BIC UK Standard Library Categories (UKSLC) Scheme

User Guidelines
Version 1.2
September 2019

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Introduction

BIC has undertaken a significant review of the UK Standard Library Categories (UKSLC) Scheme. Version 1.2 constitutes the first significant update of the scheme since it was launched in 2008 as e4Libraries Subject Category Headings.

The UKSLC scheme was refreshed in September 2019 and as a result of the review is now based on the international *Thema* subject categories, taking advantage of the new developments featured in *Thema*. Users should note that all previous codes are still valid, however BIC recommends all users move to v1.2 ASAP to benefit from the updates that have been made.

The UKSLC scheme forms a set of headings developed by BIC which were originally an adaptation of the full BIC scheme of Standard Subject Categories and Qualifiers, where revisions to the latter considered the needs of both the library and trade communities.

These updates made should future proof the UKSLC scheme into 2020 and beyond as *Thema* continues to develop and grow.

The key types of changes include the breaking down of larger categories into smaller ones to better aid discoverability and the introduction of new or updated codes to reflect changes in society.

To illustrate the types of changes, some examples include:

- **Adult Non-Fiction:**
    - The introduction of the new UKSLC subject code, DGL: "Digital Lifestyle".
    - The UKSLC heading for audience code GLN has been changed from "Gay/Lesbian Interest" to "LGBTQ+ Interest".

- **Adult Fiction:**
    - The introduction of the new UKSLC subject code, FAB: "Fiction of Black and Asian Interest".
    - The introduction of the new UKSLC treatment code, FLO: "Fiction in Language other than English".

- **Children's & Teenage Non-Fiction:**
    - The UKSLC subject heading for "Geography" (YGY), has been changed to "People and Places".
    - The introduction of the new UKSLC subject code, YPS: "Personal and Social Issues".

- **Children's & Teenage Fiction:**
    - Introduction of new audience code, YAB: "Stories of Black and Asian Interest".
    - The UKSLC heading for audience code YHF has been changed from "High Interest/Low Reading Age" to "Stories for Struggling or Reluctant Readers".

What type of information does the UKSLC scheme deliver?

The UKSLC scheme provides a range of title-level descriptors reflecting subject (for non-fiction), genre (for fiction), audience and treatment, plus details of book type and reading age for children's books. These are derived variously and as appropriate from *Thema* subject categories (typically the primary code) and/or *Thema* qualifiers indicating Interest (by age or specific groups) and Educational Purpose. Other bibliographic elements may also be referenced in the mapping as required.

The scheme also provides a comprehensive hierarchical listing covering non-fiction subjects and fiction genres, plus qualifiers covering place, language, time period, educational purpose, interest age / level and special interest. It covers the full range of adult, children's and teenage stock.

The codes are included in the Nielsen and BDS databases, supported in MARC 21 and QUOTES, endorsed by major library suppliers, and promoted by the National Acquisitions Group as a national standard.

The benefits of adopting the UKSLC scheme

Adopting UKSLC offers many benefits. UKSLC codes can be used to facilitate the evidence-based assessment and benchmarking of stock supply, demand and performance. They support standardised servicing and supply specification, reducing the complexity and cost of processing and selection. On the library shelf, they provide the basis for a logical and user-friendly display of stock, scaleable for different sizes and type of library. Most significantly, they underpin improvements in access to library stock, facilitating on-line browsing by subject and genre using the 'search, discover, refine' methodology familiar from on-line retailers and supporting personalised reader recommendations, regional and national catalogue initiatives, and links to retail sites.

Using this document

It is recommended that this document be read in conjunction with the following 2 spreadsheets that give the details of all UKSLC v1.2 codes via 13 tables:

1) UKSLC v.1.2 Grid with associated *Thema* codes:
   https://www.bic.org.uk/files/pdfs/Subject%20Categorisation/BIC%20UKSLC%20v1.2%20Grid%20with%20associated%20Thema%20codes%20(September%202019)_read%20only.xlsx
   This is the full listing (including deprecated elements) of all UKSLC v.1.2 codes.

2) UKSLC v.1.2 Code list with version history and notes:
   https://www.bic.org.uk/files/pdfs/Subject%20Categorisation/BIC%20UKSLC%20v1.2%20codelist%20with%20version%20history%20(September%202019)_ready%20only.xlsx
   This is the full listing again but with notes where applicable to show how the revision was arrived at from v.1.1. It highlights new codes and shows what changes are/were.

The above documents both detail the following:

- **UKSLC Adult Non-Fiction**
    - Subject codes (table 1.1)
    - Broad subject category codes (table 1.2)
    - Audience (table 1.3)

- **UKSLC Adult Fiction**
    - Genre (table 2.1)
    - Audience (table 2.2)
    - Treatment (table 2.3)

- **UKSLC Children's & Teenage**
    - Early years
        - ➢ Book type (table 3.1.1)

    - Non-Fiction
        - ➢ Age (table 3.2.1)
        - ➢ Subject (table 3.2.2)
        - ➢ Audience (table 3.2.3)

    - Fiction
        - ➢ Age (table 3.3.1)
        - ➢ Genre (table 3.3.2)
        - ➢ Audience (table 3.3.3)
        - ➢ Treatment (table 3.3.4)

The worksheets in the two documents reference table numbers (listed above). These table numbers are consistent with the table numbers previously referenced in UKSLC v.1.1 and are maintained in the documentation for UKSLC v.1.2 for consistency and ease of reference.

