

Report on Moys Seminar

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1. Introduction

On a fairly brisk morning in early May, I set off for Sydney airport at an unearthly hour for the 6.35 a.m. flight to Canberra. It was with some trepidation that I did so, for the purpose of my jaunt to Canberra was to attend a Moys seminar.

After years of experience as librarians, we probably all fall into the trap of complacency. Since cataloguing is a part of our daily professional lives, it is quite easy to disregard the need to continue the cataloguing learning curve.

Although I was reasonably familiar with the second edition of the Moys legal classification scheme, I had only recently purchased the 3rd edition and was happily cataloguing "run of the mill" material. No significant stretch of the creative librarian's imagination was involved.

2. Moys Seminar

I arrived in Canberra ahead of schedule and set off for the High Court to spend a peaceful half hour in the park across the road. By this stage I was wondering whether the seminar would take the form of a "grilling" - would each attendee be given an horrendous cataloguing example and be forced to demonstrate their cataloguing expertise (or lack of!) on a whiteboard for all to see? Panic set in. I opened up my 3rd edition Moys in order to quickly soak up the theory of cataloguing.

The seminar began at 9.15a.m. and we were met by Jacqueline Elliott, Court Librarian, High

Court of Australia, and Joanna Fear, Reference and Research Librarian, Department of Justice and the Attorney General, Brisbane. Jacqueline Elliott is also the Australian Coordinator of the Moys Users' Group.

Helen Kelly, Systems Librarian/Network Cataloguer, Director of Public Prosecutions Library, Canberra, and Jane Muir, Cataloguing Librarian, High Court of Australia were also on hand throughout the day to assist.

I am sure that what turned out to be an extremely useful and interesting seminar was enhanced by the beautiful location of the seminar room on level six of the High Court building. The participants had only to gaze out at the lush greenery beyond the windows in order to gain cataloguing inspiration!

The first session was an overview of the Moys classification scheme and certainly highlighted the fact that cataloguing and classification schemes are an art form. As a consequence of Joanna Fear's obvious expertise in the area, the participants were led through a very clear session on the general principles of Moys.

Although we are probably well aware of the breakdown of the classification scheme, it was handy to be guided through the three general areas which, as cataloguers, we must consider before classifying material.

The first principle discussed was the three basic classes viz. general and multinational legal systems (K-KE); modern national legal systems (KF-KW); and non-legal subjects (KZ).

As the KF-KW class represents existing jurisdictions, the session focused upon the need to consider the applicable jurisdiction which is the first choice the cataloguer must make after selecting the general area.

Following the decision between common law and non-common law jurisdiction, the third principle

of Moys was canvassed, that is, whether the material to be catalogued is primary or secondary.

Since most libraries do not classify primary material, Joanna Fear concentrated upon the cataloguing of secondary material (KL-KN) and its breakdown into general law (KL), public law (KM) and private law (KN).

Joanna's overview of the Moys classification scheme was a useful framework for highlighting the scheme's important features. We were reminded of the basic law of any classification system, i.e. the general precedes the specific. This basic tenet is highlighted and enhanced by the scheme as a whole since general and multinational legal systems (K-KE) is followed by the more specific area of modern national legal systems (KF-KW).

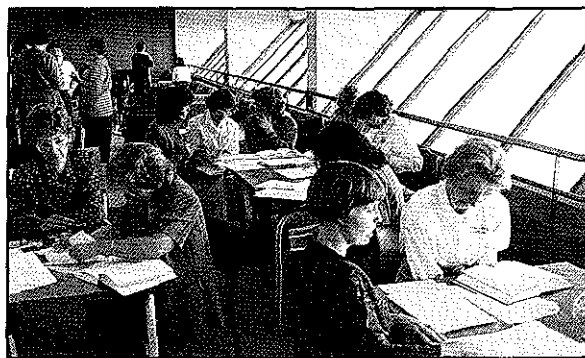
As we proceeded through the day's cataloguing activities, the movement from general to specific was also reflected in the schedules with KN5-KN39 as a good example. It was also useful to be reminded of the fact that the Moys classification scheme approaches material in terms of its jurisdiction as opposed to subject.

