The OCLC cataloging community meeting

21 JUNE 2024
Welcome
Today’s schedule

- Welcome
- Diversity, equity, and inclusion
- Open questions
- Break
Today’s schedule

- Welcome
- Diversity, equity, and inclusion
- Open questions
- Break

- OCLC update
- Open questions
- Closing
Housekeeping…

Webex

• If your computer audio is not working, please dial-in by phone
  – Dial-in information has been posted in Chat
• To submit questions, use Chat and send to “Everyone”
  – Note: Your question will be visible to others attending this session
Housekeeping…

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Post-event

• OCLC will make available:
  – Recordings of each session
  – Slides
  – Cited links list
• Notifications:
  – Registrants will receive an email via Webex
  – OCLC will post links to content in the Cataloging & Metadata community and on the series site: oc.fc/cataloging-community-meetings
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    Cataloging & Metadata | oc.lc/cataloging-community-meetings
Diversity, equity, and inclusion

Cynthia Whitacre
Senior Metadata Operations Manager, Metadata Engagement
OCLC
Increase religious equity by reclassifying Dewey 200s

Emily McDonald
Lawrence (Kansas)
Public Library

Matthew Jaquith
Springfield (Massachusetts)
City Public Library

Elizabeth McKinstry
Springfield (Massachusetts)
City Public Library

Alex Kyriros
OCLC
Increase religious equity by reclassifying Dewey 200s

Matthew Jaquith
Springfield City Library

Emily McDonald
Lawrence Public Library

Alex Kyrios
OCLC

Elizabeth McKinstry
Springfield City Library
What we’ll cover today

What the optional arrangement of the 200s is, and why OCLC created it

Why and how two libraries implemented the new classification

Following through - making your collection diverse and equitable

Why your library should switch to the optional arrangement, and the tools available to make that easier
Introduction to the optional arrangement
What’s the problem?

**First edition** (1876)

200 Theology.
210 Natural Theology.
220 Bible.
230 Doctrinal Theology.
240 Practical and Devotional.
250 Homiletical and Pastoral.
260 Institutions and Missions.
270 Ecclesiastical and History.
280 Christian Sects.
290 Non-christian Religions.

**Today**

200 Religion
210 Philosophy & theory of religion
220 The Bible
230 Christianity
240 Christian practice & observance
250 Christian pastoral practice & religious orders
260 Christian organizations, social work & worship
270 History of Christianity
280 Christian denominations
290 Other religions
Why hasn’t it been changed?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inertia</th>
<th>The scourge of literary warrant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Existing options</td>
<td>“Editor brain”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of a good alternative</td>
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</table>
A new arrangement…

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Notation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Religions of Chinese origin</td>
<td>299.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religions of Indic origin</td>
<td>294</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religions of North American native origin</td>
<td>299.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judaism</td>
<td>296</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christianity</td>
<td>230-280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Islam</td>
<td>297</td>
</tr>
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</table>
### The optional arrangement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Standard</th>
<th>Optional</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Religions of Chinese origin</td>
<td>299.51</td>
<td>221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religions of Indic origin</td>
<td>294</td>
<td>223-229</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religions of North American native origin</td>
<td>299.7</td>
<td>239.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judaism</td>
<td>296</td>
<td>251</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christianity</td>
<td>230-280</td>
<td>252-279</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Islam</td>
<td>297</td>
<td>281-298</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[tinyurl.com/optionalDDC220-290](tinyurl.com/optionalDDC220-290)
Why hasn’t it been changed?

Inertia

The scourge of literary warrant

Existing options

“Editor brain”

Lack of a good alternative
The optional arrangement

Standard
220 The Bible
230 Christianity
240 … practice & observance
250 … pastoral practice & religious orders
260 … organizations, social work & worship
270 History of …
280 … denominations
290 Other religions

Optional
220 East & Southeast Asian origin
230 African, American native, Australian origins
240 Bible
250 Judaism, Christianity
260 Christian moral & devotional theology
270 Christian social & ecclesiastical theology
280 Islam
290 Islam, modern spiritual movements, Wicca

tinyurl.com/optionalDDC220-290
Case Study – Lawrence, KS
Lawrence Public Library by the numbers

95,794 population
1 location

192,000 physical items
4 catalogers
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>The Dewey Blog post</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>Proposed to Collection Management to adopt optional arrangement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>Weed and project planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>Update the collections</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The project

5 staff members
1,500 on shelf in adult non-fiction
2,500 books, audiobooks, & DVDs
1 week
The crosswalk – a tool for everyone

