Library of Congress Classification

Module 10.2
Classifying Translations

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We would like to begin this module by defining *translation*.

A translation is a rendering of a work from one language into another, more or less closely following the original text.

A translation can also be a rendering from an older form of a language into the modern form of the language, such as a translation of *Beowulf* from Old English into modern English.
Translations are filed after all of the editions of a work.
CSM instruction sheet G 65, *Preferred Shelflist Order*, indicates that the cutter for the original work is “expanded by 12-19 and date.”
In this module, we will explain how to classify translations, and explain when the Translation Table must be used to subarrange translations of a particular work.

We will also explain the circumstances under which the Translation Table cannot be used, and how to assign call numbers when we are not allowed to use it.

In the next module, we will explain how to use the Translation Table. We will also define the phrase “texts in parallel languages” and show you how to assign call numbers to them.
Introduction

• Instruction sheets
  F 177, Translations
  G 150, Translations/Texts in Parallel Languages

These modules are based on CSM instruction sheets F 177, *Translations*, and G 150, *Translations/Texts in Parallel Languages.*
The general rule is to assign the same classification number to the translation that is assigned to the original work.

The original English edition of *Carrie*, a novel by Stephen King, was assigned the call number PS3561.I483 C37 1991, and the call number for the Spanish translation also begins with PS3561.I483 C37.
There are a few exceptions to using the same class number, and if you have been viewing the modules in order, two of them should sound very familiar.

The first exception is class numbers that are based on the publication date of the resource. Classify the translation in the appropriate date span, even if the translation is separated from the work in the original language.
Exceptions to the General Rule

- Obsolete class numbers
- Classify with the replacement number

The second exception occurs when the work in the original language is classified in a number that is now obsolete. Do not attempt to keep the translation with the original language. Instead, classify the translation in the replacement number.

We know that RS68 is obsolete because it is parenthesized. Instead of classifying a translation with the original language in RS68, we have to follow the reference and classify the translation in the span that begins HD9665.
Exceptions to the General Rule

- Dictionaries and encyclopedias arranged by language
- Classify a translation with the language of translation

In some areas, the schedule provides for classification of dictionaries and encyclopedias by language. Instead of classifying the translation with the original language, we should assign the number for the language of the translation.

Say, for example, that we have a French translation of general encyclopedia in Hebrew.
Exceptions to the General Rule

- Dictionaries and encyclopedias arranged by language
- Classify a translation with the language of translation

The original Hebrew encyclopedia should be classified in AE30.
Exceptions to the General Rule

• Dictionaries and encyclopedias arranged by language
• Classify a translation with the language of translation

The French translation will be classified in AE25, with the language of the text.
Exceptions to the General Rule

- Juvenile belles lettres
- Classify a translation with the language of translation in PZ

The third exception to the general rule relates to literature for children. Once again, translations are classified according to the language of the text, not with the original language.

For example, the story *Mary Poppins* is classified in PZ7 because it was written in English.
A Japanese translation of *Mary Poppins* would be classified in PZ49.31, which is one of the numbers allotted to Japanese literature for children.
Exceptions to the General Rule

• The schedules provide other instructions
• Follow the instructions

Finally, sometimes the schedule provides other instructions. If so, follow them.

Remember, special instructions in the schedules always take precedence over general policies.
Exceptions to the General Rule

• The schedules provide other instructions
• Follow the instructions

PA3973.M4 is the number for Greek texts of Medea, a play by the ancient Greek author Euripides.
Exceptions to the General Rule

- The schedules provide other instructions
- Follow the instructions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Greek literature — Individual authors to 600 A.D. — Euripides. Esquilo:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>— Editions — Separate works — Medea, Medea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PA3975.B8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PA3975.M4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(PA3975.M8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(PA3975.O4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PA3975.O7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greek literature — Individual authors to 600 A.D. — Euripides. Esquilo:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>— Translations — English — Separate plays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PA3975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PA3975.A1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PA3975.A2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PA3975.A25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PA3975.A5-.Z4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PA3975.Z5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PA3976.A-Z</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Translations of *Medea* into other languages are not classed there; instead, there is a separate hierarchy for them.