Users may also find the following information useful with regards to *Thema* v.1.3
- EDItEUR's *Thema* v.1.3 Basic User Instructions:
  www.editeur.org/files/Thema/20180426%20Thema%20v1.3%20Basic%20instructions.pdf
- EDItEUR's *Thema* v.1.3 interactive browser: https://ns.editeur.org/thema/en
- General information about *Thema*: www.editeur.org/151/Thema/

Assigning and using the codes

Whether mapped from *Thema*, or assigned manually, USKLCs are cited in the following order of precedence for various types of stock:

- Adult Non-Fiction: Subject; Audience.
- Adult Fiction: Genre; Audience; Treatment.
- Children's Early Years: Book type.
- Children's & Teenage Non-Fiction: Age; Subject: Audience.
- Children's & Teenage Fiction: Age; Genre; Audience; Treatment.

Note that Audience and Treatment are assigned only if applicable, and more than one value of each type may apply. In theory then, the maximum number of UKSLCs applicable to any one title varies between different types of stock as follows: Adult Non-Fiction (3), Adult Fiction (8), Early Years (1), Children's & Teenage Non-Fiction (3), Children's & Teenage Fiction (8). In practice, however, most records will be assigned only a single value; and the total number of categories will seldom exceed three.

Each UKSLC value has a unique two- or three-character identifying code. This code can be used to identify the UKSLC within an EDI message or to indicate a shelf location particular to an individual item of stock. When used as a shelf mark, the codes may be printed on a spine label or marked in a standard position on the flyleaf of the book. All spine labels should be produced and positioned in accordance with the NAG's Guidelines for Servicing:
www.nag.org.uk/publications/servicing-guidelines-best-practice-for-libraries

Multiple UKSLCs are designed to facilitate search and retrieval. Where a title carries more than one UKSLC, user-defined mapping rules will govern which category (or categories) is used to produce the shelf mark, subject to the three-line limitation of the spine label itself. Items may also be mapped as required to a local shelf mark.

1. Adult Non-Fiction

1.1 UKSLC – Adult Non-Fiction – Subject (57 codes) & Broad Categories (16 codes)
A single Subject category is mandatory for each Adult Non-Fiction item. Shelf locations may be derived directly from the 57 UKSLCs (Adult Non-Fiction). Please refer to Table 1.1 in the "UKSLC v.1.2 Grid with associated *Thema* codes" spreadsheet for details.

Where a simpler shelving scheme is required, a complementary set of sixteen broad adult non-fiction subject categories is also offered. Individual items may be mapped to these shelf locations as required, allowing the organisation and display of stock to be tailored according to category, and by size and type of library. Please refer to Table 1.2 in the "UKSLC v.1.2 Grid with associated *Thema* codes" spreadsheet for more details.

1.3 UKSLC – Adult Non-Fiction – Audience (2 codes)
There are 2 audience based UKSLCs that may be applicable to any Adult Non-Fiction title. Please refer to Table 1.3 in the "UKSLC v.1.2 Grid with associated *Thema* codes" spreadsheet for details. Note: in any case where both audience-based UKSLCs apply, they should be cited in alphabetical order.

2. Adult Fiction

2.1 UKSLC – Adult Fiction – Genre (13 codes)
A single Genre category is mandatory for each Adult Fiction item. Shelf locations may be derived directly from these 13 UKSLCs. Please refer to Table 2.1 in the "UKSLC v.1.2 Grid with associated *Thema* codes" spreadsheet for details.

Where a simpler shelving scheme is required, internal mapping allows the organisation and display of stock to be tailored according to category, and by size and type of library. Related genres could be shelved under same headings for example.

2.2 UKSLC – Adult Fiction – Audience (3 codes)

There are 3 audience based UKSLCs that may be applicable to any Adult Fiction title. Please refer to Table 2.2 in the "UKSLC v.1.2 Grid with associated *Thema* codes" spreadsheet for details. Note: in any case where both UKSLCs apply they should be cited in alphabetical order of UKSLC Code.

2.3 UKSLC – Adult Fiction –Treatment (4 codes)

There are 4 treatment based UKSLCs that may be applicable to any Adult Fiction title. Please refer to Table 2.3 in the "UKSLC v.1.2 Grid with associated *Thema* codes" spreadsheet for details. Note: in any case where two or more of the above UKSLCs apply they should be cited in alphabetical order of UKSLC Code.

