

Choice of Number Review

Version 1.2
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The learner will be able to apply basic rules to choose correctly between multiple potential base numbers

Note: This is also one of the objectives of the Technical Introduction to the DDC. This review module is intended to reinforce the learner's grasp of these key rules before the learner embarks on a more difficult module, such as Number Building: Add Tables.

Choice of number



Determine subject

Determine disciplinary focus of subject

Relative Index is guide to schedules, but schedules must be consulted

Read instructions

Pay attention to author's intention

Follow basic rules

Rule of application: Application or influence of one subject on another is classed with the second subject. This rule takes precedence over any other rule.

Example:

Influence of Aristotelian philosophy on United States philosophy

Aristotelian philosophy (185) vs.

United States philosophy (191)

Fullest treatment: Class a work on two subjects with the subject receiving the fullest treatment.

Example:

Waltzes & polkas (waltzes get fuller treatment than polkas)

Polkas (784.18844) vs. Waltzes (**784.18846**)

First-of-two rule

First-of-two rule: A work dealing equally with two subjects not used to introduce or explain one another is classed in the number coming first in the DDC schedule or table.

First-of-two example



Working pointers and setters **636.7525**

LCSH:

Pointing dogs

Setters (Dogs)

Relative Index entries:

Pointers (Dogs) **636.7525**

Setters (Dogs) 636.7526

Note: "First" means first in DDC number order, not first in alphabetic order

Exceptions to first-of-two rule (1)

Exceptions to first-of-two rule:

The two topics are the two major subdivisions of a subject (use the number for the subject). Example (1):

The essential guide to hair, makeup & skin care **646.72**

LCSH:

Hairdressing

Skin—Care and hygiene

Cosmetics

Beauty, Personal

Exceptions to first-of-two rule (2)

Example (2):

The essential guide to hair, makeup & skin care

646.72 (not 646.724)

646.72 Care of hair, face, skin, nails

Class here cosmetology, cosmetics, makeup

646.724 Care of hair

646.726 Care of face and skin

646.727 Care of nails

Exceptions to first-of-two rule (3)

Exceptions to first-of-two rule:

Instructions in the schedule override the first-of-two rule.

Example at centered entry 972.8-972.9:

972 Mexico, Central America, West Indies, Bermuda

>972.8-972.9 Other parts of Middle America

Class comprehensive works in 972

972.8 Central America

972.9 West Indies (Antilles) and Bermuda

Rule of three

Rule of three: A work giving equal treatment to three or more subjects that are all subdivisions of a broader subject is classed in the first higher number that includes all three.

Rule of three example (1)

Cambodia, Thailand & Laos 959

LCSH:

Southeast Asia—History

Cambodia—Description and travel

Cambodia—Civilization

Thailand—Description and travel

Thailand—Civilization

Laos—Description and travel

Laos—Civilization

Rule of three example (2)

Cambodia, Thailand & Laos 959

959 Southeast Asia

959.1 Myanmar

959.3 Thailand

959.4 Laos

959.5 Malaysia, Brunei, Singapore

959.6 Cambodia

959.7 Vietnam

959.8 Indonesia and East Timor

959.9 Philippines

Rule of zero (1)

Rule of zero: Avoid subdivisions beginning with zero if there is a choice between the 0 subdivision and a subdivision beginning with 1-9 at the same position in the notation. This means also avoiding subdivisions beginning with double zeros if there is a choice between 00 and 0 in the same position in the notation.

636 Animal husbandry

636.001-636.009 Standard subdivisions

636.01-636.08 [General topics in animal husbandry]

(e.g., breeding; care, maintenance, training)

636.1-636.8 Specific kinds of domestic animals

(e.g., horses, cattle, poultry, cats, dogs)

Rule of zero example (1)

Step by step organic flower gardening **635.987**

LCSH:

Flower gardening

Organic gardening

Relative Index entries:

Floriculture 635.9

Flower gardening 635.9

Organic gardening 635.0484

Organic gardening—floriculture **635.987**

Step by step organic flower gardening **635.987**

635 Garden crops (Horticulture)

635.04 *Cultivation, harvesting, related topics

*Add as instructed under 633-635

635.0484 Organic gardening (built with 635.04 plus 8 from add table under 633-635 plus 4 from 631.584 Organic farming, as instructed under 81-87 Special cultivation methods in add table under 633-635)

Step by step organic flower gardening **635.987**

635.9 Flowers and ornamental plants

Standard subdivisions are added for either or both topics in heading
Class here floriculture

635.98 Special methods of cultivation in floriculture

635.987 Organic gardening

Note: DDC puts flower gardening and floriculture together

Note: Rule of zero reinforces rule of application: application of organic methods of cultivation to flower gardening, to floriculture

Comprehensive number: A number that covers all the component parts of the subject treated within a single discipline. The component parts may be in a span of consecutive numbers or distributed throughout the schedule or table.

