Providing for Indigenous Nations in the Dewey Decimal Classification

Rebecca Green
Senior Editor, Dewey Decimal Classification
Dewey Editorial Operations Program Manager
Notation for indigenous nations: desiderata

• Recognizes sovereignty of indigenous nations independent of boundaries of other states
• Easily generalizable to all indigenous nations → Table 5 notation for people added to Table 2 notation for place
• Consistent with overall DDC subject organization
• Satisfactory to indigenous information professionals
  – Special collection organized by tribe
  – General classification reflecting indigenous viewpoints and values
Table 2 and nationhood

• Table 2 notation reflects both geographic areas and political entities with sovereignty over those areas
• Arrangement of Table 2: geography > political units
• Table 2 notation closely aligned with UN member states
• Traditional lands of indigenous peoples and areas associated with UN member states co-located
Multi-perspective reflection in DDC

• T2—3 Ancient world vs. T2—4–9 Modern world; extraterrestrial worlds
• Options
• Topic neighborhood character of classes
• Classified content
  – Subject analysis differences
  – Differences across editions
Proposed solution

- Table 1—09 + Table 2 continent notation + T1—04 Indigenous nations + Table 5 people notation
  - Wherever not prohibited
  - But mostly in 300s, 900s
- 9 + Table 2 continent notation + 930–990:00404 Indigenous nations + Table 5 people notation
- (Option:) 305.8 Ethnic and national groups + Table 5 people notation + 0 + 001–999
thank you

Rebecca Green
Senior Editor and Dewey Editorial Program Manager
greenre@oclc.org