The Dewey Decimal Classification® (DDC®) system is the world’s most widely used way to organise library collections. The DDC constantly updates to enable better discovery across any topic in multiple languages. Because the DDC is easy to use, you can increase the visibility of your materials quickly and efficiently.
Libraries want to meet the information needs of their communities on a wide variety of topics. But many casual library users are not skilled catalogue searchers, and they may not know what keywords will return the best results. They need your materials and the e-resources to be organised in a way that allows them to browse for the information they want to make breakthroughs possible.

Organise your collection in multiple languages. The DDC has been translated into more than 30 languages and serves library users in more than 200,000 libraries in 135 countries worldwide, making it the world’s most widely used library classification system. More than 60 of these countries use the DDC to organise their national bibliographies.

Include resources on even the most recent subjects. The ten members of the international DDC Editorial Policy Committee and the DDC editors work to keep the DDC relevant and meaningful through frequent updates. These changes, additions, and improvements ensure that the DDC will continue to work for your collection and your patrons.

Minimise volunteer and staff training time. Many libraries rely on volunteers and temporary staff to manage day-to-day tasks such as re-shelving books. The DDC’s simple, number-based format makes it easy for these helpers to know exactly where a book should fit on the shelf. They can re-shelve books quickly and have confidence they’re doing it correctly.

Help patrons feel more comfortable in the library. Non-regular library users can be intimidated by the rows and rows of shelves, searching the catalogue, and even asking a librarian for help. With its subject-based classification system, the DDC encourages patrons to independently browse the catalogue, the stacks, and even your programming schedule to find what they need. Once they find the topic area they want, patrons can comfortably browse the items to get a better understanding of your collection.

“Delaware Libraries use the Dewey Decimal Classification system as a match point across all library services—including reference, programmes, and circulation—to get a sense of how Delawareans are using libraries and what they are trying to accomplish.”

Annie Norman
State Librarian/Director,
Delaware Division of Libraries
Delaware, United States
WebDewey® offers an intuitive online interface designed to be simple enough for an occasional user but robust enough for an experienced user. This is the easiest way to search or browse up-to-date DDC numbers as well as Library of Congress Subject Headings and mapped MeSH subject headings. Through WebDewey records, you can access authority records as well as links to other related information. You can also customise the layout of the screen and add searchable comments to numbers for later reference.

WebDewey stays seamlessly up to date with new DDC developments, new built numbers, and new index terms, so you can be sure you’re always using the most relevant information and tools.

The Dewey Cutter Program software automatically provides cutter numbers from the OCLC Four-Figure Cutter Tables when you input text, which helps you classify materials more efficiently. Dewey Cutter is available at no additional charge at oc.lc/cutter.

The DDC’s print abridged edition provides smaller libraries with the information they need to classify collections with up to 20,000 titles. The most recent version, Abridged 15, was printed in February 2012. In addition to DDC numbers and descriptions, the abridged edition includes an overview of the DDC and how it works, which is helpful to those starting out with this classification system. The glossary explains key terms to help with implementing the DDC in your library.

200 Religion Class focuses on classifying religious works and is especially useful for libraries with large religious collections and smaller general collections. It features updated and extended versions of the DDC’s 200 Religion schedule, Manual notes, and an index, as well as the 170 Ethics schedule.
Increase visibility of your materials with a regularly updated, easy-to-use classification system that supports multiple languages.

“There’s a Dewey for just about anything you’re interested in.”

Annie Kemmerling
Manager, Innovation and Initiatives,
Denver Public Library
Denver, Colorado, United States

There’s a Dewey for that

The Denver Public Library has long used the DDC to organise books in the library so that patrons can easily find the topics they’re interested in. The library also uses those interests to remind potential patrons what the library has to offer. On its Facebook pages, the library posts photos of staff members around town reading books that relate to the setting—a construction site, a garden, a baseball field, for example—with the hashtag #TheresA Dewey For That.

During a recent summer programme, BrewHaHa, the library worked with local brewer Denver Beer Co. to develop a Sour 641.23 beer and with local coffee roaster Huckleberry Roasters to develop the 641.3373 Blend. These innovative uses of Dewey engaged the community and brought more people into the library.

Read other members’ experiences at oc.lc/stories.

Visit oc.lc/dewey to learn more.

Keep up with changes and additions to the DDC, get resources for teachers and librarians, view a demo of WebDewey or register for a free 30-day trial, order the version of the DDC that’s right for your library, and more.

Because what is known must be shared.®