Following a few practical examples of cataloguing dictionaries of legal abbreviations, quotations and Hansard material, we adjourned for a beautifully prepared morning tea which included scones, jam and cream.

SECOND SESSION

The second session of the seminar, which focused upon an explanation of the schedules and tables, certainly demonstrated the flexibility of the Moys classification scheme. Since Moys is both an enumerated and faceted scheme, it allows for cataloguing flexibility particularly in the schedules. For example, KL-KN is set out in great detail whereas KR-KV in the schedules, being faceted, allows the cataloguer to take the number block and build upon this using tables and other number building devices.

Joanna guided us through a very detailed and useful examination of the tables and the way in which the cataloguer uses these tables to build numbers using two methods - the use of a Cutter number following the number you have constructed, or the creation of a specific number.



Joanna Fear (foreground) assisting with Moys exercises

It was important to look at the eight tables thoroughly as not only do each of the tables have different functions but, when cataloguing material, we need to be aware of the strong English bias inherent within the classification scheme. The English bias was particularly noted in Table V - Courts wherein it is necessary to substitute local equivalents. For example, to effectively catalogue the Rules of the Family Court of Australia the cataloguer would need to use Tables IV and V in order to emphasise the Australian jurisdiction, i.e.

- Court rules etc KN361-369 (with reference to use Table V)
- Family courts 7 (Table V)
- Australia .K1 (Table IV)
- Moys no. KN367.K1

The entire session on schedules and tables included a good overview and practical exercises on the use of the Index of Jurisdictions and the creation of numbers principally through substituting the number located in the relevant table into the number block found in the schedules. Experienced cataloguers would know that an alternative method of number creation is to add the number from the relevant table to the first number in the block located in the schedules and subtract 1.

The practical examples, however, demonstrated that this method should be used with caution since the use of the subtraction principle will often result in the cataloguer falling outside the allocated number range. As an example of this, try cataloguing Hindu family law.

TABLES WITHIN TABLES

The group was also led through areas of the classification scheme which insert tables. For example, note KL221-229, Administration of Justice - Particular Courts, wherein the cataloguer is directed to subdivide as required by using the numbers from KL230 with an intervening 0 to highlight a particular aspect of court management.

SMALL GROUP EXERCISES AND DISCUSSION

As we entered the afternoon session, Jacqueline and Joanna did not let the group lose momentum. As I considered an afternoon of leisurely discussion, following an intensive morning, I discovered that I was in for a surprise.

Jacqueline and Joanna presented the group with an exercise sheet of 74 (yes 74!) cataloguing examples.

Thanks to the detailed overview of the classification scheme which preceded the afternoon session, the participants were able to face this daunting task with fervour and confidence.

This was perhaps the most interesting session of the entire seminar since it forced each participant to logically go through the concepts and theories previously canvassed.

Working in small groups, it was interesting to note the way in which each participant attacked the cataloguing process. It was evident that our different backgrounds and experiences contributed to differing answers.

I think this is one of the valuable aspects of the Moys classification scheme as it allows for the differing nature of particular legal material and

the way in which information professionals approach its classification.

One example was the cataloguing of "Computerisation of the High Court of Australia". Participants in my working group built the following numbers - N347.15.X1 and KL221.061.X1.K2.

Of course, as the working groups no doubt noted, the cataloguer must examine the legal material thoroughly in order to ascertain whether, for example, computerisation means information retrieval within a library environment or office automation per se.

The small groups spent the entire afternoon on the 74 examples which certainly highlighted the need to have a thorough understanding of the general principles behind the Moys classification scheme in order to classify legal material so that the user can gain quick access.

Throughout the afternoon, both Jacqueline and Joanna, along with Helen and Jane, were on hand to assist the small groups as we doggedly worked our way through examples such as "The Changing Face of the British Legal Profession"; "Application of International Treaties to Domestic Law"; and "Swiss Military Neutrality".

