

<https://doi.org/10.4467/2543733XSSB.24.001.20025>

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Library of Congress Subject Headings, Dewey Decimal Classification and the Ambiguity of Subject Representation of Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe in American Knowledge Organization Systems

Abstract

The paper examines the classification and subject representation of the concepts of Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe in the context of the knowledge organization, especially historical information, in American research and academic libraries during the Cold War and post-Cold War era. The author argues that classification and subject schemes such as Dewey Decimal Classification (*DDC*) and Library of Congress Subject Headings (*LCSH*) have reflected the concept of the region, generally referred to as Eastern Europe, as an intellectual and political invention, with its historical biases and ambiguous representation. As will be demonstrated, despite the emergence of new nation states and the expansion of the European Union, the concepts of Central and Eastern Europe as separate entities are still alive as if the Cold War's East-West division had never ended. The paper concludes with the analysis of the latest changes to *DDC* and *LCSH* (or lack thereof) to reflect current conditions in the region.

Keywords: Library of Congress, subject headings, Dewey Decimal Classification, Eastern Europe, Central Europe

This paper examines the classification and subject representation of the concepts of Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe in the context of the knowledge organization, especially historical information, in American research and academic libraries during the Cold War and post-Cold War era. The author argues that classification and subject schemes such as Dewey Decimal Classification (*DDC*) and Library of Congress Subject Headings (*LCSH*) have reflected the concept of the region, generally referred to as Eastern Europe, as an intellectual and political invention, with its historical biases and ambiguous representation. As will be demonstrated, despite the emergence of new nation states and the expansion of the European Union, the concepts of Central and Eastern Europe as separate



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Introduction

The concept of Eastern Europe (and conversely Western Europe), according to some scholars like Larry Wolff, can be traced to the Enlightenment. Wolff asserts that as the Renaissance configuration of Europe, according to north and south, was replaced by the alignment according to east and west, the concept of Eastern Europe as a cultural construction and a physical space began to be promoted by some western European travelers and philosophers who visited that part of Europe¹. However, it can be argued that it was the Cold War that reinforced that cultural, historical and political construct as Europe became divided into two hostile blocs². As Winston Churchill famously put it in his March 1946 "Iron Curtain" speech:

From Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic, an iron curtain has descended across the Continent. Behind that line lie all the capitals of the ancient states of Central and Eastern Europe. Warsaw, Berlin, Prague, Vienna, Budapest, Belgrade, Bucharest, and Sofia, all these famous cities and the populations around them lie in what I must call the Soviet sphere, and all are subject in one form or another, not only to Soviet influence but to a very high and, in some cases, increasing measure of control from Moscow³.

Consequently, the post-World War II division of Europe and Eastern Europe's defining fault lines impacted American policy towards the region and resulted in an unprecedented development of Slavic, Soviet, and East European studies in Cold War America⁴. This paper examines a relatively unknown topic of the classification and subject representation of the concept of Eastern Europe, and to a lesser degree Central and South-Eastern Europe, in the context of knowledge organization, especially historical information, in American libraries during the Cold War and post-Cold War era.

The focus of the investigation is on the American library subject representation system and classification scheme such as Library of Congress Subject Headings and Dewey Deci-

¹ L. Wolff, *Inventing Eastern Europe: The Map of Civilization on the Mind of the Enlightenment*, Stanford, California: Stanford University Press, 1994, p. 357.

² For more about the concept of Central and Eastern Europe see, L. Wolff, *Idea Europy Środkowej: z perspektywy amerykańskiego dziecka zimnej wojny*, *Kwartalnik Historyczny* 2013, vol. 120, iss. 4, pp. 903–909. See, also, J. Connelly, *From Peoples into Nations: A History of Eastern Europe*, Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 2020; M. Todorova, *Imagining the Balkans*, New York: Oxford University Press, 1997; and M. Górny, *Concept of Mitteleuropa*, in: *1914–1918-online. International Encyclopedia of the First World War*, U. Daniel (ed.), Berlin: Freie Universität Berlin, 2015, DOI: 10.15463/ie1418.10729 (date accessed: 27.07.2024).

