

1983

## A New Classification of Law for a Foreign, Comparative, and International Research Law Library

Jan Stepan

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarship.law.vanderbilt.edu/vjtl>



Part of the [Comparative and Foreign Law Commons](#), [International Law Commons](#), and the [Legal Writing and Research Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Jan Stepan, A New Classification of Law for a Foreign, Comparative, and International Research Law Library, 16 *Vanderbilt Law Review* 557 (1983)

Available at: <https://scholarship.law.vanderbilt.edu/vjtl/vol16/iss3/4>

This Symposium is brought to you for free and open access by Scholarship@Vanderbilt Law. It has been accepted for inclusion in Vanderbilt Journal of Transnational Law by an authorized editor of Scholarship@Vanderbilt Law. For more information, please contact [mark.j.williams@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:mark.j.williams@vanderbilt.edu).



DATE DOWNLOADED: Tue Feb 13 08:56:58 2024

SOURCE: Content Downloaded from [HeinOnline](#)

Citations:

Please note: citations are provided as a general guideline. Users should consult their preferred citation format's style manual for proper citation formatting.

Bluebook 21st ed.

Jan Stepan, A New Classification of Law for a Foreign, Comparative, and International Research Law Library: The System of the Swiss Institute of Comparative Law, 16 VAND. J. TRANSNAT'L L. 557 (1983).

ALWD 7th ed.

Jan Stepan, A New Classification of Law for a Foreign, Comparative, and International Research Law Library: The System of the Swiss Institute of Comparative Law, 16 Vand. J. Transnat'l L. 557 (1983).

APA 7th ed.

Stepan, Jan. (1983). new classification of law for foreign, comparative, and international research law library: the system of the swiss institute of comparative law. Vanderbilt Journal of Transnational Law, 16(3), 557-582.

Chicago 17th ed.

Jan Stepan, "A New Classification of Law for a Foreign, Comparative, and International Research Law Library: The System of the Swiss Institute of Comparative Law," Vanderbilt Journal of Transnational Law 16, no. 3 (Summer 1983): 557-582

McGill Guide 9th ed.

Jan Stepan, "A New Classification of Law for a Foreign, Comparative, and International Research Law Library: The System of the Swiss Institute of Comparative Law" (1983) 16:3 Vand J Transnat'l L 557.

AGLC 4th ed.

Jan Stepan, 'A New Classification of Law for a Foreign, Comparative, and International Research Law Library: The System of the Swiss Institute of Comparative Law' (1983) 16(3) Vanderbilt Journal of Transnational Law 557

MLA 9th ed.

Stepan, Jan. "A New Classification of Law for a Foreign, Comparative, and International Research Law Library: The System of the Swiss Institute of Comparative Law." Vanderbilt Journal of Transnational Law, vol. 16, no. 3, Summer 1983, pp. 557-582. HeinOnline.

OSCOLA 4th ed.

Jan Stepan, 'A New Classification of Law for a Foreign, Comparative, and International Research Law Library: The System of the Swiss Institute of Comparative Law' (1983) 16 Vand J Transnat'l L 557 Please note: citations are provided as a general guideline. Users should consult their preferred citation format's style manual for proper citation formatting.

Provided by:

Vanderbilt University Law School

**A NEW CLASSIFICATION OF LAW FOR A FOREIGN,  
COMPARATIVE, AND INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH  
LAW LIBRARY: THE SYSTEM OF THE SWISS  
INSTITUTE OF COMPARATIVE LAW**

*Jan Stepan\**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

I.	THE INSTITUTE .....	557
II.	DRAFTING A CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM .....	559
III.	THE FIRST CLASSIFICATION LEVEL: THE MAIN CLASS .	562
	A. Main Class A: General and Comparative Law .	563
	B. Main Class B: Groups of Jurisdictions .....	564
	C. Main Class C: Individual Jurisdictions .....	566
	D. Main Class D: Public International Law .....	567
	E. Main Class E: Ancient and Religious Law ....	567
IV.	CLASSIFICATION BY SUBJECT .....	568
V.	THE THIRD CLASSIFICATION LEVEL: DIVISION BY FORM	571
VI.	THE CALL NUMBER SYSTEM .....	572
VII.	SCOPE NOTES .....	574
VIII.	CONCLUSION: EXPERIENCE WITH THE CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM .....	576
	ANNEX A & B .....	577

**I. THE INSTITUTE**

The Swiss Institute of Comparative Law seated at Lausanne was established by the federal statute of October 6, 1978.<sup>1</sup> The

---

\* Vice Director and Librarian, Swiss Institute of Comparative Law, Lausanne. Assistant Librarian for Foreign and International Law, Harvard Law School.

1. See Bundesgesetz über das Schweizerische Institut für Rechtsvergleichung (Federal Law Concerning the Swiss Institute of Comparative Law) (1978), printed in SYSTEMATISCHE SAMMLUNG DES BUNDERSRECHTS [SR] § 425.1, implemented by Ordinance of Dec. 19, 1979, SR § 425.11.

Institute is envisioned as a center for the "documentation of and research into comparative, foreign, and international law."<sup>2</sup> According to the statute and the implementing decree of December 19, 1979, the Institute serves the following purposes:

- (1) to supply federal agencies and the federal administration with material and studies that may be needed for decisions concerning legislation and international treaties;
- (2) to contribute towards international efforts at the harmonization and unification of law;
- (3) to provide information and expert opinions to courts, administrative agencies, attorneys, and other interested parties; [and]
- (4) to pursue its own scholarly research studies, to support and coordinate studies at the Swiss universities and to offer to scholars and researchers an adequate research center in Switzerland.<sup>3</sup>

By the terms of the Swiss government's "message" to Parliament,<sup>4</sup> the library, the "central element" of the Institute, is to become "the sole centralized and specialized library for foreign law" in Switzerland.<sup>5</sup> The collection, accessible in an open stacks library, will contain approximately 200,000 volumes within fifteen to twenty years and reach full capacity of the newly constructed building.

Two principles resulting from the purposes of the Institute affect the character of the library. First, to satisfy the practical and scholarly orientation of the Institute, the collection is designed to facilitate research into the present state of law and its future development. Thus, material on legal history of antiquity, the Middle Ages, and, with rare exceptions, Roman or canon law will not be collected. More recent legal history, however, will be placed in the collection if such material is useful in the application or scientific treatment of modern law. This emphasis on the present state of law and its future development distinguishes the library of the Institute from the libraries of other teaching institutions, particularly the European-styled law facilities. Second, with this focus in mind, the coverage and the scope of the collection is universal:

---

2. Bundesgesetz über das Schweizerische Institut für Rechtsvergleichung § 2.

3. *Id.* § 3(1); Ordinance of Dec. 19, 1979, §§ 2-5.

4. *See* Botschaft des Bundesrates an die Bundesversammlung über die Schaffung eines Schweizerischen Institutes für Rechtsvergleichung (Message of the Federal Council to the Federal Assembly Concerning the Establishment of a Swiss Institute of Comparative Law), 128 BUNDESLATT [BBl] 809 (1976).