An English translation of *Medea* would be classified in PA3975.A5-.Z4.
Exceptions to the General Rule

• The schedules provide other instructions
• Follow the instructions

Likewise, the original Arabic texts of the Qur’an are classified separately from translations into other languages.
Exceptions to the General Rule

- The schedules provide other instructions
- Follow the instructions

Arabic texts are classified in BP100.
Exceptions to the General Rule

- The schedules provide other instructions
- Follow the instructions

Other languages are classified by language group. The span BP102-105 is for translations into other Asian languages, while BP106-127 is for translations into European languages.
Exceptions to the General Rule

• Five categories
  • Class number reflects the publication date
  • Class number is obsolete
  • Dictionaries and encyclopedias arranged by language
  • Juvenile belles lettres arranged by language
  • Schedule provides other instructions

We see there are five exceptions:

(1) The class number reflects the publication date;
(2) The class number is obsolete;
(3) Dictionaries and encyclopedias arranged by language;
(4) Juvenile literature arranged by language; and
(5) The schedule provides other instructions.

Other than those, translations are classed in the same number with the work in the original language.
Other than those few exceptions, translations are classed in in the same number with the work in the original language.

For translations, we usually use the Translation Table to add digits to the final cutter.

The Translation Table, currently on your screen, can be found in CSM instruction sheet G 150.

As you can see, this is an .x table, and it instructs us to use a pre-defined cutter and append digits to it.
The Translation Table may be used for many resources, but not with all of them. The instructions are provided in CSM instruction sheet G 150.

The most fundamental rule is that the Translation Table can be used only if the resource is entered under a personal name or the title and a preferred title that includes the language has been assigned. A note indicating that the resource is a translation is not good enough. There has to be a preferred title that includes a language.

For now, we will discuss resources that consist of a single translation of a single original work. In the next module, we will discuss multiple translations within a single resource.
We can use the Translation Table with the Spanish translation of John Knowles’ *A Separate Peace*.

The main entry is a personal name, and the preferred title is the original English title of the work with the addition of the language of the translation, Spanish.
Translation Table

• Use only for resources
  • Entered under personal name or title
  • Assigned a preferred title plus the language of translation

Preferred title: Legenda trium sociorum. English
Title: The legend of Saint Francis by the three companions

*The Legend of Saint Francis* by the Three Companions also fits the category because it is entered under title and the preferred title includes the language of translation, English.

The instruction sheet also includes several prohibitions on the use of the table. Let’s discuss each of the categories for which use of the Translation Table is prohibited, and explain what to do instead.
Entry Under Corporate Body

• Resources entered under the access point for a corporate body or conference
  • Do not use the Translation Table
  • Assign the same cutter
    • Differentiate with the publication date or work letter

We cannot use the Translation Table if the resource is entered under a corporate body, and that includes access points for conferences.

This is true even if there is a preferred title that includes the language of translation.
Entry Under Corporate Body

- Resources entered under the access point for a corporate body or conference

 Entered under: Association of Biologists
 Title: Membership rules
 Call number: QH301.A77 2011

 Entered under: Association of Biologists
 Preferred title: Membership rules. Spanish
 Title: Reglas de membresía
 Call number: QH301.A77 2012

The main entry for the Spanish translation of the membership rules of the Association of Biologists is the corporate body. We follow the general rules for corporate entry, which state that every resource by and about a corporate body in the same class number is assigned the same cutter number. Therefore, the call number for the translation is identical to the call number for the work in the original language, except for the publication date. If the publication dates are identical, a work letter is added to the call number for the translation.

We will discuss this again in the module on entry under corporate bodies.
We cannot use the Translation Table for serials. Instead, we use successive cutter numbers.

That is, we change the cutter just slightly so that the translation files directly after the original language, as you can see in this example.
We cannot use the Translation Table if the caption for translations includes the instruction “By language, A-Z,” or sometimes just “By language.”