³ W. Churchill, "Iron Curtain" speech, 5 March 1946, The National Archives, UK, <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/cold-war-on-file/iron-curtain-speech/> (date accessed: 27.07.2023).

⁴ The expansion of Soviet and East European scholarship occurred also in Canada and the United Kingdom. For example, Stephan M. Horak's bibliographic guide to English language publications about Russia, the USSR, and Eastern Europe, covering the years 1981 through 1985, listed over 1,000 works by American, Canadian, and British scholars. See, S.M. Horak, *Russia, the USSR, and Eastern Europe*, Littleton, Colorado: Libraries Unlimited, Inc., 1987, p. xiii.

mal Classification, as they have reflected the concept of the region in American scholarship, including specialized bibliographies, and politics, with its historical biases and ambiguous representation⁵. Although those two systems have been modified over the years, as will be demonstrated, responding to the emergence of new nation states and the expansion of the European Union, the concepts of Western and Eastern Europe as separate entities have not been completely abandoned. Some may even argue that the Cold War's East-West division has never ended. The paper concludes with the analysis of the changes to subject representation and classification systems to reflect current conditions in the region, including the replacement of pre-World War II German geographic names with Polish ones.

Library of Congress Subject Headings and the Definition of Eastern Europe

The development of subject headings, or rather a list of subjects, began shortly after the library had been moved from the U.S. Capitol into its grand new building, known as the Library of Congress (or Main) Building in 1897. The building was named for Thomas Jefferson, the Library's principal founder, in 1980. The structure was built "specifically to serve as the American national library"⁶.

As the library's collection grew rapidly, new subject headings were necessary to reflect more specifically the vast array of subjects of the books acquired by the library. Since the very beginning, headings have been developed as needed for cataloguing items in the collections of the Library of Congress. Consequently, Library of Congress Subject Headings, the term is frequently abbreviated as *LCSH*, reflect to a great degree the content of the Library of Congress holdings⁷. The first edition of the Library of Congress list of subjects, called *Subject Headings Used in the Dictionary Catalogues of the Library of Congress*, was printed in parts between 1901 and 1914. It was followed by a second edition in 1919. The title was changed to *Library of Congress Subject Headings* when the eighth edition was published in 1975. The latest, forty-fourth, edition was published in 2022 and contains headings established by the Library of Congress through April 2022⁸.

Originally, *LCSH* were developed as terms authorized by the Library of Congress for its own subject cataloguing. However, other American libraries began to rely on the Library of Congress subject lists and adopted the library's practices as de facto national standards⁹. Presently, *LCSH* are being used as standardized lists of terms (headings) to describe the subject matter of diverse collections of numerous American libraries, including academic and public ones.

⁵ The Library of Congress has also developed its own classification system, including the classification of Eastern Europe. It has been the subject of a recent study by Regina Carra. See R. Carra, *DJK: (Re)Inventing Eastern Europe in the Library of Congress Classification*, "Slavic and East European Information Resources" 2021, vol. 22, iss.1, p. 25, DOI: 10.1080/15228886.2021.1874291.

⁶ Library of Congress, *Jefferson's Legacy: A Brief History of the Library of Congress*, <https://loc.gov/legacy/bldgs.html> (date accessed: 22.08.2023). Although, the Library of Congress has been recognized as the national library of the United States, it is not called "the national library".

⁷ V. Broughton, *Essential Library of Congress Subject Headings*, London: Facet Publishing, 2012, p. 12.

⁸ The 44th edition of the Library of Congress Subject Headings is available at "Library of Congress Subject Headings PDF Files": <https://loc.gov/aba/publications/FreeLCSH/freelcsh.html> (date accessed: 23.08.2023).

⁹ L.M. Chan, *Cataloging and Classification*, Lanham, Maryland: Rowman and Littlefield, 2016, p. 487.

