

Library Classification



2. Subject Arrangements: Library of Congress ("LC") vs. Dewey Decimal

Virtually every library in the United States uses one of these two classification schemes to organize their materials by subject and assign call numbers.

Noteworthy differences are:

Library of Congress

- Used by most **academic** and **research** libraries.
- 21 broad categories, A-Z (skips I, O, & W)
- Literature (P) is arranged by nationality and time period; all work *by or about* an author is grouped together.

Dewey Decimal

- Used by most **K-12** and **public** libraries.
- 10 broad categories, 000, 100, 200... 900
- Public and school libraries usually keep Fiction in a single A-Z run by author rather than using the 800s (literature) classification.

How Call Numbers Work: LC vs. Dewey

The Encyclopedia of the Cat by Bruce Fogle.

Library of Congress System

SF
442.2
.F64
2001

S: Agriculture
SF: Animal Culture
SF442: Cats
SF442.2: Dictionaries.
Encyclopedias
F 64: for author (Fogle)
2001: publication year

Dewey Decimal System

636.8
FOG

600 : Technology (Applied Science)
630: Agriculture and related technologies
636: Animal husbandry
636.8 Cats
FOG First three letters of the author's last name

LC Classification in a Nutshell

(For more detail, view LC's own [Outline](#))

A: General Works
B: Philosophy, Psychology, Religion
C: Genealogy, Biography
D: History, Culture - "Old World"
E-F: History, Culture - Americas
G: Geography
H: Social Sciences
J: Political Science
K: Law
L: Education
M: Music
N: Fine Arts
P: Language & Literature
Q: Science
R: Medicine
S: Agriculture
T: Technology
U-V: Military Science
Z: Library Science

Dewey Classification in a Nutshell

(For a more complete listing, see OCLC's [Dewey Summary](#))

000: Computers, information, & general reference
100: Philosophy & psychology
200: Religion
300: Social sciences
400: Language
500: Science
600: Technology
700: Arts & recreation
800: Literature
900: History & geography