5. *See id.* at 814.

legal material covering all branches and fields of law spanning all jurisdictions and international law is to be amassed in one library. Primary and secondary sources of all, or at least most, countries of the world will be available in the Institute to research commercial, administrative, criminal, and other fields of law. Because of its extensive coverage, the Lausanne collection will be unique to the European continent. No other library is planned with such universality. Even the magnificent libraries of the Max-Planck-Institutes in West Germany are limited to a few broadly conceived branches of law.<sup>6</sup>

The acquisition program of a library with such a broad scope must be carefully planned to select only the most important material. The library distinguishes three categories of countries in determining which materials will be acquired. Within these three categories, the scope and intensity of acquisitions differ.

## II. DRAFTING A CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

The scope and organization of the library was the subject of many discussions and reports of leaders in the field of international legal research. The drafting of a modern classification plan tailored to the purposes of the Institute became the first task of the commission members. Two reports submitted during the preparatory stage of the Institute have emphasized that an advantage of a new institute is the ability to devise a unique library classification plan.<sup>7</sup> One of the reports expressly warned against "succumbing to the temptation to take over a classification system" of another institution.<sup>8</sup> Another commission report counseled against adopting the Universal Decimal Classification

---

6. The governmental "message," which describes the character of the Institute's library, begins with a reference to the Harvard Law Library. *Id.* ("a library which . . . includes in its holdings all legal publications, irrespective of their language or country of origin"). The Library of Congress, Berkeley Law School Library, and other libraries also are mentioned. *See id.*

7. *See* RAPPORT FINAL DU COMITÉ DE TRAVAIL POUR LA CRÉATION DE L'INSTITUT SUISSE DE DROIT COMPARÉ (FINAL REPORT OF THE WORKING COMMITTEE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SWISS INSTITUTE OF COMPARATIVE LAW) (1969) [hereinafter cited as RAPPORT FINAL DU COMITÉ]; H. des Coudres, *Empfehlungen vor der Errichtung der Bibliothek eines gesamtschweizerischen Institutes für Rechtsvergleichung* (Recommendations Concerning the Creation of a Library of an All-Swiss Institute of Comparative Law) (mimeograph 1969). The Institute was established after 15 years of planning.

8. RAPPORT FINAL DU COMITÉ, *supra* note 7, at 28.

(UDC).<sup>9</sup>

To obtain a broad base of expertise, the director of the Institute, in February of 1981, invited a group of internationally recognized law librarians and legal scholars to convene for discussions concerning the basic features of a new classification plan.<sup>10</sup> Although the commission functioned as a consultative body,<sup>11</sup> the amount of expertise concentrated in this group necessarily gave great weight to any common opinion reached by the commission. Jan Stepan, its chairman, prepared a draft of the classification plan.

During the June 1981 convention of the American Association of Law Librarians (AALL) in Washington, the first draft of the plan was discussed in depth with R. Lansky and W. Steiner.<sup>12</sup> The revised draft was then submitted to a second session of the commission in September 1981. In the fall of 1981 the scheme was finalized and used to classify the Institute's first cataloged acquisitions at the beginning of 1982.

Consistent with the purposes and needs of the Institute and its library, the classification plan necessarily covered all fields of law in order to meet the specific purposes of a multilingual research institute and to reflect the modern trends of legal development. Thus, the following areas of law and legal science are included:

- (1) municipal law of all countries (including Switzerland) and the community law of the European Communities;

---

9. H. des Coudres, *supra* note 7, at 24.

10. Law librarians included in the group were: C. Flück (Basle), G. Frossard (Genève), P. Guillitte (Liège), R. Lansky (Hamburg), J. Schwietzke (Heidelberg), W. Steiner (London), and J. Stepan (Cambridge). Also, H. Knudsen (Florence and Lausanne) and A. Sprudz (Chicago) attended the September meeting. Law professors who attended the meetings were: E. Bucher (Bern), K. Kreuzer (Constance), and A. von Overbeck (Freiburg, Director of the Institute). W. Stoffel, who is Vice-director of the Institute and a practicing attorney, also participated. The scientific collaborator of the Institute, S. Aldeeb, contributed his expert knowledge on the law of the Arab countries. Finally, Professor K. Nadelmann of Harvard Law School provided valuable support in drafting the new classification plan.

11. Despite the informal arrangement, the Director of the Institute retained the ultimate authority to determine the classification scheme.

12. Messrs. Lansky and Steiner have authored classification plans during the course of their careers. See R. LANSKY, *SYSTEMATIK DER RECHTSWISSENSCHAFT IN GRUNDZÜGEN* (1968); W. STEINER, *CLASSIFICATION SCHEME AND LIST OF SUBJECT HEADINGS* (1974); W. Steiner, *Law Library Classification Scheme* (mimeograph 1981).

- (2) private international law;
- (3) literature on the theory and method of comparative law;
- (4) "transcendent" disciplines, such as jurisprudence, criminology, and forensic medicine;
- (5) public international law; and
- (6) such religious laws as can be considered a part of the law in force in certain countries (i.e., Islamic law).

At the beginning of the deliberations, the commission reviewed and studied more than twenty classification systems devised for major law libraries and other similar institutions.<sup>13</sup> The participants reported on the systems in use at their particular libraries. They discussed virtues of the various classification systems, but candidly noted the problems encountered with their implementation. The commission also organized and framed its discussions of various issues with the aid of the valuable *Note for the Guidance of the National Reporters*.<sup>14</sup>

After the various classification systems had been considered, it was generally conceded that none of the discussed plans should be implemented as a classification system for the special needs of the Swiss Institute. One rejected system, the decimal UDC classification, is generally considered unsuitable for law.<sup>15</sup> The Library of Congress system, which is geared toward this unique library with its seven digit holdings and its huge staff, was also examined by the commission. Its classification schemes, however, were considered too detailed, and the concept of several different classification systems for different "families" of law was found unne-

---

13. The commission members considered the classification schedules of the Harvard, Yale, and Columbia Law School Libraries; of the Max-Planck-Institutes in Hamburg, Heidelberg, and Freiburg; of the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies in London; and of the Law Faculties in Lausanne and Genève (both of which are based on the Universal Decimal Classification). Two plans of the Library of Congress also were examined. See Library of Congress, German Law (KK) (1981); Library of Congress, Class K Subclass K Law (General) (1971) (authored by J. Goldberg). In addition, those plans devised by individual experts were reviewed. See, e.g., E. MOYS, A CLASSIFICATION SCHEME FOR LAW BOOKS (1968); see also *supra* note 12 (schemes prepared by R. Lansky and W. Steiner). For an example of a plan in the area of public international law, see COUNCIL OF EUROPE, PUBLICATION OF DIGESTS OF STATE PRACTICE IN THE FIELD OF PUBLIC INTERNATIONAL LAW (1970).

14. W. Steiner, *Note for the Guidance of the National Reporters* (1981) (unpublished manuscript prepared for the 11th International Congress of Comparative Law in Caracas).

15. See, e.g., H. des Coudres, *supra* note 7, at 24.

cessary for the Institute. Some features of the Library of Congress system have crystallized as a result of the past development of the Library itself, such as placing all periodicals limited to a single subject apart from their proper subject areas, excluding international law from class K law, and separating criminology materials from criminal law.