It should be noted that the creation and revision of subject headings is a continuous process and approximately 4,000 new headings, including headings with subdivisions, are added to *LCSH* each year¹⁰. Consequently, subject headings for individual countries are often being expanded to include more historical periods, etc. For example, the *LCSH* fifth edition (published in 1948) includes the heading for Poland and Polish history that lists only a small number of different time periods and is scarcely half a page long¹¹. However, the same entry in the *LCSH* forty-fourth edition (published in 2022) is almost two pages long and includes numerous subdivisions for different historical periods¹². By 2022, the subject authority file from which the standardized (established) headings in the forty-fourth edition were drawn contained, among other things, over 355,000 topical subject headings and almost 69,000 geographic subject headings¹³.

The subject representation of Eastern Europe in the *LCSH* system is a relatively new phenomenon. The *LCSH* fifth edition did not include any entry for Eastern Europe. It listed two headings relating to Europe, namely “Europe” and “Central Europe”. The latter was defined rather vaguely as “the area included in the basins of the Danube, Elbe, and Rhine rivers”, without naming any countries¹⁴. Eastern Europe (*LCSH* “Europe, Eastern”) appeared for the first time in the *LCSH* sixth edition published in 1957. The subject was defined as follows:

Here are entered works on the area east of the Oder and Neisse rivers extending south to the Adriatic. This concept, based on political and economic developments, is not to be confused with the older geographical limitations of Eastern Europe to the region east of the Baltic Sea and the Carpathian Mountains or with the heading Central Europe, defined as the area included in the basins of the Danube, Elbe, and Rhine rivers¹⁵.

The definitions of Eastern Europe and Central Europe remained the same until 1990. That year, the Library of Congress published its thirteenth edition of *LCSH* that added some explanation about which countries belonged to Central Europe and which represented Eastern Europe. The heading “Central Europe” defined the region again as “the area included in the basins of the Danube, Elbe, and Rhine rivers”, but included the following clarification:

Works on the region extending from the western borders of Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, and Yugoslavia eastward across the Soviet Union to the Ural Mountains, and sometimes expanded to include East Germany, are entered under Europe, Eastern¹⁶.

¹⁰ Subject headings express what a work is about (topical heading) or what a work is (form heading). Proposals for new headings and revisions to existing ones are submitted by cataloguers at the Library of Congress and by participants in the Subject Authority Cooperative Program (SACO). For more about SACO see <https://www.loc.gov/aba/pcc/saco/index.html> (date accessed: 25.04.2024).

¹¹ *Subject Headings Used in the Dictionary Catalogs of the Library of Congress: Fifth Edition*, N.J. Martin (ed.), Washington, D. C.: Library of Congress, 1948, p. 864.

¹² *Library of Congress Subject Headings: Forty-Fourth Edition*, Washington, D. C.: Library of Congress, 2022, pp. P-439–440.

¹³ “Introduction to Library of Congress Subject Headings” <https://loc.gov/aba/publications/FreeLCSH/LCSH44-Main-intro.pdf> (date accessed: 24.08.2023).

¹⁴ *Subject Headings Used in the Dictionary Catalogs of the Library of Congress: Fifth Edition*, N.J. Martin (ed.), Washington, D. C.: Library of Congress, 1948, p. 175.

¹⁵ *Subject Headings Used in the Dictionary Catalogs of the Library of Congress: Sixth Edition*, M.V. Quattlebaum (ed.), Washington, D. C.: Library of Congress, 1957, p. 427.

¹⁶ *Library of Congress Subject Headings: Thirteenth Edition*, (Washington, D. C.: Library of Congress, 1990, pp. 695, 1436.

The same clarification was added to the definition of Eastern Europe (*LCSH* “Europe, Eastern”). It remains unclear why Hungary and Czechoslovakia were not included “in the basins of the Danube (Duna or Dunaj) and Elbe (Labe) rivers”¹⁷. Unfortunately, the subject heading for “Central Europe” does not clarify the scope of Central Europe and defines the region in rather narrow geographical terms, limiting the area to mostly Austria and Germany. However, the exclusion of Hungary and Czechoslovakia from the area of Central Europe reflected the U.S. government’s position regarding Eastern Europe that considered those two countries as two of many “nations that have composed this region [Eastern Europe] since World War II”. as characterized in the 1990 Central Intelligence Agency’s publication, *Atlas of Eastern Europe*¹⁸.

