ayurved,* the further sub classification of the same seems impossible.

3) One librarian of *Ayurved* college library from rural area opined that schemes like Dewey Decimal Classification, Universal Decimal

Classification are not affordable to the Ayurved college libraries located in rural area as the prices of such schemes are so high. He also expressed that his library has the problem of finance and cannot purchase the classification scheme.

4.5   Observations of the librarians:

Out of 43 *Ayurved* college libraries, 30 (69.77%) libraries do not apply the classification scheme for the purpose of classification of library books. In such cases the classification of the books and materials is done as mentioned below. Though these ways seem inconvenient, from practical point of view, they have been used by these libraries.

1) In such cases we find that different cupboards or even the shelves inside have been entitled for a particular subject. That's why we get all the books of that particular subject at one place. Out of 30 *Ayurvd* college libraries, Almost 19 (63.33%) college's libraries from urban area and 8 (26.67%) libraries from the rural area follow the subject wise and cupboard wise classification for their convenience.

2) Remaining 2 (6.67%) college libraries from the urban areas and only 1 (3.33%) college libraries from the rural area classify the books according to accession number. This method of classification is applied in the light of the internal arrangements of the cupboards. But this method cannot be recommended as we do not find books related with that subject at one place, which is desired by the library system.

4.6   Opinions of the librarians

A librarian holds a unique position in the system of higher education works at the center of various stakeholders. In response to the research topic undertaken, they have expressed their opinions, practical experience and have raised some objections regarding existing methods of classification. These are as follows:

1) It is the thing of great importance to mention that according to the librarians who have applied the classification scheme for their purpose do not approve any of these classification scheme as adequate and complete. Moreover, they emphasize the need of improvements of the new methods of classification exclusively designed for *Ayurved* libraries.

2) By and large, almost all the 43 (100%) college librarians recommended new method of classification and have opined that it is very high time to

redefine the method which will serve the needs and demands of this age old method of *Ayurved*.

5.   Conclusion :

It should be noted that the science of *Ayurved* which has developed for centuries and known in the era of globalisation and technological revolution; there is great need of the designing of new methods of classification for *Ayurved* books and materials in the libraries of *Ayurved* Colleges.

Since the 5th B.C., thousands of experts, sages, scientists and writers have studied the science of *Ayurved* and have produced thousands of books, pamphlets and have recorded their observations in various forms, which have historic importance. For the centuries ahead it forms great treasure. This literature produced and preserved by our forefathers have to be retained, maintained and transformed for further generation. The researchers, therefore highly recommend the need of new method of classification.

Though there are some approved methods of classification in practice like Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC), Universal Decimal Classification (UDC), Library of Congress Classification (LCC), Colon Classification (CC), National Library of Medicine Classification (NLM), etc. these are proved inadequate.

Out of 43 *Ayurved* college libraries in Maharashtra only 13 *Ayurved* colleges' libraries make use of classification schemes while 30 colleges' libraries

have adopted unconventional methods of classification or have invented the non scientific ways of classification.

Out of the 13 *Ayurved* colleges libraries in Maharashtra applying classification schemes, almost 12 of these colleges libraries have been using the Dewey Decimal Classification while only 01 of the colleges libraries have been applying the Colon Classification Scheme.

The researchers, after careful and scientific study of the present methods of classification, strongly recommend that new methods of classification should be developed for *Ayurved* college libraries.

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