The systems developed for the Max-Planck-Institutes of Hamburg and Heidelberg, although continuously adjusted, originated more than a half-century ago. A newly established institute, however, should arrange its collection under a more modern system. One very recent plan, a classification designed by W. Steiner for the Library of the European University in Friesole, Italy, was available for study.<sup>16</sup> This scheme, however, reflects the special needs and wishes of the European University. For example, rather detailed subject subdivisions are used. Consequently, the commission believed it to be inappropriate for the needs of the Institute.

### III. THE FIRST CLASSIFICATION LEVEL: THE MAIN CLASS

Five "Main Classes" were devised at the first division level. The classes are grouped and titled as follows:

- (1) Main Class A: General and Comparative Law;
- (2) Main Class B: Groups of Jurisdictions;
- (3) Main Class C: Individual Jurisdictions;
- (4) Main Class D: Public International Law;
- (5) Main Class E: Ancient and Religious Law.

The commission agreed that the second level of classification would be divided by subject and the third level divided by form.<sup>17</sup>

After much deliberation, the members of the commission decided that material on private international law should not be treated as a special Main Class. From one point of view, such a specially designed section might be useful to researchers of an institute in which the reports and the expertise very often are concerned with problems of private international law. On the other

---

16. W. Steiner, *Classification for Comparative Law* (mimeograph 1981).

17. Dividing a library's holdings initially by form and then by subject is practical only in the largest libraries. For example, the Harvard Law School Library, which has approximately 1.4 million volumes, segregates its periodicals and primary materials and further subdivides the major groups into subject areas.

hand, even though the primary material of private international law consists largely of international treaties, it is still a part of the national law of each country (defined as law on how to resolve conflicts of two or more national laws). It is difficult to arrange and organize such primary materials under any topic other than the respective headings of each country. The same organizational dilemma arises with respect to treatises that concern national systems of private international law, albeit to a lesser degree, because such treatises, even the most famous ones, typically include general and comparative text.<sup>18</sup>

"National" material on private international law of one jurisdiction is classified under the individual country name, a grouping which falls under Main Class C in the classification system. Publications of a general or comparative character are placed in Main Class A; those limited to one "group of countries," in Main Class B; and those dealing with the conflicts of religious laws in Main Class E. Inside these main classes, at a second level of division, a special set of subject classes was devised for the area of private international law.

#### A. Main Class A: General and Comparative Law

The Main Class A division includes all General and Comparative Law holdings. The following primary and secondary sources fall within its classifications:

- (1) material related to the law of two or more countries, provided it is not classified in Main Class B;
- (2) material comprising the "transcendent" disciplines which include the topics of jurisprudence,<sup>19</sup> criminology, and forensic medicine;
- (3) literature on the theory and method of comparative law and the unification of law;
- (4) "general" reference works and tools which concern more than one country;
- (5) library and law library science; and
- (6) nonlegal writings and biographies.

---

18. See Kreuzer, *Die Klassifikation in Rechtsvergleichenden Bibliotheken*, 81 ZEITSCHRIFT FÜR VERGLEICHENDE RECHTSWISSENSCHAFT 139, 141-42 (1982) (disfavors a special main class of "private international law").

19. Included under the rubric of jurisprudence are the areas of philosophy, sociology of law, and legal theory.

## B. Main Class B: Groups of Jurisdictions

Some classification systems group countries belonging either to a certain legal family or to a specific geographic region in one category. In many existing classification schemes, "regional" or "groups of countries" headings have been devised. "Africa," "Latin America," "socialist (or communist) countries," and "Far Eastern countries" are typical groupings. It seems both logical and orderly to group together material from several jurisdictions that have important basic similarities in their laws. Such similarity may result from the regional proximity of the countries or parallel historic development. In the stacks of a large comparative law library divided into regions (or "families"), it is easier to find a book on "Divorce in Latin America" in the Latin American section than to search for such a book in a much larger "general and comparative" section. The members of the commission differed on the extent to which such groupings were needed or necessary for the Institute.

The regionalization of a law library, however, necessarily creates several problems. A country may belong to a geographical region in which the laws of the other member countries are quite different from its own laws. For example, the legal system of Greece cannot be considered East European — a term most commonly used to describe those countries having Marxist legal systems — although it lies within that geographical region. Further, it may be meaningless to establish clearly defined, large regional groups. A grouping designated "Africa" would join together at least four large systems of law: common law, Francophone civil law, Moslem law, and Roman Dutch law. Additionally, this designation would include materials concerning the renaissance of the customary law of many of the African countries. A "Far East" region would encounter similar problems because few important similarities exist between the laws of the communist People's Republic of China and capitalist Japan.

Problems also arise from using the concept of "families of law," as distinguished from regionally designated groups of countries, as a classification heading. Discerning the appropriate family group placement of some countries is difficult because of the evolving character of their legal systems. Can the law of the former British colonies in the Middle East still be considered "common law" or are the legal systems more appropriately labeled Arab or Moslem law? Can socialist law be characterized as part of the body of "civil law"? The character of the law of a country

may dramatically change after a revolution; it may become disjointed or it may vacillate. The written law of the Sudan, for example, was common law until the middle of the century. A period of Moslem-*cum*-socialist features followed, after which the country appeared to return to the common law. At the present time, the Sudan may be considered a Moslem country with a common law heritage.

After extensive discussions and compromise, the commission decided to introduce a limited number of groups of countries into Main Class B. The recommended grouping consists of the following:

- (1) BA/West European countries;
- (2) BB/East European socialist countries;
- (3) BC/Latin American countries;
- (4) BD/Middle Eastern and North African countries;
- (5) BE/Commonwealth countries; and
- (6) BZ/Scandinavian countries.

The scope of the "membership" of the BB, BC, BE, and BZ groups as well as the similarity of many important features of their laws are clear and logical. The needs of a comparative institute and its users justify the separate placement of those materials concerning the laws of the countries of Eastern Europe, the Latin American nations, the Commonwealth countries, and the Scandinavian states.

After a few months of implementing the classification system, however, the BA/West European countries grouping was found to be inappropriate and problematic. Under the BA heading, jurisdictions with nonhomogeneous systems of law were grouped together. Associating the material of the common law states of the United Kingdom and Ireland with the civil law countries of the European continent points out one conspicuous inconsistency. In addition, the laws of Switzerland, France, Spain, and the Scandinavian countries cannot be viewed as a "family." The only aspects shared by these countries are their economic development and noncommunist orientation. These factors alone do not provide a sufficient framework for a legal classification group; both similarities apply equally to the United States and Canada. A classification plan consisting of "groups of jurisdictions" in addition to the general or main class also presented some disadvantages. By sectioning off materials of the West European countries, the library holdings were unnecessarily dismembered, thus

complicating research. Users often encountered difficulties in determining whether the desired material was located under the heading of Main Class A—General and Comparative Law—or in the group BA/West European countries. In most cases, a researcher who did not know the call numbers of the material had to look in both parts of the library. Because of the numerous problems encountered and envisioned, the group BA/West European countries was abolished.

