



**Concordance to the  
INSPEC  
Classification  
1969 – 1976**



C 1976

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BIBLIOTHEQUE DU CERIST

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CONTENTS

Introduction

Concordance to Section A - Physics

Alphabetical subject index to Section A classification 1976

Concordance to Section B - Electrical & Electronics

Alphabetical subject index to Section B classification 1976

Concordance to Section C - Computer & Control

Alphabetical subject index to Section C classification 1976



## INTRODUCTION

In 1969 INSPEC adopted a computer-based system for production of its database and the generation of the various services derived from it. In the intervening years a number of changes have been made to the classification scheme used by INSPEC. Such changes are a natural consequence of the developments in the subject fields covered. At the same time much effort has been invested in the development of internationally-accepted classification schemes to improve users' access to the published literature, particularly in the physics area. The resulting evolutionary changes in classification systems are both necessary and desirable, but they can cause some difficulties to users who are carrying out searches on a database over a number of years. The aim of the present concordance is to help users of the INSPEC database by providing a synopsis of changes which were made to the classification in the period 1969-1976.

## ARRANGEMENT OF THE CONCORDANCE

The concordance is in three sections covering the classification schemes for the Physics, Electrical and Electronics and Computer and Control sections respectively of the database. Each is followed by an alphabetical index of subjects indicating the classification code used in 1976 for any given subject. Equivalent classification codes used for that subject in preceding years are shown in the corresponding columns.

## PRINCIPAL CHANGES TO CLASSIFICATION

From 1969-1972 inclusive, INSPEC used separate classification schemes for each of the three sections of its database i.e. Section A - Physics, Section B - Electrical Engineering and Electronics, and Section C - Computers and Control Engineering. The classification codes for these schemes consist of four numeric digits with a full point between the first two and last two digits e.g. 12.34.

In 1973 revised and expanded schemes were introduced with different coding having a full point after the first of four numeric digits e.g. 1.234. At this time a Unified Classification Scheme was introduced, mainly for internal use. This Unified Scheme uses a six letter coding system e.g. BGBAAZ. The 'sectional' or number-coded classification is used for all INSPEC services - most noticeably in the INSPEC 'Science Abstracts' journals. The 'Unified' or letter-coded classification is not used in the printed publications, but it is present in the database and thus is included (in addition to the sectional classification) in INSPEC Magnetic Tape Services.

## HOW TO USE THE CONCORDANCE

To determine the classification code for a particular subject used in any given year or years, first turn to the alphabetical subject index following the appropriate section of the concordance for that subject. This will show the classification code or codes used in 1976 for that subject. Look up that classification code in the right hand (i.e. 1973-76) column of the concordance. The arrangement of entries in this column is numerical. Reference to the column for the appropriate year will give the classification code used in preceding years.

In some cases more than one numeric code is shown for a subject in any given year. This indicates that relevant material on some aspect of that subject will be found under each given classification code.

## FORMAT OF CLASSIFICATION CODES

The classification codes are displayed in this concordance in the form in which they appear in the printed abstracts journals e.g. 12.34 (pre-1973) or 1.234 (post-1973). In INSPEC machine-readable files, the full-point does not appear and, to avoid ambiguity, each sectional classification code is prefixed by a single letter identifying the section, as follows:-

- A      Physics
- B      Electrical and Electronics
- C      Computers and Control

For example, 'antenna theory' in Electrical and Electronics Abstracts (Section B) was classified thus:-

1969-71	22.50
1972-76	3.220

In INSPEC computer-readable files these codes are shown as B2250 and B3220 respectively.

This form has also been adopted by on-line services using the INSPEC database. It is, of course, open to a retrieval service operator to reformat the classification codes in whatever manner he considers most appropriate to his own applications requirements. Unless, however, such reformatting has been carried out in a particular retrieval system, it must be assumed that classification codes used in a computer search profile should be entered in the form 'B2250', i.e. a four-digit numeric, without punctuation and preceded by the letter code which identifies the section.