To add to the confusion, for decades, the heading Eastern Germany (*LCSH* “Germany, Eastern”) did not mention the German Democratic Republic (GDR) and instructed librarians to use the subject for “works concerned with the area of historic Germany approximately east of the Elbe River”¹⁹. It was not until 1980 (over thirty years after the creation of the GDR), that the heading was renamed “Germany, East” (and later “Germany [East]”) to include works on “the present Democratic Republic, and works on the eastern part of the former jurisdiction, Germany”²⁰. Furthermore, it took the Library of Congress over thirty years to recognize Polish and Czech names of former German cities as valid headings for geographic places that were now in Poland and Czechoslovakia. In 1976, the Library of Congress changed the following headings: Breslau to Wrocław, Brünn to Brno, Danzig to Gdańsk, Oppeln to Opole, Posen to Poznań, and Stettin to Szczecin²¹. It remains unclear why the German “Posen” and “Brünn” were still being used as preferred headings for Poznań and Brno for over three decades after the end of World War II (moreover, they were not German cities in the interwar period as opposed to Breslau [Wrocław], Oppeln [Opole], etc.). The Library of Congress’ delay in recognizing Polish names for geographic places may have been caused by Washington’s decades-long refusal to formally recognize the Oder-Neisse line as Poland’s new western border²². For years, German names of former German cities had also been used as “approved” standard names (as opposed to “unapproved” Polish variant names) in official publications such as gazetteers published by the United States Board on Geographic Names²³.

The definition of Eastern, and for that matter of Central Europe, has hardly changed since the fall of Communism. The latest heading for Eastern Europe (*LCSH* “Europe, Eastern”), that appeared in the *LCSH* forty-fourth edition (published in 2022), again defined the region as “extending from the western borders of Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia,

¹⁷ Ibidem.

¹⁸ *Atlas of Eastern Europe*, Washington, D. C.: Central Intelligence Agency, 1990, p. 2.

¹⁹ *Subject Headings Used in the Dictionary Catalogs of the Library of Congress: Seventh Edition*, M.V. Quattlebaum 9ED.0, Washington, D. C.: Library of Congress, 1966, p. 546.

²⁰ *Library of Congress Subject Headings: Ninth Edition*, Washington, D. C.: Library of Congress, 1980, p. 963.

²¹ *Revised Headings*, “Cataloging Service” 1976, no. 116, p. 3.

²² See, D.J. Allen, *The Oder-Neisse Line*, Westport, Conn.: Praeger, 2003.

²³ For example, in the 1955 gazetteer Opole and Wrocław are considered variant names and are cross-referenced to approved names Oppeln and Breslau. See, United States. Office of Geography, *Poland: Official Standard Names Approved by the United States Board on Geographic Names*, Central Intelligence Agency, Washington, D. C., 1955.

Hungary, and Slovenia eastward to the Ural Mountains, and sometimes expanded to include East Germany”²⁴. It seems that little has changed since the break-up of Yugoslavia, as new countries such as Slovenia are still considered part of Eastern Europe. Never mind the fact that Slovenia is now an EU member and borders Austria to the north. Yet, according to the Library of Congress definition, it is an Eastern European country, perhaps because it is east of Trieste as in Churchill’s delineation of “Iron Curtain”.

The question that needs to be asked is why that definition has not been revised despite significant political and economic realignments that took place in the region in the last thirty-four years. While a comprehensive answer is beyond the scope of this paper, there are several points worth mentioning. First, during the Cold War, the heading Eastern Europe became almost synonymous with the Soviet bloc (or Communist dominated countries). Furthermore, the concept of Eastern Europe as a separate entity (from Western and Central Europe) that needs to be studied remains relevant at many American academic institutions that receive funding from the U.S. government to operate their so-called area studies centers. After the break-up of the Soviet Union, some American scholars argued for the greater emancipation of Eastern European studies from the tutelage of Russian studies²⁵. Nevertheless, many centers have retained Eastern Europe or East European in their names as part of broader Russian and Eurasian studies. For example, the University of Illinois Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center is devoted to promoting and disseminating knowledge about the region of Eastern Europe, Russia, and Eurasia.²⁶ By clustering those regions together under the umbrella of Russian, East European, and Eurasian studies, those centers, perhaps unintentionally, perpetuate the outmoded paradigm of a divided Europe that takes us back to the times of the Cold War. That division is still reflected in the Library of Congress subject terminology and “even as Europe has become more integrated, Eastern Europe as a geopolitical reality retains a ghostly presence in the stacks of American libraries”²⁷.