The group BD, a geographic designation for the Middle Eastern and North African countries, presented additional problems for the efficacy of the classification system. A common feature of the legal systems in the group BD countries is the Islamic tradition of which the Koran and the tenets of Islam are an integral part. This tradition also is found in a number of non-Arab countries in Asia and Africa. The character of their laws, however, would not justify a decision to group all of these areas together.<sup>20</sup> To solve the problem, section EG for "Moslem" law was introduced in Main Class E<sup>21</sup> to concentrate material on Islamic law. This section was created for research into the legal system of any country in which Moslem law is a part of the law in force. The experience of the library with the index has shown, however, that it is impossible to establish a well-defined dividing line between group BD/Middle Eastern and North African countries and group EG/Moslem law. Both groups are incurably intertwined. In 1982, therefore, both groups were amalgamated in Main Class E and titled "Law of Arab Countries and Moslem Law." The material on the religious law of a particular country (for example, Moslem law of India) has been classified in Main Class C. Once the grouping for the Middle Eastern and North African countries was abolished, the subdivision BD was assigned to a newly-formed group, Scandinavian countries.

### C. Main Class C: Individual Jurisdictions

The most important and most extensive part of the Institute's collection is located in Main Class C—Individual Jurisdictions. This main class is broken down into the following geographical

---

20. Malaysia, Indonesia, and Nigeria are examples of non-Arab countries that are within this category.

21. See *infra* pt. III E.

subdivisions:

- (1) CA/Europe;
- (2) CB/North America;
- (3) CC/Central and South Africa;
- (4) CD/Africa;
- (5) CE/Asia; and
- (6) CF/Oceania.

The books dealing with the law of approximately 150 individual countries are grouped in this Main Class. The European Communities (EC) are treated in this division as a "jurisdiction" rather than an international organization. The law of the EC, therefore, is found under the symbol CA/EC in Main Class C.

#### D. Main Class D: Public International Law

Main Class D consists of public international law materials, including the law of international organizations.<sup>22</sup> The classification scheme for Main Class D—Public International Law—was discussed closely with J. Schwietzke, Director of the library of the Max-Planck-Institute for Foreign Public Law and International Law in Heidelberg. In addition to the older classification systems, the commission considered two modern schemes for sources of ideas: (1) the Council of Europe's classification for digests on State practice and (2) the unfinished draft of a classification plan obtained from the American Society of International Law.<sup>23</sup>

#### E. Main Class E: Ancient and Religious Law

This Main Class includes Roman law, Christian ecclesiastical law, Moslem law, and other ancient and "religious legal systems."<sup>24</sup> Material classified under Main Class E will be collected by the Institute only as needed for research into existing law. Tribal law materials are not organized in this main class; rather they will be located either in Main Class A or within a particular jurisdiction.<sup>25</sup>

---

22. It is obvious from the outline of the library's scheme that the Institute, which is seated in a neutral country, does not plan a significant collection in the area of the law of war. See *infra* Annex A.

23. See *supra* note 13 and accompanying text.

24. For a more detailed delineation of Main Class E, see *infra* Annex B (modification by the Library of the Faculty of Law of Geneva).

25. If the tribe primarily inhabits one country, its tribal law will be found

#### IV. CLASSIFICATION BY SUBJECT

The essential and most difficult task involved in preparing a new classification system is to arrange the classification scheme by subject. As Professor Louis Sohn expressed: "There must be a way to devise a simpler system of classification which would ensure that books on the same subject would be located in the same place."<sup>26</sup> It is extremely difficult to complete this seemingly simple task because most material can be logically arranged according to various criteria.

The commission recommended that the system of subject classification be uniform for all countries and all groups of jurisdictions so that one uniform list of headings would be used for Main Classes A, B, C (those covering national law), and, where appropriate, Main Class E, and another list for Main Class D—Public International Law. Subject headings were structured to encompass all the institutions of various systems of law, especially the civil and common law systems. In a very few cases, special subject classes, such as equity and trusts, were introduced for common law. Two levels of hierarchical subject arrangement were envisioned by the commission: subject classes and, in some cases, subject subclasses.<sup>27</sup>

Near the end of the commission meetings, the participants agreed that the classification scheme most suitable for the purposes of the Institute should not have more than 200 subject classes (including subclasses) for the municipal law division or 100 subject classes for the public international law section. The system, after a minor expansion, has 190 classes and subclasses for municipal law and 82 for public international law. For the Lausanne library with a proposed size of a few hundred thousand volumes, these subdivisions appear appropriate. It is not expected that this quantity of subdivisions would pose problems for research by either the library's users or staff. The potential for confusion and disorganization in shelving is minimized because the

---

classified under the pertinent country heading. If no specific association exists, the tribal law materials will be classified under the appropriate subjects in Main Class A.

26. Sohn, Book Review, 66 AM. J. INT'L L. 423, 423-24 (1972) (reviewing K. SCHWERIN, CLASSIFICATION FOR INTERNATIONAL LAW (1969)).

27. Subject classes are further subdivided if: (1) the amount of material collected on a topic warrants further subdivision or (2) substantial use of the materials is anticipated.

library is divided into five main classes, with Main Class C being further divided into 150 countries. Each country heading is divided by subject into nearly 200 classes and subclasses that comprise eight form divisions. As the subdivisions become more detailed and sophisticated, it is more difficult for the library staff to classify a new title and for the user to locate it in the system. On the other hand, it is much easier for users who are not experts in the classification system of a library to look for their material if it is arranged under a classification schedule designed with reasonably broad subject headings.<sup>28</sup> The classification schedule for municipal law under Main Classes A, B, C, D, and E is presented in Annex A to the Article.

The arrangement of subjects for general and comparative law (Main Class A), for groups of countries (Main Class B), for individual jurisdictions (Main Class C), and for ancient and religious law (Main Class E), has been subdivided into the following subtitles:

- (1) reference and nonlegal material (classes 1 through 8);
- (2) general subjects (classes 9 through 25);
- (3) private international law (classes 26 through 31);
- (4) constitutional and administrative law (classes 32 through 62);
- (5) private law (classes 63 through 77);
- (6) commercial law (classes 78 through 86);
- (7) criminal law (classes 87 through 94); and
- (8) courts and procedure (classes 95 through 99).

This subdivision does not constitute strictly hierarchical "sub-main-classes." The proliferation of private and public law categories makes the value of such a construction questionable.<sup>29</sup> The

---

28. The classification system of municipal and comparative law in the Harvard Law School Library is based on a schedule that includes 230 classes and subclasses. This system, which was devised in the early 1960s by Vaclav Mostecky and the library staff, functioned well for the collection of foreign and comparative law materials (nearly 600,000 volumes). Only in the area of United States law (nearly 700,000 volumes) did the simple, three-line call numbers cause an unwieldy number of volumes to be amassed at one place.

29. A distinction between "private" and "public" international law arguably lacks any validity because of the inability to draw a clear line between the areas. Similar imprecision clouds the distinction between "private" and "commercial" law. Users should view the section headings merely as an heuristic guide to the 150 entries.

above subtitles serve only as an orientation guide for the users of the classification scheme.

