

**AN EXAMINATION OF THE PROBLEMS OF EVOLVING A CLASSIFICATION
SYSTEM FOR BUDDHISM WITH A SUGGESTED SOLUTION**

by

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ABSTRACT OF THE THESIS

The research explores the possibilities of a systematic approach to information retrieval in the subject of Buddhism. This work is an attempt to find solutions to the problems of classifying material in the field of Buddhism.

The thesis is in three parts: (a) an extended examination of the nature of Buddhism as a religion (b) an examination of existing verbal and systematic approaches to the organization of the subject, (c) a proposed outline classification scheme for use in a library specializing in this subject.

This involves an examination of the nature of religion under eight dimensions: namely history and development, doctrine and philosophy, religious experience, myth, ethics, ritual, literature and organization. It examines Buddhism under the above-mentioned dimensions, taking into account the three broad traditions namely Theravāda (Hīnayāna), Mahāyāna, and Tantrayāna.

Secondly, the subject approach to Buddhism in the current general library classification systems is examined. The classification systems examined in the thesis are Dewey Decimal Classification, Library of Congress Classification and Bliss Bibliographic Classification system. The ways in which Buddhism has been classified are discussed and the shortcomings of these systems are indicated.

In the final part of the research, a solution is presented. The proposed classification is structured around the following headings: History, Relations of Buddhism with other religions, disciplines other than politics, and political concepts and ideologies, Biography, Literature, Doctrine,

Philosophy, Worship practices and customs, Ethics, Arts, Organizations, and Traditions and sects. Auxiliaries of Forms, an Area Table, a Date Table and a Language and Script Table are included. The particular features of Buddhism and the difficulties, especially terminological ones, which emerged in preparing schedules are discussed.