Comprehensive number example (1)



Literature in the Greek and Roman worlds: A new perspective **880.09**

LCSH:

Classical literature—History and criticism

Greek literature—History and criticism

Latin literature—History and criticism

Comprehensive number example (2)



Literature in the Greek and Roman worlds: A new perspective **880.09**

Relative Index entries:

Classical Greek literature	880
Classical literatures (Greek and Latin)	880
Classical literatures (Greek and Latin)—history	880.09
Greek literature	880
Latin literature	870

Literature in the Greek and Roman worlds: A new perspective **880.09**

880 Classical Greek literature and literatures of related Hellenic languages

Class here literatures of Hellenic languages, comprehensive works of or on literatures of classical (Greek and Latin) languages

For Latin literature, see 870

Note: Instruction in schedule overrides first-of-two rule

Literature in the Greek and Roman worlds: A new perspective **880.09**

- 88** Classical Greek literature and literatures of related Hellenic languages
(final placeholder 0 deleted before notation added)
- 0** Extra zero for standard subdivisions as instructed at 880.01-880.09 Standard subdivisions of classical (Greek and Latin) literatures
- 09** History (from Table 1)

Interdisciplinary number

Interdisciplinary number: A number that covers all the disciplinary perspectives on a given subject (work must include the discipline where the interdisciplinary number is located)

Note: The first class number displayed in an index entry (the unindented term) is the number for interdisciplinary works

Water: Science and issues **553.703**

“This four-volume encyclopedia brings together contributors from the full range of disciplines concerned with the science, politics, and economics of water”

LCSH:

Water—Encyclopedias

Hydrology—Encyclopedias

Hydrogeology—Encyclopedias

Interdisciplinary number example (2)



Water: Science and issues **553.703**

Relative Index entries (1):

Encyclopedias	030
Encyclopedias	T1–03
Hydrography	551.46
Hydrology (Fresh waters)	551.48
Water	553.7
Water—chemistry	546.22
Water—economic geology	553.7

Interdisciplinary number example (3)



Water: Science and issues **553.703**

Relative Index entries (2):

Water—law	346.04691
Water—resource economics	333.91
Water—supply services	363.61
Water bodies	551.46
Water bodies—physical geology	551.46

Interdisciplinary number example (4)



Water: Science and issues **553.703**

551.46 Oceanography and submarine geology

Class here hydrography, hydrosphere; physical oceanography, seawater; interdisciplinary works on marine science, on oceans and seas

Class ice in 551.31; class geologic work of water in 551.35; class ocean-atmosphere interactions in 551.5246; class interdisciplinary works on water in **553.7**

For hydrology, see 551.48

Water: Science and issues **553.703**

551.48 Hydrology

Class comprehensive works on oceanography and hydrology in 551.46; class water resources, interdisciplinary works on water in **553.7**

Interdisciplinary number example (6)



Water: Science and issues **553.703**

553.7

Water

03

Dictionaries, encyclopedias,
concordances (from Table 1)

363.728 Wastes

Unless other instructions are given, class a subject with aspects in two or more subdivisions of 363.728 in the number coming last, e.g., recycling scrap metal 363.7288 (*not* 363.7282)

Note: 363.7282 Recycling; 363.7288 Specific kinds of wastes

Preference note example (1)



High tech trash: Digital devices, hidden toxics, and human health **363.7288**

“High Tech Trash is a wake-up call to the importance of the e-waste issue and the health hazards involved. Americans alone own more than two billion pieces of high tech electronics and discard five to seven million tons each year. As a result, electronic waste already makes up more than two-thirds of the heavy metals and 40 percent of the lead found in our landfills. But the problem goes far beyond American shores, most tragically to the cities in China and India where shiploads of discarded electronics arrive daily. There, they are “recycled”-picked apart by hand, exposing thousands of workers and community residents to toxics.”

Preference note example (2)



*High tech trash: Digital devices, hidden toxics,
and human health* **363.7288**

LCSH:

Waste electronic apparatus and appliances

Electronic apparatus and appliances—Environmental aspects

Electronic apparatus and appliances—Health aspects

Electronic industries—Environmental aspects

Preference note example (3)



High tech trash: Digital devices, hidden toxics, and human health **363.7288**

Relative Index entries (1):

Electronic components—waste technology 621.38150286

Solid wastes 363.7285

Toxic wastes 363.7287

Preference note example (4)

High tech trash: Digital devices, hidden toxics, and human health **363.7288**

Relative Index entries (2):

Waste control	363.728
Waste technology	628.4
Waste technology	T1-0286
Wastes	363.728

Note: At 628.4 Waste technology, there is a note: "Class interdisciplinary works on wastes in 363.728"

Preference note example (5)



High tech trash: Digital devices, hidden toxics, and human health **363.7288**

363.7285 Solid wastes

363.7287 Hazardous wastes

363.7288 Specific kinds of wastes

Including agricultural, domestic, medical wastes; beverage containers, garbage, scrap metal

591 Specific topics in natural history of animals

Unless other instructions are given, observe the following table of preference, e.g., social behavior of beneficial animals 591.56 (*not* 591.63):

Preference tables (2)



Behavior	591.5
Miscellaneous nontaxonomic kinds of animals	591.6
Physical adaptation	591.4
Genetics, evolution, young animals	591.3
Animal ecology, animals characteristic of specific environments	591.7
Animals by specific continents, countries, localities	591.9

Preference table example (1)



Herbivores in the food chain **591.54**

LCSH:

Herbivores—Food—Juvenile literature

Food chains (Ecology)—Juvenile literature

Relative Index entries:

Ecology	577
Ecology—animals	591.7
Food chains (Ecology)	577.16
Herbivores	591.54
Herbivorous animals	591.54

Herbivores in the food chain **591.54**

591.54 Herbivorous feeding

Class here browsing, grazing; herbivorous animals

591.7 Animal ecology, animals characteristic of specific environments

591.716 Animals in the food chain (built with 591.7 plus 16 from 577.16 Food chains, following instructions at 591.71-591.78 Specific topics in animal ecology; specific environments)

For choice of number, keep in mind:

Rule of application

Fullest treatment

First-of-two rule

Rule of three

Rule of zero

Comprehensive and interdisciplinary numbers

Preference notes and tables