Instead, we base the cutter on the name of the language in English. The example on your screen, PQ2076.A3-Z, is for resources that include translations of two or more of Voltaire’s plays.

As you can see, the cutter for English is .E5, for German, .G5, and so on. If you were cataloging a translation into a language that is not listed here, you would create a cutter.
For example, you could assign .P6 or .P67 for Portuguese.

The important thing is to keep the translations in alphabetical order by the name of the language.

Although the schedule does not say it, you would finish this call number by appending the publication date.
Here is another example. PQ6410.L3 A3-A69 is for translations of Ponce de León’s literary works. The caption says, “By language and date,” but the cutter range given is very small: A3-A69.

As before, we will make an alphabetical list of languages, but the cutter for each will be between A3 and A69. We have to check the catalog. Doing so, ...
We might find that English was assigned A5. If we received a German translation, we could assign A6, and if we received a French translation later, we could assign A55.

The end result should be a list of translations organized by the English name of the language.
We cannot use the Translation Table when we are using the Biography Table (except for the \xA6-Z area).

Before we explain this exclusion, let’s briefly look at the Translation Table again.
As we can see, .x represents the final cutter for the original work. Each line in this table instructs us to use that cutter and append two or three digits to it. For a Russian translation, we append 1-7, for example.

We are not allowed to use this table with the Biography Table.
This is the Biography Table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Cutter for the biographee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A2</td>
<td>Collected works. By date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A25</td>
<td>Selected works. Selections. By date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A25</td>
<td>Including quotations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A3</td>
<td>Autobiography, diaries, etc. By date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A4</td>
<td>Letters. By date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A5</td>
<td>Speeches, essays, and lectures. By date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A5</td>
<td>Including interviews</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A5</td>
<td>Individual biography and criticism.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A5-Z</td>
<td>By main entry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A5-Z</td>
<td>Including criticism of selected works, autobiography, quotations, letters, speeches, interviews, etc.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
With the exception of the last line, every line is a reserved cutter.

What do we know about reserved cutters?

We cannot append any digits to them.

This makes it impossible to use the Translation Table because the Translation Table requires us to append digits; if we tried to use it, we would be forced to do something that were are specifically not allowed to do.
Instead of using the Translation Table, we assign the same call number to the translation that is assigned to the work in the original language. The only difference is the date; or, if the date does not make the call number unique, we can append a work letter.
We are allowed to use the Translation Table only in the line .xA6-Z.

It is a reserved range, so we can append digits.
We will examine several resources written by Frederick Ecke and subarranged using the Biography Table.

A selection of Ecke’s quotations was published in 1998, and was assigned TA140.E25 A25 1998. The cutter .E25 is the cutter for Ecke, and A25 the reserved cutter number for quotations, as determined by the Biography Table.
Let’s say that Ecke was well-known in the Netherlands, so much so that the collection of quotations was translated into Dutch.

The fact that it is a translation is not represented in the call number. Instead, the call number is identical to the call number of the original English, except for the date of publication.
Now another collection of quotations is published in English. It may be a new edition of the 1998 publication, or it may be a completely different compilation. Regardless, the call number is the same except for the date.
We are also not allowed to use the Translation Table for autobiographies or correspondence.

We just saw that in the Biography Table, autobiographies and correspondence are provided with reserved cutters, making the use of the Translation Table impossible.

Captions for these types of resources also appear elsewhere. Just follow the instructions.
For example, the correspondence of Berthold Auerbach, a German literary author, is classified in PT1812.A3 Z6.

Z6 is a reserved cutter, meaning that we cannot append digits.

There is not a special instruction about subarrangement, but two cutters are already provided; just append the date of publication.

A translation of Auerbach’s correspondence into English would have the same call number as the German originals – except for the date!
Finally, whenever the caption includes the instruction, “By date,” we cannot use the Translation Table. Instead, follow the instructions.

The call number will not reflect the fact that the resource is a translation unless special instructions say that it should.

Now that you can recognize the situations in which the Translation Table cannot be used, our next topic – and next module – focuses on applying the Translation Table itself.
Exercises

Click when you are ready to begin