Used the optional arrangement and translated it into a document for quick consultation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A</th>
<th>B Standard Dewey Call Number</th>
<th>C Optional arrangement number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jainism</td>
<td>294.4</td>
<td>226.[#s following 294.4]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hinduism</td>
<td>294.5</td>
<td>223.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mythology and relations of Hinduism</td>
<td>294.51</td>
<td>223.2[#s following 294.51]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctrines of Hinduism</td>
<td>294.52</td>
<td>223.5[#s following 294.52]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public worship and other practices of</td>
<td>294.53</td>
<td>223.8[#s following 294.53]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hinduism</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Developed by Kate Ray
Tools for libraries

Adding optional arrangement numbers to records in OCLC
- 082 04 227.3 ±2 23 ±m b

200s Dewey Packet
- DDC Manual entry
- Crosswalk
- LPL’s Action Plan
Case Study – Springfield, MA
Springfield City Library by the numbers

Serves a population of about 156,000, making it Massachusetts’ 3rd largest municipality (4th largest in New England)

90 miles west of Boston, 25 miles south of Amherst where DDC began

Main library with 8 smaller neighborhood branches

Collection of about 166,500 volumes (print and media)

200s number about 2,000 system-wide for all media types
Background and inspiration

August 2019, Twitter thread from Lawrence Public Library in Kansas
Springfield City Library: what did we do?

Springfield’s method was both similar and dissimilar to Lawrence’s

- Central Library: somewhat complex
- Branch libraries: rather simple

Your method could be either, based on your staff and patron needs
Reclassification tips from other libraries

• Print an inventory at the beginning of the project to…
  – Assess what’s missing
  – Record the new numbers and date competed
  – Use for collection maintenance and analysis to determine the above as well as what remains to be completed

• Pull items to be reclassified based on the new Dewey number, not the old number
How much shorter?

75 new call numbers are shorter than are the Standard Arrangement (about 50%)

Of those 75, at least one-third saves two or more digits

44 of the Optional Arrangement numbers have no change in length (about 28%)
Shorter, more user-friendly call numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Standard DDC23</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Optional arrangement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>299.31</td>
<td><em>Mummies, Myth, and Magic</em></td>
<td>238</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>299.514</td>
<td><em>Taoism for Dummies</em></td>
<td>221.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>299.936</td>
<td>General book on Scientology</td>
<td>299.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Following through: now what?
Next steps to maximize impact

• Collection assessment and improvement

• Outreach to your community

• Outreach to other libraries
Collection assessment and improvement

Who’s your audience for religion books?
• General information
• Adherents to a faith

Look at your gaps
• 220s, 230s, 280s, 290s
• Get those core texts
Faiths in your community

Do you know what the major faiths are in your community?

Do some outreach – get out and talk to faith leaders

What books does your community need and want?
### Outreach to colleagues

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What</th>
<th>When</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New England Library Association / NHLA (Manchester, NH)</td>
<td>October, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Springfield Interfaith Council (Springfield, MA)</td>
<td>January 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vermont Library Association (South Burlington, VT)</td>
<td>April 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connecticut Library Association (Groton, CT)</td>
<td>May 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Massachusetts Library Association (Falmouth, MA)</td>
<td>May 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maine Library Association (Sunday River, ME)</td>
<td>May 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhode Island Library Association (Providence, RI)</td>
<td>May 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vermont Department of Libraries (online)</td>
<td>August 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simmons University (South Hadley, MA)</td>
<td>March 2024</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In summation
Why the optional arrangement?

- More logical browsing sequence (east to west / oldest to most recent)
- Shorter call numbers to help the public and staff alike
- It’s easy and inexpensive; project tools and colleagues are available to help
- Much greater social equity
Yesterday vs. today
The New England wave
(that we know of)
Resource list: Dewey blog posts

• Mapping 220–290 standard notation to the Optional arrangement for the Bible and specific religions (May 2019)

• Why are the 200s so heavily focused on Christianity? An explainer (November 2019)

• What’s the distinction between myth and religion in Dewey? An explainer (December 2019)

• Reclassifying the 200s at Simmons University (February 2020)

• Revisions to witchcraft and Wicca (August 2020)

• Reclassifying the 200s at Lawrence Public Library (Sept 2020)
Resource list: Other

tinyurl.com/optionalDDC220-290

LPL 200s Dewey Packet
Because what is known must be shared.

Thank you!
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Please enter questions in chat and send to everyone
Happy 5th Anniversary: Virtual OCLC cataloging community meetings

- First event in June 2020
- 26 community presenters over the series
- Registrations from 100+ countries

THANK YOU!

See all past meetings at oc.lc/cataloging-community-meetings
The OCLC cataloging community meeting

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