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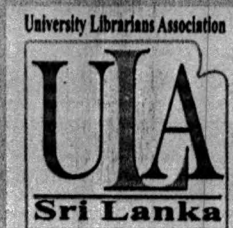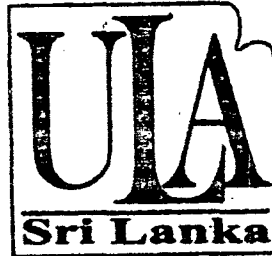
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Propriety of Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC) Scheme in Classifying Buddhist Literature: an analytical view with Reference to *'Tripitaka'*

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Abstract

Enumerative classification involves hierarchical, systematically ordered, mutually exclusive, jointly exhaustive, and fixed ordering of concepts. Classification of Lord Buddha's teachings has been prevailing for centuries in the form of three main Pitakas (baskets of knowledge) called 'Tripitaka'. Those divisions have been adapted to some extent in the modern enumerative classification systems like Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC) and Universal Decimal Classification (UDC) supplying enumeration or hierarchy for Buddhist knowledge. However, it is observable that the DDC has not been adapted the proper division of Buddhist knowledge for the literature on Tripitaka as not including sub-divisions of all Pitakas, though many revisions of DDC regularly formed. This situation makes problems for the users in navigating shelves in the libraries with rich collections on Tripitaka as their uniform title is also being as Tripitaka which leads the same call number that use to browse the shelves. Therefore, this study explores the adequacy of the DDC system in classifying literature on Tripitaka across an analytical view using content analysis technique as the research method. It was found that there exist serious gaps in the divisions and sub-divisions of literature on Tripitaka in the DDC system which should be addressed through an extended classification system that supports for vastly predominating Buddhist literature. Further, it was revealed if it includes all the divisions and sub-divisions under the existing class ranges of the DDC, the classification number becomes too long. Therefore,

it is recommended to expand the class Buddhism of the DDC including all the divisions and sub-divisions of Tripitaka literature and making options to shorten the classification numbers.