

Dewey Decimal System

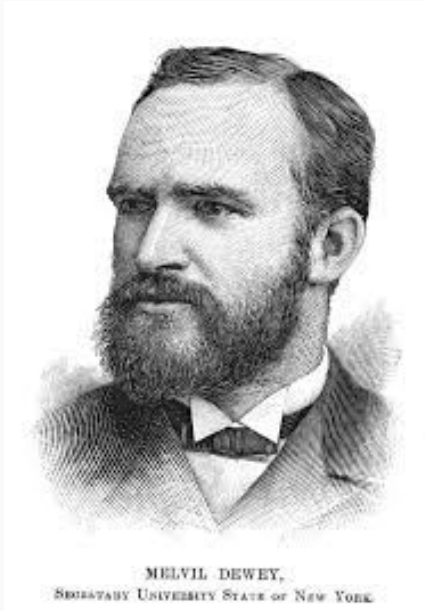
Form and Function of a Classification System for Books

Form and Function

The Dewey Decimal System is a way libraries
organize/classify
their books so you can find them easily.



Melvil Dewey



Melvil Dewey loved putting things in order, and his big idea was how to organize a whole library.

In 1873 he invented the Dewey Decimal System, which uses numbers to sort books by subject, making it easy for everyone to find what they need.

Libraries all over the world use his system today, which helps you find your favorite books.

Call Numbers

A book's address:

Every nonfiction book gets a special number called a "call number," and it's printed on a sticker on the spine.

This number is like the book's address in the library, telling you exactly where to find it.



Call Numbers

Numbers show the topic:

The number on the spine of the book tells you what subject the book is about.

Letters are for the author's name:

After the numbers, there are usually the first few letters of the author's last name.



Dewey Categories

000 - 999.999

The Dewey Decimal System classifies books by subjects.

It uses numbers to sort books into 10 main groups by what they are about.



000s - General Knowledge

Books that cover many different topics like fact books, computers, ufos and world records books.



100s - Feelings and Thinking

This section has books about our minds, our feelings, and even things like optical illusions.



200s - Religion and Mythology



Here are books
about different
religions,
beliefs, and
exciting myths
from around
the world.



300s - Social Sciences (the world around us)

Find books here about
government (321),
schools (370),
holidays (394.26),
folktales and fairytales (398.2).



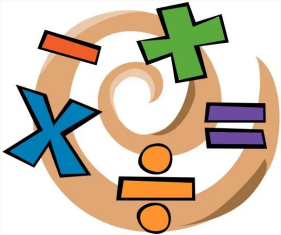
400s - Languages

This section is for books about different spoken languages, sign language, and dictionaries.



500s - Science and Math

This is a big section for books about math, plants and animals, dinosaurs, space, volcanoes, and science experiments.



600s - Technology

Here you can find books about machines, trains, inventions, cooking, and the human body.



700s - Art and Recreation

Look here for books
about drawing,
music, sports,
Crafts, and games.



elementaryclipart.com



800s - Literature

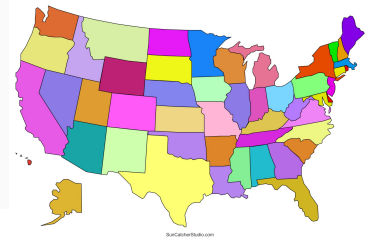


This section
is for plays
and poems.



900s - History and Geography

This is where you'll find books about history, different countries, states and maps.



92s / 920s - Biographies

Books about the story of a real person's life.