As in most other classification plans, a few classes containing reference and nonlegal material introduce the schedule. These classes include class 8, Library Science, and class 8.1, Law Librarianship. As an exception to the priority of special subjects, multilingual and bilingual dictionaries are classified in classes 1.1 and 1.2 even if they relate to only one special subject. Monolingual legal dictionaries and lists of abbreviations that are limited to one subject are classified under this heading. Nongeneral encyclopedias and bibliographies are classified with the pertinent subjects; such basic reference works should not be separated from the related field of law. The more important encyclopedias, bibliographies, and other reference works, for example, the *International Encyclopedia of Comparative Law* and the unique Jescheck-Löffler bibliography *Quellen und Schrifttum des Strafrechts*, may be physically located in the reference section of the open stacks. The reference collection is distinguished from the other collections in the library by colored tape.

A division by form commences with class 9 of the general subjects subdivision. The traditional form classes are: collections of legislation and decisions, official documents, materials of individual congresses and other meetings, collections of essays (including *Festschriften*), and general treatises on law. Similar to the classification of reference materials, the subject classes take priority over the broad general form classes. Thus, a collection of essays on copyright will be classified under the subject class, "Copyright," and not under the general form class, "Collections of Essays."<sup>30</sup>

Class 17 contains works of legal history and includes both historical sources of law and modern writing on history. A special signature in the call number has been devised for materials on the history of individual subjects. To reflect this listing, the number "0" is added to the number of the particular class. For example, the call number 34.0 represents the history of constitutional law. There is no chronological demarcation that separates historical

---

30. The priority of the "special" classes also applies to *Festschriften*. It is illogical to separate an important collection of articles from its normal subject class solely because the book was published to honor a scholar's birthday. Classification practice, however, may support the placement of all *Festschriften* in a general class because a modern *Festschrift* usually covers several disciplines.

materials from "modern" ones.

Class 18, Jurisprudence, is a very broadly conceived division in which most of the works "transcending" individual jurisdictions will be concentrated in the "general" materials class, Main Class A. The commission did not recommend separating all works on jurisprudence from the collections of individual jurisdictions or groups of jurisdictions; therefore, jurisprudence treatises clearly limited to one jurisdiction will be classified in that jurisdiction or group (e.g., treatises on "Soviet Jurisprudence"). To obtain an ideological background on theories of law, however, one also should consider class 32, labelled "State, Government, and Politics." In addition to class 19, Theory and Method of Comparative Law, class 21, Unification of Law,<sup>31</sup> and a few other general subjects, a special section consisting of classes 26 through 31 and accompanying subclasses was devised to cover private international law.<sup>32</sup>

The remaining classes in the schedule for municipal and comparative law are arranged as follows: constitutional and administrative law, private and commercial law, criminal law, and the law of procedure. The choice of the subjects and subject descriptions was made on pragmatic rather than theoretical grounds. Both conceptual and factual concepts are included in the classification scheme. The headings were selected to complement the various existing classification systems and were formulated on the basis of the practical experience of the law librarians and the scholarly and practical knowledge of the other commission members.

## V. THE THIRD CLASSIFICATION LEVEL: DIVISION BY FORM

On the third classification level, most of the classes and subclasses will be subdivided by form<sup>33</sup> corresponding to a uniform scheme of eight form divisions for both municipal and international law. The eight form divisions consist of the following

---

31. Only general works concerning unification of law are within class 21. Material limited to one subject will be classified under its particular subject class.

32. The division of this area of law into classes and subclasses essentially was based on the suggestions of Professor Nadelmann.

33. Cf. W. Steiner, *supra* note 14 ("the concept of form includes two different matters: (i) the form in which the law manifests itself, i.e., legislation, decisions of the courts and treaties, and (ii) the literary form in which it is made available, i.e., monographic literature, periodicals, etc.").

categories:

- (1) bibliographies and other reference works and tools;
- (2) national legislation including subsidiary legislation and international treaties;
- (3) official documents, both national and international, including reports, resolutions, and official general statistics;
- (4) decisions of courts and administrative agencies, and arbitral awards, including decisions of international courts and organs;
- (5) materials arising from congresses and other meetings;
- (6) periodicals including yearbooks;
- (7) general treatises on the subject and collections of essays; and
- (8) monographs dealing with a limited aspect of a subject.

The national legislation division also includes draft bills, "legislative histories" (*travaux préparatoires*), and commentaries with annotated texts.

For the classification of the branches of law arranged in Main Class E—Ancient and Religious Law, both the subject headings listed in Annex A and the form divisions above will be used when applicable.

## VI. THE CALL NUMBER SYSTEM

The books of Swiss Institute library are to be shelved in an order prescribed by the classification system outlined in this Article. The system of call numbers was designed to fulfill several goals. The system needed to reflect the classification scheme and show a main class and subdivision listing, an individual jurisdiction of Main Class C, a subject class, and a form division. The system also had to be compatible with the computerized bibliographic database "SIBIL" ("*System intégré pour les bibliothèques universitaires de Lausanne*") that is installed in the Bibliothèque cantonale et universitaire at Lausanne.<sup>34</sup> The features of this database system include on-line cataloging and correcting, on-line retrieval by call numbers, and preparation of bibliographical lists arranged alphabetically or by subject. As a final requirement, the call number system had to be short and understanda-

---

34. For information concerning SIBIL, see generally P. GAVIN, *SIBIL, SYSTEM INTÉGRÉ POUR LES BIBLIOTHÈQUES UNIVERSITAIRES DE LAUSANNE* (2d ed. 1980). Several other libraries have joined the SIBIL system.

ble. Call numbers composed of letters and numerals add to the clarity of the system and are preferable to those composed only of numerals. The initial goal of designing a system to identify a library unit by call number had to be abandoned. The process of devising call numbers that would carry all elements needed for the above-mentioned first and second purposes while uniquely designating a title, a volume, or a copy would be too complicated.<sup>35</sup> A more modest, but simpler scheme has been developed.

A system of four-line call numbers was composed. In the first line, the main class with subdivisions appears; for Main Class C, the jurisdiction would be indicated. The second line contains the subject class and the form division. For the purposes of shelving and retrieval, the third line, with some exceptions, is composed of four letters taken mainly from the main entry. The fourth and last entry is the date of the publication. Call numbers assigned to periodicals and prints have only the first three components.

The following examples illustrate the system:

- (1) *International Encyclopedia of Comparative Law* (1972):

A  
4.1 a  
INEC  
1972

- (2) Y. Eminescu & T. Popescu, *Les Codes Civils des Pays Socialistes* (1980):

BB  
63 g  
EMIN  
1980

- (3) L. Tribe, *American Constitutional Law* (1978):

CB/USA  
34 g  
TRIB  
1978

- (4) *Académie De Droit International: Recueil des Cours*:

D  
9 f  
RECO

---

35. The use of a *numerus currens* in call numbers was rejected as adversely affecting the logic of the subject-form arrangement of the books on the shelf.

(5) W. Watt, *The Formative Period of Islamic Thought* (1973):

EG  
7 g  
WATT  
1973

In the SIBIL database system, a search by call numbers can be conducted for all titles that have been classified under the "Lausanne" classification system. Access is thereby made available not only to the holdings of the Institute, but also to the holdings of other libraries which join SIBIL and this classification system in the coming years.

