Dewey Decimal Classification System Basics

Supplemental

Before Melvil Dewey standardized things in 1876, different libraries organized their materials in very different ways. Even within one library there would be different systems, sometimes even just by just adding new books to the end of the collection or sticking them on a shelf where they fit.

Books were often just assigned a number according to the order in which they were acquired or where they were on the shelf. Then Dewey came up with a system where a number corresponded to a subject area. This allows a user to look in one area for all the books on a particular topic.

Below is a guide to the sections of the Dewey Decimal Classification System (DDS), divided by hundreds and tens.

000	**Computers, information**		300	**Social Science**
010	Bibliography		310	General statistics
020	Library and information sciences		320	Political science
030	General encyclopedic works		330	Economics
040	(Not used)		340	Law
050	General serials & their indexes		350	Public administration
060	General organizations & museology		360	Social services; association
070	News media, journalism, publishing		370	Education
080	General collections		380	Commerce, communications, transport
090	Manuscripts & rare books		390	Customs, etiquette, folklore

100	**Philosophy, psychology**		400	**Language**
110	Metaphysics		410	Linguistics
120	Epistemology, causation, humankind		420	English & Old English
130	Paranormal phenomena		430	Germanic languages; German
140	Specific philosophical schools		440	Romance languages; French
150	Psychology		450	Italian, Romanian, Rhaeto-Romantic
160	Logic		460	Spanish & Portuguese languages
170	Ethics (Moral philosophy)		470	Italic languages; Latin
180	Ancient, medieval, Oriental philosophy		480	Hellenic languages; Classical Greek
190	Modern Western philosophy		490	Other languages

200	**Religion**		500	**Natural sciences, math**
210	Natural theology		510	Mathematics
220	Bible		520	Astronomy & allied sciences
230	Christian theology		530	Physics
240	Christian moral & devotional theology		540	Chemistry & allied sciences
250	Christian orders & local church		550	Earth sciences
260	Christian social theology		560	Paleontology; Paleozoology
270	Christian church history		570	Life sciences
280	Christian denominations & sects		580	Botanical sciences
290	Other & comparative religions		590	Zoological sciences

600	**Technology (applied sciences)**
610	Medical sciences; Medicine
620	Engineering & allied operations
630	Agriculture
640	Home economics & family living
650	Management & auxiliary services
660	Chemical engineering
670	Manufacturing
680	Manufacture for specific uses
690	Buildings

700	**Arts & sports**
710	Civic & landscape art
720	Architecture
730	Plastic arts; Sculpture
740	Drawing & decorative arts
750	Painting & paintings
760	Graphics arts; Printmaking & prints
770	Photography & photographs
780	Music
790	Recreation & performing arts

800	**Literature**
810	American lit. in English
820	English & Old English lit.
830	Literatures of Germanic languages
840	Literatures Romantic languages
850	Italian, Romanian, Rhaeto-Romantic
860	Spanish & Portuguese lit.
870	Italian lit.; Latin
880	Hellenic literatures; Classical Greek
890	Literatures of other languages

900	**History, biography, geography**
910	Geography & travel
920	Biography, genealogy, insignia
930	History of ancient world
940	General history of Europe
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