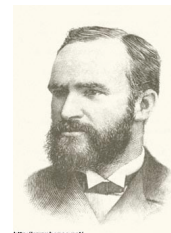


Dewey Decimal Classification and Call Number Lesson

Dewey Decimal Classification System

Melville Dewey, a librarian, determined that the best way to shelve nonfiction books is by *subject*. To simplify the shelving, he created a number system, where each number represents the subject of the book, and books are shelved in numerical order. This system assures that all books with the same subject are shelved together. While the system is complex, and not important to understand, you as a library practice student should know the 10 major divisions of the system. The first digit of a Dewey number represents one of the 10 major divisions. The rest of the number is built from there, each additional number adding to the specifics of the subject. If a subject requires more than 3 digits, a decimal is inserted, and necessary digits follow.



Example: 979.4 is the Dewey number for California history

- 9 = History (major division)
- 7 = United States
- 9 = Pacific Coast
- = decimal after first three digits
- 4 = California

1 st Digit	Range	Division	Topics
0	000-099	Generalities	Unusual phenomena, general works including encyclopedias, almanacs, the Internet
1	100-199	Philosophy & Psychology	Understanding of human thought and how people behave
2	200-299	Religion	Belief systems including Mythology
3	300-399	Social Sciences	Government, cultures, education and social problems
4	400-499	Languages	History of language, writing systems, dictionaries
5	500-599	Natural Science & Mathematics	Chemistry, physics, astronomy, biology, geology
6	600-699	Applied Science (Technology)	The use of natural science: medicine, engineering, agriculture, manufacturing, electronics, cooking
7	700-799	Arts & Recreation	Painting, drawing, sculpture, photography, architecture, music, crafts, hobbies, games, sports
8	800-899	Literature	The writing and analysis of poetry, drama, speeches, humor
9	900-999	History & Geography	Atlases, travel books, general history, biography



Call Number

The call number can be thought of as the book's address. It determines where it is placed on shelf and where someone looks to find it. It appears on a book's spine (spine label), barcode labels (the label with the copy ID number and barcode) on the front flyleaf (first page of the book) and back cover, and title page. It may also appear on the pocket attached to the front flyleaf.

The three main sections of the library each have unique call number patterns

Fiction Call Numbers

- **Novels** – First line is FIC, second line, first 3 letters of the author's last name.
- **Story Collection** (books with several short stories) – First line is SC, second line, first 3 letters of author's last name, unless it has several authors. In this case, the first 3 letters of the books title is used (except for A, An, and The).
- **Picture Books** – First line is E, second line if Fiction is FIC, if nonfiction, the Dewey number, third line, the first 3 letters of the author's last name

Nonfiction Call Numbers

- **Standard Nonfiction** call numbers have two lines, the first is the Dewey number for the subject of the book, the second, the first 3 letters of author's last name, unless it has several authors. In this case, the first 3 letters of the books title is used (except for A, An, and The).
- **Individual Biography** call numbers have two lines; the first is the Dewey number 921 and the second, the first 3 letters of the *last name of the person whom the book is about*.

Reference Section Call Numbers

- **Reference Section** call numbers have from three to four lines. The first line will be REF, classifying it as a reference book. The second line will be the Dewey classification number. The third line will be first 3 letters of the author's last name, or the title of the book. If it is a multi-volume set, the fourth line will be the volume number.

Examples:

FIC SPI	SC HIT	E FIC FLE	E 521 ADL
Novels	Story Collection	Picture Book Fiction	Picture Book Nonfiction
565.3 NAR	921 EIN	REF 530 MID	REF 973 REV V.1
Standard Nonfiction	Individual Biography	Reference	Reference Multi-volumes