REFERENCE NOTES

MONTGOMERY CITY-COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

La Ruth Martin & Suzanne Horton
Editors

Dewey Decimal System

Melvin Dewey developed the Dewey Decimal System in 1873. The Dewey Decimal System was first published in 1876. Melvin Dewey was born Melville Dewey. Melvin Dewey changed the spelling of his first name after promoting the simplification of English spelling. He was an American educator and librarian. Melvin Dew founded the American Association and Library Journal in 1876. Melvin Dewey was born in Adams Center, New York, on December 10, 1851 and died in Lake Placid, Florida, on December 29, 1931.

Before the Dewey Decimal System, libraries had no real system of classifying books. Melvin Dewey developed the Dewey Decimal System to aide libraries in categorizing books. The system was originally outlined in a four-page pamphlet. The system has since expanded to multiple volumes. The Dewey Decimal System is a method of categorizing books in a library by subject matter. The Dewey Decimal System works by dividing books into ten main groups, each represented by figures. This is what makes up the call numbers in the Dewey Decimal System. There could be up to three lines in the call number. The first line has three numbers in it followed by a decimal point. The second line of the call number consists of the first few letters of the author's name, which are used to alphabetize books with the same numerical classification. This helps to categorize books with the same numerical classification. For example, if a book is categorized 225.1 Jones and another book is categorized 225. 1 Albert, when shelving the books the book with the call number 225.1 Albert comes before the book 225.1 Jones. The call numbers are read from left to right. The books are read in numerical order. In the Dewey Decimal System, fictional works are classified within the 800 class, which is the Literature subject area. Some libraries choose to have fiction in a separate section. These books are arranged in alphabetical order by author last name. If the authors have the same last name then the first name is included. Literary works in the Dewey Decimal System are subdivided by form: poetry, fiction and essay. Most modern libraries separate fiction into a distinct area rather than including it in the 800s. The books are arranged in alphabetical order by the author's last name and the genre of the book. Here at the Morgan Library the different genres of fiction books are Mystery, Science Fiction, Story Collection, Westerns and Fiction.

The ten main classes of the Dewey Decimal System are as follows:

000---Computer Science, Information and General
        Works

100---Philosophy and Psychology

200---Religion

300---Social Sciences

400---Language

500---Science

600---Technology

700---Arts and Recreation

800---Literature

900---History and geography

Work Consulted:

Britannica from htt://www. Britannica. Com/science/Dewey-Decimal-Classification.

Cleary, Brian P.(2013) Do you know the Dewey Decimal System 30-31

PATHFINDER

Most current sources on the Dewey Decimal System are online. Please consult the following sources if you are interested in learning more:

The World Book Encyclopedia, Vol. 5D (2019) World Book Encyclopedia, Inc. Chicago, Illinois 77.
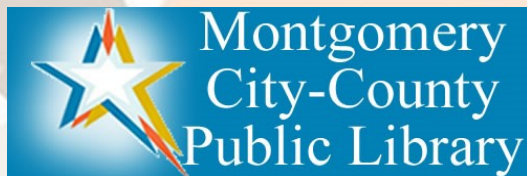
"What is the Dewey Decimal System" https://www.wisegeek.com/what-is-the-dewey-decimal-system.htm?

"Dewey Decimal System – A Guide to Call Numbers" https://www.library.illinois.edu/infosci/research/guides/dewey/

"Why do we need the Dewey Decimal system?" https://oaklandlibrary.org/blogs/from-main-library/why-do-we-need-dewey-decimal-system

"Dewey Decimal Classification: Centennial 1876-1976" https://www.gutenberg.org/files/12513/12513-h/12513-h.htm

MELVIL DEWEY.

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