Moreover, some universities have also established European Union centers that focus on the newly expanded European Union and its member states, thereby trying to overcome Europe’s historical division into East and West. Nevertheless, it is not clear how much Eastern European and European Union studies overlap as both centers (and areas) continue to compete for federal funding.

It should be noted, however, that in recent years the U.S. State Department has described Poland as “a stalwart ally in Central Europe”²⁸. It appears that there is some willingness to rethink the old Cold War construct of Eastern Europe.

Finally, the Library of Congress has consistently used the heading “Balkan Peninsula” to describe Southeastern Europe, the Balkans, and the Balkan states. However, the heading remains rather vague and, unlike the headings “Central Europe” and “Eastern Europe”,

²⁴ *Library of Congress Subject Headings: Forty-Fourth Edition*, Washington, D. C.: Library of Congress, 2022, p. E-288.

²⁵ M. Todorova, *Imagining the Balkans*, p. 140.

²⁶ University of Illinois Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center, *Mission and History*, <https://reeec.illinois.edu/mission-and-history> (date accessed: 6.12.2023).

²⁷ R. Carra, *DJK: (Re)Inventing...*

²⁸ U.S. Department of State, *Countries and Areas. Poland*, <https://state.gov/countries-areas/poland/> (date accessed: 23.10.2023).

it does not include any note that would provide additional information such as its definition or application²⁹.

Central Europe and Eastern Europe in the Dewey Decimal Classification

The Dewey Decimal Classification (*DDC*) system is a general knowledge organization tool. It is the most widely used classification system in the world, and it has been translated into about thirty different languages. The *DDC* was compiled by (and named after) the American librarian Melvil Dewey and first published in 1876. Since that time, twenty-three revised editions have been published, the most recent one in 2011, and the *DDC* is also available in the digital version called WebDewey³⁰. It should be noted that the *DDC* is not just a numerical classification system, but represents, through its Relative Index, “a concept indexing system” as its terms point to corresponding classification numbers³¹. Consequently, those terms, like *LCSH*, have developed and evolved over the years to better represent the subject content of the items they categorize. Moreover, both print and digital versions are systematically updated with expansions and revisions³².

The *DDC* employs a structural hierarchy based on the idea that all topics (aside from the ten main classes) are part of all the broader topics above them. Broader topics are usually subdivided into narrower subjects “within a specific category”³³. Another hierarchy used by the *DDC* is notational hierarchy. Consequently, numbers at any given level are usually subordinate to a class whose notation is one digit shorter and superordinate to a class with numbers one or more digits longer³⁴.

The *DDC* categorizations of Eastern Europe, Central Europe, and Southeastern Europe differ from the *LCSH* definitions discussed in the previous section. The biggest difference is the broader regional concept of Central Europe that extends beyond the borders of Austria and Germany. However, as will be discussed, the more comprehensive representation of Central Europe comes with the implication of geographical (and historical) dominance of Germany in that part of Europe.

The fourteenth edition of the Dewey Decimal Classification (published in 1942) listed class number 943 with the heading: Germany and Austria³⁵. Class numbers for Austria,

²⁹ Library of Congress Authorities, *Balkan Peninsula*, <https://lccn.loc.gov/sh85011191> (date accessed: 31.10.2023).

³⁰ The DDC Editorial Policy Committee (EPC) is a ten-member international board that works closely with the DDC editors to suggest changes and monitor the general development of the DDC. For more about EPC see <https://www.oclc.org/en/dewey/resources/epc.html> (date accessed: 25.04.2024). For more about WebDewey see <https://www.oclc.org/en/dewey/webdewey.html> (date accessed: 25.04.2024).

