



University of KwaZulu-Natal Library, Pietermaritzburg

DEWEY DECIMAL CLASSIFICATION

Library guide

Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC) Scheme

A classification scheme systematically arranges sources of information, usually by subject. The Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC) scheme divides knowledge into ten main classes, with further subdivisions as subjects become more specific.

Ten main classes of knowledge

000	Computer Science, information & general works	500	Science
100	Philosophy and psychology	600	Technology
200	Religion	700	Arts and recreation
300	Social sciences	800	Literature
400	Language	900	History and Geography

More specific divisions

000	Computer science, knowledge & systems	300	Social sciences, sociology & anthropology
010	Bibliographies	310	Statistics
020	Library and information sciences	320	Political science
030	Encyclopedias and books of facts	330	Economics
040	[Unassigned]	340	Law
050	Magazines, journals and serials	350	Public administration and military science
060	Associations, organizations & museums	360	Social problems and social services
070	News media, journalism and publishing	370	Education
080	Quotations	380	Commerce, communications, transportation
090	Manuscripts and rare books	390	Customs, etiquette and folklore
100	Philosophy	400	Language
110	Metaphysics	410	Linguistics
120	Epistemology	420	English and Old English languages
130	Parapsychology and occultism	430	German and related languages
140	Philosophical schools of thought	440	French and related languages
150	Psychology	450	Italian, Romanian and related languages
160	Logic	460	Spanish and Portuguese languages
170	Ethics	470	Latin and Italic languages
180	Ancient, medieval & eastern philosophy	480	Classical and modern Greek languages
190	Modern Western philosophy	490	Other languages
200	Religion	500	Science
210	Philosophy and theory of religion	510	Mathematics
220	The Bible	520	Astronomy
230	Christianity and Christian theology	530	Physics
240	Christian practice and observance	540	Chemistry
250	Christian pastoral practice & religious orders	550	Earth sciences and geology
260	Christian organization, social work & worship	560	Fossils and prehistoric life
270	History of Christianity	570	Life sciences; Biology
280	Christian denominations	580	Plants (Botany)
290	Other religions	590	Animals (Zoology)

600 Technology (Applied Sciences)

- 610 Medicine and Health
- 620 Engineering
- 630 Agriculture
- 640 Home and family management
- 650 Management and public relations
- 660 Chemical engineering
- 670 Manufacturing
- 680 Manufacture for specific uses
- 690 Building and construction

700 Arts

- 710 Landscaping and area planning
- 720 Architecture
- 730 Sculpture, ceramics and metalwork
- 740 Drawing and decorative arts
- 750 Painting
- 760 Graphic arts
- 770 Photography and computer art
- 780 Music
- 790 Sports, games and entertainment

800 Literature, Rhetoric and Criticism

- 810 American literature in English
- 820 English and Old English literatures
- 830 German and related literatures
- 840 French and related literatures
- 850 Italian, Romanian and related literatures
- 860 Spanish and Portuguese literatures
- 870 Latin and Italic literatures
- 880 Classical and modern Greek literatures
- 890 Other literatures

900 History

- 910 Geography and travel
- 920 Biography and genealogy
- 930 History of ancient world (to ca.499)
- 940 History of Europe
- 950 History of Asia
- 960 History of Africa
- 970 History of North America
- 980 History of South America
- 990 History of other areas

The above table indicates the broad divisions. These divisions in turn are broken down into smaller sections so that books on similar topics are kept together. For example:

- 820 - the general number for English literature
- 821 - English poetry
- 822 - English drama
- 823 - English fiction
- 824 - English essays

Shelf Arrangement

Every book in the library is assigned a classification number. This classification number is placed on the spine of the book. In most instances three letters appear after the classification number, e.g. **330.968 NAT**. These letters are usually the first three letters of the author's surname. Books with the same number are shelved together and further arranged by alphabetic sequence following the number. In this way, books by the same author at the same number are shelved together. The following is an example of a number and letter sequence:

320.09	320.2	320.2	320.3	320.50942	320.52
RAN	DAG	TRU	BOW	REE	DON

Guides to Classification Numbers by Subject

Shelf guides for classification numbers for subjects taught on the Pietermaritzburg campus are available near the book collections to assist you in finding books on specific topics. These guides indicate the range of numbers at which books on a subject can be found, and so assist you when browsing. To locate a specific book, use the catalogue.

Should you have any queries about finding books on your subject, ask your Subject Librarian.