

Classification Theories

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Theories of Classification

- Theories of Library Classification
 - Descriptive and Dynamic Theory
- A theory refers to an organised **set of principles**, which provides the basis for further **investigations** into and the **development** of a subject.
- It provides a **scientific basis** for a subject and brings respectability and status to it.

J.D. Brown (1862-1914)

- J.D. Brown was an English librarian, whose contribution to the General Theory of Library Classification **was small but significant**.
- Brought out **three different schemes** of classification.
- First, developed in 1894 jointly with J. H. Quinn and was known as **Guinn-Brown Scheme**.
- In 1897, Brown independently brought out another scheme and called it **Adjustable Classification**.
- In the year 1906, Brown published the first edition of his **Subject Classification**

E.C Richardson (1860-1939)

- **First classificationists** to have made a systematic attempt to set down a theory of library classification.
- In 1910, he published his book **Classification: Theoretical and Practical**.
- Richardson asserted that
Things nature has already classified and man has to trace only the order of the classification and record it.

E.W Hulme (1859-1954)

- In 1911-1912, he published his book **Principles of Book Classification** in the library.
- According to Hulme, all classifications could be arranged into two groups (categories),
- Eg. Mechanical and Philosophical.

W. C. B . Sayers (1881-1960)

- William Charles Berwick Sayers, an English librarian and **Teacher of S.R. Ranganathan**.
- Referred to as the **first grammarian of library classification**. He never designed any classification scheme.
- His theory has shown the way for others in the designing of classification schemes.
- His theory of book classification first appeared in 1915 under the title "**Canons of Classification**".
- He expanded the outline of the theory in three other books,
 - **Grammar of Classification**
 - **Introduction to Library Classification**
 - **Manual of Library Classification**

H.E. Bliss (1870-1955)

- His theories and principles of classification were expanded in his first work, **Organisation of Knowledge and the System of Science (1929)**.
- He formulated scientific, philosophical and logical grounds for the study of bibliographic classification.
- Published basic work on the theory of library classification titled **Organisation of Knowledge in Libraries** and the Subject Approach to Books (1933, 2nd ed. 1939).
- His work helped in establishing librarianship as a **scholarly discipline**.

S R Ranganathan (1892-1972)

- Developing his first theory of library classification in 1924.
- **Prolegomena to Library Classification (1937)**, he provided an integrated theory of the practices in classification
- Provided the largest list of **Normative Principles** like **Fundamental Laws, Postulates, Principles and Canons** and evolved a special terminology.
- His theory is now synonymous with the **General Theory of Library Classification**.