

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA
INFORMATION STUDIES UNIT
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
BA HONOURS IN LIBRARY AND INFORMATION STUDIES
FINAL EXAMINATION – 2025/26
LEVEL 3 (SEMESTER I)
HSU3604 - FUNDAMENTALS OF LIBRARY CLASSIFICATION



DURATION: THREE (03) HOURS ONLY

Date: 28.09.2025

Time: 9.30am. – 12.30pm.

Instructions

Index No:.....

- Answer only **five (05)** questions.
 - All questions carry equal marks (20 marks).
1. i. Define library classification, giving two (2) authorized definitions. (5 marks)
ii. List and explain any five (5) purposes of library classification, giving examples. (15 marks)
 2. i. Explain the concept of a call number in library classification with a definition. (5 marks)
ii. Describe main components (class number and book number) of call number with examples (5 marks)
iii. Describe the early history of book number, highlighting the contribution made by Charles Emmy Cutter. (10 marks)
 3. i. Explain the difference between knowledge classification and book classification. (10 marks)
ii. Describe the different stages in the development of book classification. (10 marks)
 4. Discuss the functions and uses of library classification under the following headings:
 - a) Reference and Reader Services
 - b) Managerial Processes
 - c) Technical Services (20 marks)

5.
 - i. Name four (4) features of classification system (04 marks)
 - ii. Write three (3) functions of notation and describe its usefulness in classification (08 marks)
 - iii. What is the Generalia class? Describe giving an example. (08 marks)
6.
 - i. Explain the role of mnemonics in library classification systems. (08 marks)
 - ii. Describe any two (2) types of mnemonic devices used in the DDC Classification system using suitable examples. (12 marks)
7. Explain the Universal Decimal Classification (UDC) system regarding:
 - i. Main features and structure of UDC. (10 marks)
 - ii. Discuss two advantages and two limitations of using UDC in modern libraries (10 marks)
8.
 - i. Describe the structure of the Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC). (06 marks)
 - ii. List six tables available in DDC 22 edition. (06 marks)
 - iii. Explain any two (2) auxiliary tables listed in answer ii and their purposes. (08 marks)
9. Write four (4) short notes on any of the following:
 - i. Fundamental Categories (PMEST) in Colon Classification System
 - ii. World Cat
 - iii. Dr. S.R. Ranganathan and his contributions to library classification
 - iv. The Three Planes of Work.
 - v. Use of Classification in Digital Libraries
 - vi. Library of Congress Classification(4 × 5 = 20 marks)