3. Children's & Teenage

The particular demands of Children's & Teenage stock require a modified category structure. Children's & Teenage stock is subdivided initially into Early Years, Non-Fiction and Fiction sections.
- Early Years titles are categorised by booktype only.
- Children's & Teenage Non-Fiction titles are categorised by age; each age category may then be further categorised by subject.
- Children's & Teenage Fiction titles are categorised by age; each age category may then be further categorised by genre.
- Additional categories reflecting treatment and audience offer further options for discovery and shelf arrangement.

3.1 Children's & Teenage – Early Years
- 3.1.1 UKSLC – Children's & Teenage – Early Years – Booktype (3 codes)
  A single Booktype category only is mandatory for each Early Years item. Shelf locations may be derived directly from these 3 UKSLCs. Please refer to Table 3.1.1 in the "UKSLC v.1.2 Grid with associated *Thema* codes" spreadsheet for details.

  Where a simpler scheme is required, mapping allows the organisation and display of stock to be tailored according to its category, and by size and type of library. Related genres could be shelved under same headings for example.

3.2 Children's & Teenage – Non-Fiction
- 3.2.1 UKSLC - Children's & Teenage – Non-Fiction – Age (7 codes)
  A single Age category is mandatory for each Children's & Teenage Non-Fiction item. Shelf locations may be derived directly from these 7 UKSLCs. Please refer to Table 3.2.1 in the "UKSLC v.1.2 Grid with associated *Thema* codes" spreadsheet for details.

  Where a simpler scheme is required, mapping allows the organisation and display of stock to be tailored according to its category, and by size and type of library. Related genres could be shelved under same headings for example.

- 3.2.2 UKSLC – Children's & Teenage – Non-Fiction – Subject (25 codes)
A single Subject category is mandatory for each Children's & Teenage Non-Fiction item. Please refer to Table 3.2.2 in the "UKSLC v.1.2 Grid with associated *Thema* codes" spreadsheet for details.

   Shelf locations may be derived directly from these 25 UKSLCs. Where a simpler scheme is required, mapping allows the organisation and display of stock to be tailored according to its category, and by size and type of library. Related genres could be shelved under same headings for example.

   When used to determine shelf location, these subject-based UKSLCs will normally appear in conjunction with an age-based UKSLC. Two shelf marks will therefore normally be assigned: for example, N7/YAM, NT/YPR.

- 3.2.3 UKSLC – Children's & Teenage – Non-Fiction – Audience (1 code)
An audience-based UK Standard Library Category may be applicable to any UKSLC Children's & Teenage Non-Fiction title. Please refer to Table 3.2.3 in the "UKSLC v.1.2 Grid with associated *Thema* codes" spreadsheet for details.

3.3 Children's & Teenage – Fiction

- 3.3.1 UKSLC – Children's & Teenage Fiction – Age (7 codes)
A single Age category is mandatory for each Children's & Teenage Fiction item. Shelf locations may be derived directly from these 7 UKSLCs. Please refer to Table 3.3.1 in the "UKSLC v.1.2 Grid with associated *Thema* codes" spreadsheet for detail.

   Where a simpler shelving scheme is required, mapping allows the organisation and display of stock to be tailored according to its category, and by size and type of library. Related genres could be shelved under same headings for example.

- 3.3.2 UKSLC – Children's & Teenage – Fiction – Genre (14 codes)
A single Genre category is mandatory for each Children's & Teenage Fiction item. Please refer to Table 3.3.2 in the "UKSLC v.1.2 Grid with associated *Thema* codes" spreadsheet for details.

   Shelf locations may be derived directly from these 14 UKSLCs. Where a simpler scheme is required, mapping allows the organisation and display of stock to be tailored according to its category, and by size and type of library. Related genres could be shelved under same headings for example.

   When used to determine shelf location, these genre-based UKSLCs will normally appear in conjunction with an age-based UKSLC. Two shelf marks will therefore normally be assigned: for example, F9/YCL, F11/YTR.

- 3.3.3 UKSLC – Children's & Teenage – Fiction – Audience (5 codes)
Audience-based UK Standard Library Categories may be applicable to any Children's & Teenage Fiction title. Please refer to Table 3.3.3 in the "UKSLC v.1.2 Grid with associated *Thema* codes" spreadsheet for details.

Note: these 5 audience based UKSLCs are mutually exclusive and only one category from this group will be added to any record.

- 3.3.4 UKSLC – Children's & Teenage Fiction – Treatment (5 codes)
  Treatment-based UK Standard Library Categories may be applicable to any Children's & Teenage Fiction title. Please refer to Table 3.3.4 in the "UKSLC v.1.2 Grid with associated *Thema* codes" spreadsheet for details.

  Note: The UKSLC 'Short Story Collections' may be used in conjunction with either of the other 4 UKSLCs. In any such case the UKSLCs should be cited in alphabetical order of the UKSLC Code. Fiction Treatment UKSLC YFL may also be assigned without reference to *Thema*, via indications of Language of Text being other than English.

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