By now you probably regret that you did not/could not attend this worthwhile seminar. So that you do not entirely miss out on the day's practical aspects, try the following cataloguing examples when you have some spare time.

- Collection of well-known Scottish murder trials
- Trial of Lindy Chamberlain
- Mismanagement in the ACT Legal Aid System
- Taxation in the UK, US and Germany

The answers, it is hoped, will be provided at another Moys seminar! Certainly, there were a number of requests for a similar seminar to be held in Sydney.

All in all, my earlier trepidations regarding the content of the conference and my abilities to cope with the imagined horrendous examples were alleviated by the friendly and thoroughly professional manner in which the seminar was conducted. Participants were farewelled with handouts and answer sheets so that the mysteries of library classification using Moys 3rd edition could be further pondered and clarified.

AGPS Tour

During May, AGPS threw their doors open to law librarians and other librarians in Canberra. About 26 librarians attended an information session, followed by a guided tour. The session aimed to work co-operatively on problems, including:

- supply of AGPS materials (time delays, \$5.00 minimum mail charge)
- invoicing and accounts
- customer services.

As a result:

- AGPS have a new 'user friendly' account form with plenty of room for calculations.
- They agreed that a time-delay problem exists with their standing orders, primarily due to an outdated system and the volume of material that they handle. We were assured that they are working on the problem, and hoped to solve it soon.
- We met Ron Robertson, the newly appointed Customer Services Manager, who is seeking any further suggestions for improvement from librarians.
- The guided tour of AGPS highlighted their work practices and constraints. It was helpful to meet face-to-face the staff who handle our problems over the telephone.

Overall the visit was conducive to improved relations, and AGPS's candid response to our problems was much appreciated.

ANNA DANIEL

Immigration Review Tribunal

Copyright Seminar

A seminar on 'Copyright for Librarians' was recently held in Canberra, by the Copyright Council of Australia.

A Copyright Australia Limited (CAL) spokesperson discussed the requirement of librarians to maintain full records of all reproductions of copyright work made within their organisation. If we fulfilled our legal obligations, CAL would receive 440 million forms a year! A seminar attendee has suggested that librarians should jointly lobby the Copyright Law Review Committee to introduce a sampling system similar to that used by the Australasian Performing Right Association (APRA), and Public Lending Right (PLR). In this system a library would monitor all reproductions of copyright work made by that organisation, for a set period, for example, of a week each year. This sample would then be sent to CAL, who will keep all details as long as legally required. CAL can calculate an overall cost to represent annual usage, and a copyright fee will be charged accordingly. This fee will become yet another expense for libraries, but at least not as great as the cost of maintaining full records of all reproductions made.

ANNA DANIEL

Immigration Review Tribunal

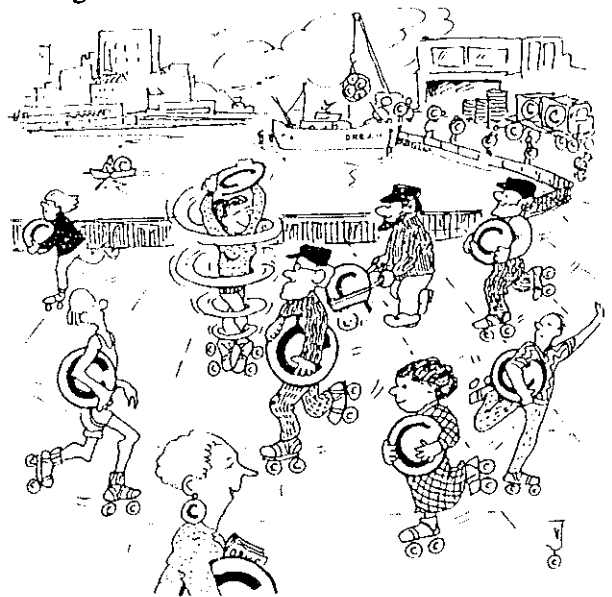


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