## VII. SCOPE NOTES

Instead of formulating a system of minute subdivisions and sub-subdivisions, slightly less than three hundred classes and subclasses were developed for the classification system of the Swiss Institute. In most cases, the type and scope of material arranged in a class or subclass is explained by scope notes. The scope notes concisely describe the meaning of the headings and subheadings and also refer to other pertinent headings. The classifiers of the library are constantly checking the accuracy of the scope notes as well as improving and completing them. As in other European law libraries similar to the Swiss Institute, only librarians with a law degree may classify new acquisitions.

The classification schedule, including the scope notes, had to be produced in three languages: French, German, and English.<sup>36</sup> An Italian version of the schedule is also contemplated. The task of translation poses innumerable problems; reworking a plan of law classification in another language requires not only extremely accurate terminology but also a sensitivity to the many differences among legal institutions and legal concepts in different countries and different systems of law. It was a pleasant surprise to learn that the French and German experts did not encounter many difficulties. The relative ease of translation may indicate that both the subject headings and the scope notes are sufficiently "transnational" to cover most of the differences among the many different legal systems.

---

36. Messrs. G. Frossard, P. Guillette, and S. Aldeeb translated the classification system into French. Messrs. H. Knudsen and W. Stoffel were responsible for the German version.

In 1982, the library of the Faculty of Law of the University of Geneva decided to implement the Swiss Institute's classification system. The Library of the Palace of Justice in Geneva is also contemplating adoption of the system. The two participants in the system are closely cooperating to further develop and improve the system. One modification of the scheme has already become necessary. A more detailed classification plan for Main Class E—Ancient and Religious Law—had to be designed because the teaching program and library holdings of the Geneva Faculty of Law, by necessity, contain material on this subject matter.<sup>37</sup>

After the classification schedule has been sufficiently finalized, an alphabetical "term" index listing all headings, subheadings, and meaningful terms used in the scope notes is to be compiled. The numerical code of the corresponding main class and the subject class categories accompany each term in the listing. All modifications and completions of the scope notes are being added to the index, which, at the present time, contains approximately 850 terms. This number may be doubled within one to two years.

Augmenting the index is the final step in completing the classified subject catalogue<sup>38</sup> of the Institute. Important questions with respect to the efficacy of the system as designed are: (1) whether the above-described subject classification catalogue will allow sufficient access by subject to the library material; and (2) whether a second, alphabetically-arranged subject catalogue will be needed. The two libraries currently using the "Lausanne" system of classification must attempt to resolve these questions.

While the Geneva Library is compiling an extensive list of subject headings for an alphabetically-organized subject catalogue, the Lausanne Institute plans to rely on the call number arrangement as it continues to complete the scope notes and an alphabetical index. The Institute hopes experience will show that an

---

37. See *infra* Annex B. The Genève plan of Main Class E was designed by Professors A. Dufour and B. Schmidlin and Librarian G. Frossard, all of whom are associated with the Faculty of Law of Genève.

38. The classified subject catalogue consists of a classified subject file arranged in a systematic order and an alphabetical index of subject headings and other relevant terms. Card catalogues are not used at the Swiss Institute and at the other university libraries of Lausanne except at those libraries which catalogue the older holdings. SIBIL supplies the Swiss Institute with a microfiche alphabetical catalogue updated quarterly and a classified catalogue of its holdings and those of the Faculty of Law of Genève. On-line search capability by classification symbols will be available this year.

additional alphabetical subject catalogue is not needed.<sup>39</sup>

### VIII. CONCLUSION: EXPERIENCE WITH THE CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

After classifying several thousand titles, the conclusions as to the sufficiency and adaptability of the classification system may be briefly summarized. First, the structure of the subject classes and subclasses has not evidenced many gaps. Additional subclasses had to be introduced in only a few cases.<sup>40</sup> When it has become apparent that a clarification is needed, in nearly all cases, the completion of a scope note has been a sufficient solution. Such contemplated changes are fashioned and completed in close cooperation with the Librarian of the Faculty of Law in Genève. There has been no need for a very detailed hierarchical classification system. Second, the design of the classes and subclasses has covered satisfactorily the material belonging to different systems of law, including common and civil law and the law of the Middle and Far Eastern countries.<sup>41</sup> Third, those who have classified the books and materials of the Institute have agreed that it is an easy system with which to work. The call numbers are readily remembered and sufficiently orient library users to the organization of the classification system.

---

39. Supporters of an alphabetical subject catalogue posit that as a library's holdings approach a six-digit figure, the subject classes and subclasses, containing a large number of titles, will become difficult to survey. An alphabetical subject catalogue is similarly problematic. The Harvard Law School Library experience with its subject catalogue of foreign law is but one example. Subdividing the large class or reorganizing the subclasses may provide a solution. The subdivision by form indicated by specific form letters assists the researcher in finding primary sources and comprehensive works. In addition, not all research material may be found by means of an alphabetical subject catalogue. In any event, at a certain level of research, information must be collected from bibliographic sources.

40. For example, the subject subclass for foreign trade, § 45.2, was added as a category of national law.

41. The classification scheme is sufficiently adaptable to classify Chinese and Japanese law and legal literature. Dr. Harro von Senger, Privatdozent of the University of Curych and a leading Swiss scholar on Chinese and Japanese law, has successfully classified Chinese and Japanese materials using the system.

## ANNEX A

OUTLINE OF THE CLASSIFICATION SCHEME BY SUBJECT  
FOR MAIN CLASSES A, B, C, D, AND E

- |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>MAIN CLASS A</b></p> <p><i>Reference Works and Nonlegal Material</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Dictionaries; Lists of abbreviations             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.1. Multilingual</li> <li>1.2. Bilingual</li> <li>1.3. Lists of legal terms</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. Directories</li> <li>3. Sources of general information</li> <li>4. Encyclopedias             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4.1. Legal encyclopedias</li> </ol> </li> <li>5. Bibliographies             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5.1. Legal bibliographies</li> </ol> </li> <li>6. Biographies</li> <li>7. Literature other than legal</li> <li>8. Library science             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8.1. Law librarianship</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p><i>Legal Materials of a General Nature</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9. Collections of statutes and other legal norms</li> <li>10. Collections of official publications</li> <li>11. Collections of decisions</li> <li>12. Congresses and other meetings</li> <li>13. Publications of the Swiss Institute and "memoires" of the Faculty of Law of Genève</li> <li>14. Periodicals</li> <li>15. Collections of essays             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>15.1. <i>Festschriften</i></li> </ol> </li> <li>16. General treatises on law</li> <li>17. Legal history</li> <li>18. Jurisprudence and related fields</li> <li>19. Theory and method of comparative law</li> <li>20. Law reform; Codification</li> <li>21. Unification of law             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>21.1. Unification of national laws</li> <li>21.2. Unified regulation of transnational relations</li> </ol> </li> <li>22. Legal drafting and interpretation</li> <li>23. Legal research; Automation in law</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>24. Legal education</li> <li>25. Legal profession and organizations</li> </ol> <p><i>Private International Law</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>26. Private international law</li> <li>27. Sources of private international law             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>27.1. Hague conventions</li> <li>27.2. Other conventions and sources</li> </ol> </li> <li>28. General issues of private international law             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>28.1. Connecting factors</li> </ol> </li> <li>29. Procedure of private international law             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>29.1. Arbitration</li> </ol> </li> <li>30. International commercial transactions</li> <li>31. Specific subjects             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>31.1. Persons</li> <li>31.2. Marriage and marital relations</li> <li>31.3. Parent-child relationship and guardianship</li> <li>31.4. Succession</li> <li>31.5. Trusts</li> <li>31.6. Property</li> <li>31.7. Contracts in general</li> <li>31.8. Specific types of contracts</li> <li>31.9. Noncontractual responsibilities and torts</li> <li>31.10. Unjust enrichment</li> <li>31.11. Unfair competition; Antitrust law</li> <li>31.12. Commercial law; Corporations</li> <li>31.13. Intellectual property</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p><i>Constitutional and Administrative Law</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>32. State, government, and politics</li> <li>33. Constitutions</li> </ol> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

