Quick Tips

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 North America are given the "call number" 970. To see what books your library currently has on North America, go the non-fiction shelves and find the books that have 970 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