³¹ For more about the Relative Index, see, F. Miksa, *The DDC Relative Index*, “Cataloging and Classification Quarterly” 2006, vol. 42, iss. 3–4, p. 65–95, DOI: 10.1300/J104v42n03_02.

³² See a complete list of the DDC editions (1876–2012) in J. Furner, *From the “Four Faculties” to YKL*, “Library and Information History” 2021, vol. 37, iss. 1, p. 1–34, DOI: 10.3366/lih.2021.0044.

³³ K. Snow, *A Practical Guide to Dewey Decimal Classification*, Lanham, Maryland: Rowman and Littlefield, 2024, p. 5.

³⁴ M. Dewey, *Dewey Decimal Classification and Relative Index: Twenty-Third Edition*, vol. 1, J.S. Mitchell (ed.), Dublin, Ohio: Online Computer Library Center, 2011, p. xlvi.

³⁵ M. Dewey, *Decimal Classification and Relative Index: Fourteenth Edition*, C.J. Mazney (ed.), Lake Placid Club, N. Y.: Forest Press, 1942, p. 943. The class number for Poland (943.8) did not include any further

Czechoslovakia, Poland, and Hungary were 943.6, 943.7, 943.8, and 943.9, respectively, making them “subordinate” to class number 943 (Germany). When the sixteenth edition was published in 1958, class number 943 was still qualified by the heading “Germany”, but the note stated that number 943 included “comprehensive works on Central Europe, on Holy Roman Empire, on House of Hapsburg”. At the same time, class number 947 was reserved for “Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (Russia)” and “certain adjacent areas in Europe”³⁶. Baltic Sea region, including Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania was classified under 947.4. Surprisingly, Finland was not classified under 948 (Scandinavia and Northern Europe), but under 947.1, making it “subordinate” to class number 947 (USSR [Russia]). Interestingly, Balkan states, including Albania, Bulgaria, Romania, and Yugoslavia were classified under 949 defined as “other areas of Europe”³⁷.

The nineteenth edition (published in 1979) provided more clarification. First, class number 943 was now defined as Central Europe (and Germany). The emphasis seems to have shifted from Germany and Austria to Central Europe and in that classification, Czechoslovakia, Poland, and Hungary were included as part of Central Europe³⁸. Class number 947 represented Eastern Europe and Soviet Union. Finland was no longer listed under 947 (Russia) but was relocated to 948 (Northern Europe and Scandinavia).

The twenty-first edition (published in 1996) included “countries of former Soviet Union other than Russia” in class number range 947.5–947.9, with 947 being the class number for Eastern Europe (and Russia). These included newly independent Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania³⁹. The latest edition of the *DDC* was published in 2011. The twenty-third edition, for the most part, keeps the revisions introduced in previous years. However, this edition makes it clear that class numbers such as 943 and 947 do not apply exclusively to historically significant countries such as Germany and Russia but include other countries in Central and Eastern Europe. Although the hierarchical subdivisions are still kept in place, “subordinating” other countries to 943 (Germany) or 947 (Russia), class number 943 now represents “Germany and neighboring Central European countries”, mentioned in the same breath⁴⁰. Therefore, number 943 is no longer “reserved” just for Germany but represents a much broader Central European area or other equally important parts of Central Europe. The same can be said about number 947. Although the *DDC* adheres to the concept of Eastern Europe, class number 947 has been revised to represent a much broader construct, namely “Russia and neighboring East European countries”⁴¹. According to the *DDC*, the Baltic states, Belarus, Moldova, and Ukraine are part of Eastern Europe

geographic and period divisions, but a short note stating that “extinct as state from 3rd partition in 1795 till 1919, when its sovereignty was restored by the peace of Versailles”.

³⁶ M. Dewey, *Dewey Decimal Classification and Relative Index: Sixteenth Edition*, vol. 1, B.A. Custer (ed.), Lake Placid Club, N. Y.: Forest Press, 1958, pp. 1097, 1132–1136.

³⁷ *Ibidem*.

³⁸ M. Dewey, *Dewey Decimal Classification and Relative Index: Nineteenth Edition*, vol. 2, B.A. Custer (ed.), Albany, N. Y.: Forest Press, 1979, p. 1480.