- |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>34. Constitutional and public law in general           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>34.1. Federalism; Regionalism</li> <li>34.2. Review of constitutionality</li> </ul> </li> <li>35. Parliament; Legislation</li> <li>36. Executive</li> <li>37. Citizenship</li> <li>38. Civil (Human) rights</li> <li>39. Rights of groups</li> <li>40. Administrative law           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>40.1. Administrative procedure</li> <li>40.2. Control of legality; Administrative courts</li> <li>40.3. Expropriation; Nationalization</li> </ul> </li> <li>41. Local government</li> <li>42. Police; Maintenance of law and order</li> <li>43. National defense; Emergency laws           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>43.1. Civil protection</li> </ul> </li> <li>44. Economic law           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>44.1. Economic and development planning</li> </ul> </li> <li>45. Regulation of industry, trade, and commerce           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>45.1. Public services</li> <li>45.2. Foreign trade and custom duties</li> </ul> </li> <li>46. Professions and occupations</li> <li>47. Land planning; Housing</li> <li>48. Agriculture</li> <li>49. Natural resources           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>49.1. Mineral resources; Mining</li> <li>49.2. Oil and natural gas</li> <li>49.3. Water</li> <li>49.4. Nuclear energy</li> </ul> </li> <li>50. Regulated utilities</li> <li>51. Traffic and transportation law           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>51.1. Road transportation</li> <li>51.2. Railroad transportation</li> <li>51.3. Transportation by waterway</li> <li>51.4. Air transportation</li> </ul> </li> <li>52. Communications           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>52.1. Law relating to the media</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>52.2. Postal services</li> <li>52.3. Telegraph; Telephone</li> <li>53. Public finances</li> <li>54. Taxation           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>54.1. Income taxes (individuals and corporations)</li> <li>54.2. Special corporation taxes</li> <li>54.3. Property and capital taxes</li> <li>54.4. Inheritance and gift taxes</li> <li>54.5. Indirect taxes</li> <li>54.6. Stamp duties</li> <li>54.7. Other kinds of taxes</li> </ul> </li> <li>55. Labor law           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>55.1. Labor-management relations</li> <li>55.2. Labor litigation and arbitration</li> <li>55.3. State employees</li> </ul> </li> <li>56. Social welfare law</li> <li>57. Social security and social insurance           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>57.1. Health, accident, and invalidity security</li> <li>57.2. Old age and retirement security</li> <li>57.3. Unemployment insurance</li> </ul> </li> <li>58. Medicine; Health care           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>58.1. Medical professions</li> <li>58.2. Food, medicaments, and cosmetics</li> <li>58.3. Drugs, alcohol, and nicotine</li> <li>58.4. Birth control</li> <li>58.5. Forensic medicine</li> </ul> </li> <li>59. Protection of the environment</li> <li>60. Education; Science; Research and Technology</li> <li>61. Cultural resources and activities, entertainment, sports, and recreation</li> <li>62. Churches, cults, and religion</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Private Law</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>63. Private law</li> <li>64. General concepts of private law</li> </ul> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

- |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>65. Persons           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>65.1. Juristic persons</li> </ul> </li> <li>66. Family law           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>66.1. Marriage; Termination of marriage</li> <li>66.2. Relations between spouses</li> <li>66.3. Parent-child relations</li> </ul> </li> <li>67. Succession</li> <li>68. Equity (common law)</li> <li>69. Trusts (especially in common law)</li> <li>70. Property           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>70.1. Real property</li> <li>70.2. State and collective property</li> </ul> </li> <li>71. Obligations in general</li> <li>72. Contracts</li> <li>73. Specific types of contracts           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>73.1. Sale of goods; Exchange</li> <li>73.2. Lease; Rent; "Landlord and tenant"</li> <li>73.3. Contracts of loan and deposit</li> <li>73.4. Contract for services; Independent contractors</li> <li>73.5. Carriage of persons and goods</li> <li>73.6. Agency (common law)</li> </ul> </li> <li>74. Quasi-contract; Unjust enrichment</li> <li>75. Extra-contractual liability; Torts           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>75.1. Liabilities for traffic accidents</li> </ul> </li> <li>76. Products liability</li> <li>77. Damages and compensation</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>85. Consumer protection</li> <li>86. Industrial and other intellectual property           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>86.1. Patents; Trademarks; Models; Inventions</li> <li>86.2. Copyright</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
- Criminal Law*
- |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>71. Obligations in general</li> <li>72. Contracts</li> <li>73. Specific types of contracts           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>73.1. Sale of goods; Exchange</li> <li>73.2. Lease; Rent; "Landlord and tenant"</li> <li>73.3. Contracts of loan and deposit</li> <li>73.4. Contract for services; Independent contractors</li> <li>73.5. Carriage of persons and goods</li> <li>73.6. Agency (common law)</li> </ul> </li> <li>74. Quasi-contract; Unjust enrichment</li> <li>75. Extra-contractual liability; Torts           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>75.1. Liabilities for traffic accidents</li> </ul> </li> <li>76. Products liability</li> <li>77. Damages and compensation</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>87. Criminal law</li> <li>88. General concepts of criminal law</li> <li>89. Specific offenses           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>89.1. Offenses against life and health</li> <li>89.2. Offenses against property</li> <li>89.3. Offenses against state and society</li> <li>89.4. Offenses against public safety and order</li> <li>89.5. Offenses against the economic order</li> <li>89.6. Other offenses</li> </ul> </li> <li>90. Criminology</li> <li>91. Punishment</li> <li>92. Juvenile delinquency</li> <li>93. Administrative criminal law           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>93.1. Traffic offenses</li> </ul> </li> <li>94. Military criminal law and procedure</li> </ul> |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
- Courts and Procedure*
- |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>78. Commercial law in general</li> <li>79. Business organizations           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>79.1. Corporations</li> <li>79.2. Cooperatives</li> </ul> </li> <li>80. Accounting</li> <li>81. Negotiable instruments; Securities</li> <li>82. Banking; Stock exchange</li> <li>83. Insurance</li> <li>84. Regulation of competition; Antitrust law</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>95. Judiciary; Organization of the administration of justice</li> <li>96. Judicial procedure in general</li> <li>97. Civil procedure           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>97.1. Execution of judgments; Bankruptcy</li> <li>97.2. Arbitration</li> </ul> </li> <li>98. Criminal procedure           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>98.1. Preliminary procedure</li> </ul> </li> <li>99. Trials</li> </ul> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
- MAIN CLASS B
- Groups of Jurisdictions*
- |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>80. Accounting</li> <li>81. Negotiable instruments; Securities</li> <li>82. Banking; Stock exchange</li> <li>83. Insurance</li> <li>84. Regulation of competition; Antitrust law</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. BB/East European Socialist Countries</li> <li>2. BC/Latin American Countries</li> <li>3. BD/Scandinavian Countries</li> <li>4. BE/Commonwealth Countries</li> </ul> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

