



Library Helpsheet

Dewey Decimal Classification

The Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC) is a system to **organise** books and resources in a library. DDC is the most widely used library **classification system** in the world used by most public and school libraries and is commonly used in colleges and university libraries. DDC was conceived in 1873 by American Melvil Dewey, and first published in 1876 as a 44 page document. It is now in its 23rd edition and is now in 4 large volumes!

All **non-fiction books** are organised with DDC in the Library so that books on similar topics can be located together on the shelf which makes it easier to find books.

The main divisions of DDC, with a selection of subdivisions, are shown below:

000	General Knowledge	600	Practical Sciences
032	Facts	610	Medicine & health
070	Newspaper	620	Engineering
100	Philosophy	630	Farming
130	Ghosts	636	Domestic animals
150	Psychology	641	Food & cookery
179	Ethics	650	Business Studies
200	Religion	690	Building & construction
230	Christianity	700	Art & recreation
294.3	Buddhism	709	History of Art
294.5	Hinduism	720	Architecture
294.6	Sikhism	743	Drawing
296	Judaism	750	Painting
300	Social Sciences	770	Photography
320	Politics	780	Music
330	Economics	790	Leisure
340	Law	791.43	Cinema
355	Armed Services	792	Theatre
360	Social problems	796	Sports
400	Languages	800	Literature
420	English	809	English Literature
430	German	821	Poetry
440	French	822	Plays
450	Italian	822.33	Shakespeare
460	Spanish	900	Geography & History
500	Sciences	914.1	British geography
510	Maths	914.11	Scottish geography
520	Astronomy	920	Biographies
530	Physics	940	European History
540	Chemistry	940.3	World War 1
550	Geology	940.53	World War 2
570	Biology	941	British History
580	Plants	941.1	Scottish History
590	Animals	970	American History