³⁹ M. Dewey, *Dewey Decimal Classification and Relative Index: Twenty-first Edition*, vol. 3, J.S. Mitchell (ed.), Albany, N. Y.: Forest Press, 1996, pp. 879880.–

⁴⁰ M. Dewey, *Dewey Decimal Classification and Relative Index: Twenty-third Edition*, vol. 3, J.S. Mitchell (ed.), Dublin, Ohio: OCLC Online Computer Library Center, 2011, p. 947.

⁴¹ M. Dewey, *Abridged Dewey Decimal Classification and Relative Index: Twenty-third Edition*, J.S. Mitchell (ed.), Dublin, Ohio: OCLC Online Computer Library Center, 2012, p. 929.

(or neighboring East European countries). In sum, the *DDC*'s Europe is divided into Central, Eastern, and Northern parts. The remaining countries and regions, including Belgium, Greece, Iceland, the Netherlands, and the Balkan Peninsula, that are not listed in any of the mentioned classes, are classified as "other parts of Europe"⁴². The *DDC* does not have a separate category for Southeastern Europe; countries comprising that region are listed under "other parts of Europe"⁴³.

Conclusion

The Library of Congress Subject Headings and Dewey Decimal Classification as knowledge organization systems reflect the historical contexts in which they were established and revised. The Cold War reinforced the political, historical and geographical construct of Eastern Europe as part of the East-West divide with Eastern Europe often perceived by many in the West as "a homogeneous appendix of the USSR"⁴⁴. Although the fall of Communism resulted in the vanishing of the bipolar world order, the development of new categories for the representation of Central, Eastern, and Southeastern Europe in American knowledge organization schemes has been inconsistent.

The subject representation of Eastern Europe in the *LCSH* system is a relatively new phenomenon as it did not appear until 1957 (when the *LCSH* sixth edition was published). That definition has hardly changed over the decades. Consequently, the Cold War division of Europe has been reinforced with the concept of Central Europe reserved mostly for German-speaking countries such as Austria and Germany and Eastern Europe described as "the region extending from the western borders of Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, and Slovenia eastward to the Ural Mountains, and *sometimes* [italics mine] expanded to include East Germany"⁴⁵. However, even if this definition is meant to describe the historical (if not frozen in time) construct of the region from 1945 to 1990, it lacks clarity as it encompasses both defunct states like East Germany and newly established post-Cold War countries such as the Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Slovenia. The latter are now part of the European Union as a result of profound geopolitical changes in Central and Southeastern Europe that occurred in the last thirty-four years. By perpetuating the Cold War definition of Eastern Europe, the region may still be perceived "in its Cold War guise", and the outdated division of Europe into East and West may be presumed to be "natural (and possibly eternal) rather than historical"⁴⁶.

On the other hand, the *DDC* classifies Hungary, Poland, the Czech Republic and Slovakia as Central European countries and reserves the term Eastern Europe for former Soviet republics, Moldova, and the Caucasus. It is worth mentioning that the *DDC*'s classification of Central Europe has evolved over the years, moving from German-centric to

⁴² M. Dewey, *Abridged Dewey Decimal Classification and Relative Index: Twenty-third Edition*, J.S. Mitchell (ed.), Dublin, Ohio: OCLC Online Computer Library Center, 2012, pp. 932–933.

⁴³ *Ibidem*.

⁴⁴ M. Todorova, *Imagining the Balkans*, p. 140.

⁴⁵ Library of Congress Authorities, *Europe, Eastern*, <https://lcn.loc.gov/sh85045765> (date accessed: 31.10.2023).

⁴⁶ R. Carra, *DJK: (Re)Inventing...*, p. 25.

a much broader definition of the region characterizing it (class number 943) now as “Germany and neighboring Central European countries”⁴⁷. Both the *LCSH* and *DDC* systems reflect a particular way of thinking about Central and Eastern Europe that has evolved over the years. However, further research needs to be conducted to provide more historical perspective on this issue, including an examination of the policies influencing the subject representation and classification of that part of Europe.

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