

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA
INFORMATION STUDIES UNIT
FACULTY OF UMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
BA HONOURS IN LIBRARY AND INFORMATION STUDIES
LEVEL 5 (SEMESTER I)
FINAL EXAMINATION – 2025/26
HSU5603- ADVANCED LIBRARY CLASSIFICATION



DURATION: THREE (03) HOURS ONLY

Date: 28.09.2025

Time: 1.30pm. – 4.30pm.

Instructions

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- Answer only **five (05)** questions.
- All questions carry equal marks.

1. Discuss the historical development of knowledge and library classification systems from ancient to modern times. Highlight the contributions of at least four major classification systems or thinkers, explaining their influence on modern library classification. (20 marks)
2. Compare the Descriptive Theory and the Dynamic Theory of library classification. (In your answer, identify the key contributors to each theory and assess how these theories shaped the development of modern classification schemes.) (20 marks)
3. Explain how classification supports library services such as information access, shelf arrangement, user satisfaction, bibliographic control, and stock verification. (20 marks)

4. Choose any two of the following classification systems and compare their principles, structure, and usage:
- Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC)
 - Universal Decimal Classification (UDC)
 - Library of Congress Classification (LCC)
 - Colon Classification (CC)
- Support your comparison with examples and reference to classification structure (e.g., notation, facets, auxiliaries). (20 marks)
5. Explain the theoretical contributions of E.C. Richardson, W.C.B. Sayers, and H.E. Bliss to the field of library classification, including how each theorist contributed to shaping classification schemes through their philosophical, structural, and methodological approaches. (20 marks)
6. Discuss the special classification schemes used for Music and Medical libraries. Compare their structures, classification approaches, and explain the challenges in classifying materials in these fields. (20 marks)
7. Compare faceted classification (e.g., Colon Classification) with enumerative classification (e.g., DDC), by explaining the advantages and disadvantages of each approach, with examples of their application in academic and special libraries. (20 marks)
8. Discuss the technical features of the Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC) 23rd edition, with particular emphasis on the role and types of notes provided in the schedules and tables. (20 marks)
9. Write short notes on any four (04) of the following topics.
- Mnemonics
 - Dr. S.R. Ranganathan
 - Universal Scheme
 - Auxiliary tables in UDC
 - Minute Division
 - H.E.Bliss
- (5 × 4 = 20 marks)