

## Thema and UKSLC

Both Thema and UKSLC are subject classification schemes, derived to varying extent from the BIC Standard Subject Categories, but they are quite different in structure, scope and purpose.

Thema has been developed as a single unified classification scheme for the global book trade, for both e-books and p-books, for both online and bricks & mortar bookselling. It is intended for use by publishers, retailers and aggregators, especially those involved in international trade. Its primary purpose is the clear transmission across national and language borders of subject information to aid search and discovery. Until Thema, book trade classification schemes tended to be for use in specific countries only. Thema version 1.0 was formally released in November 2013, with a sunrise date of 31 December 2013. It is expected to be adopted in the participating countries (currently about 16 countries) over the coming year, initially alongside national schemes.

UKSLC (UK Standard Library Categories) is, as the name suggests, designed for use specifically by public libraries in the UK, despite the fact that many library schemes, such as DDC and UDC, have long been international in nature. It is intended as a replacement for a scheme developed under the E4Libraries initiative (and thus called E4L) which was first released in 2008. UKSLC was released in August 2012 but take-up has been slow. In addition to the search and discovery function, the UKSLC codes can be used to facilitate the benchmarking of stock supply, demand and performance; they support standardised servicing and supply specification, and provide a logical and user-friendly basis for shelving and display, scaleable for different sizes and type of library.

Thema consists of some 2500 subject categories arranged hierarchically across 20 main sections (eg The Arts, Law, Fiction, Children's & Educational, etc) augmented by some 1000 qualifiers used to amplify the categories in certain aspects (ie Geographical, Language, Time Period, Interest Age, etc). In addition, within the Qualifier sections are (currently) some 1100 National Extension codes – these allow local detail for specific markets but can be resolved to broader meanings by users in other countries.

UKSLC provides a range of title-level descriptors reflecting interest age/reading level, subject, genre, booktype, audience and treatment. UKSLC has some 200 headings, at much broader level than may be found in Thema.