## MAIN CLASS C

*Individual Jurisdictions*

1. CA/Europe
2. CB/North America
3. CC/Central and South America
4. CD/Africa
5. CE/Asia
6. CF/Oceania

## MAIN CLASS D

1. Reference works, including encyclopedias
2. Bibliographies
3. Collections of treaties
  - 3.1. Collections limited to treaties of one country
4. Collections of decisions
  - 4.1. Collections of national decisions in matters of public international law
5. Digests and survey of state practice
6. State papers and general collection of other official publications
7. Associations and institutes dealing with public international law
8. Congresses and conferences
9. Periodicals and yearbooks
10. Collections of essays
  - 10.1. *Festschriften*
11. History of public international law
  - 11.1. League of Nations
12. General treatises and textbooks
13. General part of public international law
14. Sources and interpretation of international law
15. Law of treaties
  - 15.1. Works limited to treaties of one country
16. States and other entities
  - 16.1. State territory
  - 16.2. Sovereignty
  - 16.3. State responsibility
  - 16.4. Organs of the state; Diplomatic and consular law
17. Individuals and groups
  - 17.1. Minorities; Self-determination
18. Human rights in international law
  - 18.1. Nondiscrimination; Racism
  - 18.2. European Convention of Human Rights
  - 18.3. American Declaration and American Convention on Human Rights
19. International Criminal Law
  - 19.1. War crimes and crimes against humanity
  - 19.2. Genocide
  - 19.3. Piracy, air piracy; International aspects of terrorism
  - 19.4. International cooperation in criminal matters
20. International organizations in general
21. United Nations
  - 21.1. United Nations organs and bodies
  - 21.2. Specialized agencies in general
22. Regional organizations
  - 22.1. Council of Europe
  - 22.2. Other European organizations
  - 22.3. American organizations
  - 22.4. African and Asian organizations
23. Law of the Sea and International Waterways
  - 23.1. High seas
  - 23.2. Exclusive Economic Zone; Continental Shelf
  - 23.3. Territorial waters
  - 23.4. International waterways
  - 23.5. Conference on the Law of the Sea
24. Airspace and outer space
25. Protection of the Environment
26. International economic and trade relations

- 27. Foreign investment
  - 27.1. Multinational corporations; Joint ventures
- 28. International financial relations; Taxation
- 29. Development; Developing countries
- 30. International regulation of industrial and intellectual property
- 31. International regulation of traffic and transportation
- 32. International regulation of communications
- 33. International regulation of energy matters and of the use of natural resources
  - 33.1. Peaceful use of atomic energy
- 34. International labor law
- 35. International aspects of health and social welfare
  - 35.1. Drug addiction
- 36. Education; Science; Research and Technology
- 37. Cultural resources and activities; The arts
- 38. International conciliation and arbitration
- 39. International adjudication
  - 39.1. International Court of Justice
- 40. Peacekeeping
- 41. Disarmament and arms control
  - 41.1. Nuclear arms

- 42. International sanctions and measures short of war
  - 42.1. Reprisals
- 43. Law of war
  - 43.1. Humanitarian law
  - 43.2. Peace
- 44. Neutrality
- 45. International relations and politics

#### MAIN CLASS E

*Ancient and Religious Law*  
(Classification used in the Swiss Institute)

- (1) EA/ General reference tools; General history
- (2) EB/ Roman law
- (3) EC/ Other ancient legal systems
- (4) EF/ Christian ecclesiastical law
- (5) EG/ Islamic law
- (6) EZ/ Other religious legal systems

#### THIRD LEVEL OF DIVISION

*Division by Form for all Main Classes*

- a) Bibliographies and other reference works or tools
- b) Legislation; International treaties
- c) Official documents
- d) Decisions of courts and other organs and agencies
- e) Congresses and other meetings
- f) Periodicals
- g) Treatises; Collections of essays
- h) Monographs on specific topics

## ANNEX B

## MAIN CLASS E: ANCIENT AND RELIGIOUS LAW

(Classification used in the Faculty of Law in Genève)

## EA. REFERENCE AND GENERAL

## HISTORY WORKS

1. Reference works
  - 1.1. Bibliographies
  - 1.2. Indexes
  - 1.3. Dictionaries of ancient languages
2. General history works
  - 2.1. History of classical Antiquity

## EB. ROMAN LAW

3. Roman law periodicals
4. Collections of essays; *Festschriften*
5. Sources of Roman law
  - 5.1. Legal sources
  - 5.2. Nonlegal sources
6. Writings on sources and on the Digest
  - 6.1. Writings on legal sources
  - 6.2. Writings on nonlegal sources
  - 6.3. Digest
7. Writings on Roman legal science and on Roman legal writers
  - 7.1. Writings on legal science
  - 7.2. Writings on Roman legal writers
8. Roman legal system
9. Roman private law (General works such as Treatises, Textbooks, Summaries)
  - 9.1. History of Roman law
  - 9.2. Institutions of Roman private law
10. Persons
  - 10.1. Individuals
  - 10.2. Legal entities other than individuals
  - 10.3. Slaves
11. Family law
12. Property
13. Obligations
14. Successions and donations

14.1. Law of successions

14.2. Law of donations

15. Civil procedure
16. Criminal law and criminal procedure
  - 16.1. Criminal law
  - 16.2. Criminal procedure
17. Roman public law
  - 17.1. The Monarchy
  - 17.2. The Republic
  - 17.3. The Principate
  - 17.4. The Empire
  - 17.5. The later Empire
18. Methodology of Roman law

## EC. OTHER ANCIENT LEGAL SYSTEMS

20. Cuneiform laws
21. Egyptian law
22. Hebrew law
23. Greek law
24. Other ancient laws

## ED. MEDIEVAL LAWS

25. Byzantine law
26. Germanic laws
27. Customary laws
28. Laws based on legislation
29. Laws based on jurisprudence or on university teaching

## EE. MODERN LAWS

30. Modern law of nature
31. Laws resulting from codification

## EF. RELIGIOUS LAWS

32. Christian ecclesiastical laws, Canon law (Roman Catholic Church, Church of England), the laws of the Protestant and Orthodox Churches, etc.  
[For the Vatican City as a jurisdiction, consider Main Class C.]

## EG. MOSLEM LAW

## EZ. OTHER RELIGIOUS LEGAL SYSTEMS