

The Dewey System

How the Dewey system works

The Dewey system divides the whole of knowledge into ten categories:

000s	General knowledge	Computers, libraries, newspapers, encyclopedias
100s	The Mind	Feelings, animal rights
200s	Religion	Religions, comparative religion, myths
300s	Society	Communication, pollution, families, settlements, conservation, jobs, schools, shops, transport, costume, customs
400s	Language	Dictionaries, thesauri, word books, writing, other languages
500s	Science and maths	Maths, science, the Earth, weather, dinosaurs, nature
600s	Technology	Inventions, medicine, human body, health, materials, machines, farming, pets, food, cooking, home life, building
700s	The Arts	Architecture, sculpture, crafts, toys, drawing, painting, photography, music, dance, sport
800s	Literature	Poetry, plays
900s	Geography and history	Landscapes, explorers, atlases, ancient history, British history, countries (their geography and history)

Each “hundred” contains further subdivisions which are subdivided again to narrow down the subject, with decimals used to extend the number, e.g. 500s science → 590 zoology → 599 mammals → 599.4 bats

Each subject has its own number.

The books are labelled on their spines and kept in strict order from 000 to 999, e.g. on a shelf you might have these books:

|582||582.13||582.16||590||591.5||591.57||592||594||595.7||595.78||597|

