

HOW TO USE THE DEWEY DECIMAL SYSTEM

The Dewey Decimal System coordinates materials on the same subject and on related subjects to make items easier to find on the library shelves. This system organizes information into 10 broad categories. Each major category is divided into 9 sub-categories. Each sub-category is further divided into 9 specialized topics that can be broken down even further by adding decimals. Each division becomes more specific.

These divisions help decide where a book “belongs” in the Dewey system, and helps us to find a book on a shelf. For example, books about Japan are given the “call number” 952. To see what books your library currently has on Japan, go the non-fiction shelves and find the books that have 952 as part of their call number.

The major Dewey Decimal divisions are:

000	Computers, information, & general reference
100	Philosophy & psychology
200	Religion
300	Social sciences
400	Language
500	Science
600	Technology
700	Arts & recreation
800	Literature
900	History & geography

The Dewey Decimal System Hundred Divisions are:

000-Generalities	
010	Bibliography
020	Library & information sciences
030	General encyclopedias
050	General periodicals
060	General organizations & museums
070	Journalism, Newspapers
080	General Collections
090	Manuscripts, Rare Books

100- Philosophy & Psychology	
110	Metaphysics
120	Epistemology
130	Astrology, parapsychology & the occult
140	Specific Philosophical Schools
150	Psychology
160	Logic
170	Ethics (Moral, Philosophy, Bioethics)
180	Ancient Medieval, Oriental Philosophy
190	Modern Western Philosophy

200 Religion	
210	Philosophy & theory of religion
220	Bible
230	Christian theology
240	Christian moral & devotional theology
250	250 Christian orders & local churches
260	Christian social theology
270	Christian church history
280	Christian denominations & sects
290	Other & comparative religions

300 Social sciences	
310	General statistics
320	Political science
330	Economics
340	Law
350	Public administration
360	Social problems & services
370	Education
380	Commerce, communications, transport
390	Customs, etiquette, folklore

400 Language	
410	Linguistics
420	English & Old English Languages
430	German & related languages
440	French & related languages
450	Italian, Romanian & related languages
460	Spanish & Portuguese languages
470	Italic languages (Latin)
480	Classical & modern Greek languages
490	Other languages

500 Natural science & mathematics	
510	Mathematics
520	Astronomy & allied sciences
530	Physics
540	Chemistry & allied sciences
550	Earth sciences
560	Fossils & prehistoric life
570	Biology & life sciences
580	Plants (Botany)
590	Animals (Zoology)

600 Technology (applied sciences)	
610	Medical sciences (Medicine, Psychiatry)
620	Engineering
630	Agriculture
640	Home economics & family living
650	Management & public relations
660	Chemical engineering
670	Manufacturing
680	Manufacturing specific products
690	Buildings

700 The arts	
710	Landscaping & area planning
720	Architecture
730	Sculpture
740	Drawings & decorative arts
750	Paintings & painters
760	Graphic arts (Printmaking & prints)
770	Photography
780	Music
790	Sports, games & entertainment

800 Literature & rhetoric	
810	American literature in English
820	English literature
830	Literature of Germanic language
840	French & related literatures
850	Italian, Romanian & related literatures
860	Spanish & Portuguese literatures
870	Latin & Italic literatures
880	Classical & modern Greek literatures
890	Literatures of other languages

900 Geography & history	
910	Geography & travel
920	Biography & genealogy
930	History of the ancient world (to ca. 499 A.D.)
940	History of Europe (ca. 500 A.D.-)
950	General history of Asia (Far East)
960	General history of Africa
970	General history of North America
980	General history of South America
990	General history of other areas