

DALNET Horizon Statistics Coding Task Force

Minutes July 29, 1998

Present: J. Bosler, B. Chapman, G. Libbey, S. Savage - Chair

The meeting convened at 9:30 a.m. at University of Detroit Mercy Library.

Three issues remain to be finalized:

A. Collection ISTAT codes

Jan Shepard at Horizon has not yet responded to a long list of questions Steve Savage communicated to her. He will try to get some answers from her before the next meeting.

B. Call Number ISTAT codes

Steve reported that Nancy Bulgarelli has provided a breakdown for the RC, RD, and RM sections of LC. Jerry Bosler will provide the RK breakdown.

Steve is still working on the breakdown for state legal materials in the KFA-KFW section of LC.

Bob Chapman indicated that Horizon defaults for Dewey can be used until DPL migrates next spring. At that time ISTAT codes for DPL's altered Dewey system will need to be created.

Bob also stated that Johns Hopkins University converts all Superintendent of Documents call numbers to LC, so another source of existing ISTAT codes for SuDoc still needs to be located. A message has been posted to the Government Documents list-serve asking for help from other Horizon users, but as yet there are no responses. The same is true for United Nations document call numbers. Steve suggested that UN documents might fall into Horizon's "Other" call number category. Bob will work with the DPL Government Documents manager to determine whether defaults will provide useful report information. Finally, we'll use LC and Dewey ISTAT codes for state and local government documents.

Steve pointed out, and George Libbey confirmed, that call number type codes do not allow locally defined distinguishing characteristics, so there may be sorting problems between the different systems (i.e., SuDoc C and Y call numbers would intersort with LC C and Y numbers). Sorting requirements can be met if the seven character ISTAT codes begin with a letter distinguishing call number type. The following system will be used:

D	Dewey call number prefix
L	LC call number prefix
S	SuDoc call number prefix
U	United Nations call number prefix
X	Other call number prefix

Since punctuation marks are not allowed in Horizon codes, the following characters will replace punctuation:

P	decimal point
0 (zero)	unused spaces

Thus, ISTAT D029P70 represents the Dewey call number 029.7 and its inclusive numbers, while LKFM434 would be used for LC call number KFM 4347. It appears that only a few NATC numbers exceed six characters, and these numbers are not critical to circulation counts. It may be necessary to develop additional punctuation replacement characters as we learn more about SuDoc and UN call number ISTAT codes.

Louise Bugg has advised Steve it may be possible for a call number type to use more than one ISTAT code (for differing spine label breaks, etc.), and she will try to verify this.

Steve noted that call number and collection ISTAT codes only count circulation statistics. Cataloging reports are used to generate holdings reports. This makes use of the North American Title Count breakdowns irrelevant for call number and collections ISTATs. However, all concur that the very detailed breakdown of the NATC will be useful for DALNET academic library collection reporting, so it should be used for circulation statistics. While the NATC breakdown changes every four years, it should be possible to modify our ISTATs to conform. George says changing ISTAT codes is very simple. Jerry wondered whether unused ISTATS can be deleted or whether they just remain in the system, unused.

George noted that it will be simpler to use default ISTAT codes for call number systems, since locally defined ISTAT codes require manual entry of data into a form and then site-based keying into electronic format. Steve suggested it might be possible to convert the printed NATC list into a table for automatic import into Horizon. Members concur, however, that the NATC breakdown is preferable even if it requires manual data entry. The workload for data entry should be distributed throughout the DALNET member libraries, but at this point only U-D Mercy is able to load data. Steve will try to create an ISTAT table on U-D Mercy's server using his own workstation at WSU.

For now, DALNET will use Horizon's Dewey default ISTAT codes (z prefix), and U-D Mercy and WSU will create LC call number ISTAT codes. DPL will create SuDoc and UN call number ISTAT codes now, and alternate Dewey codes as they become necessary.

The committee would like to ask Jan Shepard why it is not possible to import tables into Horizon. George believes this will require a fundamental change to Horizon programming, not likely to happen soon.

C. Borrower BSTAT codes

A question was raised concerning the use of the BTYPE code as the BSTAT code. Currently the BTYPE code is comprised of two leading characters identifying the institution, a four character middle group identifying the borrower category, and a final character indicating the academic year level of the student (1,2,3,and 4 represent undergraduate years, while M, D, and P represent graduate students). WSU would also like the final character to identify the college within the university. This would require the use of multiple BSTAT codes for a single BTYPE. A discussion ensued concerning the use of multiple BTYPE and BSTAT codes in Horizon, and it was decided to seek clarification from Jan Shepard. Steve indicated he will distribute a tentative BSTAT code structure pending further information from Horizon.

Before adjourning, two meetings were scheduled. A tentative meeting was scheduled for 9:30 am Thursday, August 13 at U-D Mercy Library. (This meeting has now been confirmed as definite since we have new information from Jan Shepard.) A meeting was also scheduled for 9:30 am Wednesday, August 19 at DPL.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.