Where We Put It Matters: Options to Customize Your Library



South Central Kansas Library System Webinar recorded on April 16, 2024 Presenter: Anna Szczepanski, Colorado Library Consortium (CLiC)



Joke about last name...? Explain CLiC and my role. One of CLiC's values is to blend work and fun, so hopefully we'll have a little fun together today.

Where will our journey take us today?

- A Pop Quiz
- A History Lesson
- Overview of new classification systems
- Discussion: Pros & Cons of different systems
- 3 Examples: Small Rural Libraries Who Have Done It (2 public, 1 school)
- A Game: Where would you put it?
- Blueprints for how it might be done
- Cautionary Tales: Try not to do these things
- Q&A

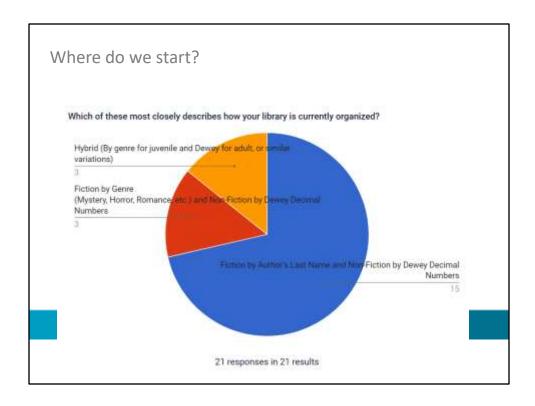
I don't know about all of you, but I am going to Kansas (via zoom, anyway)

Overview of what's to come (it's going to be a whirlwind)

TIMING: 60 Minutes total A pop quiz – 6 minutes A History Lesson: 8 minutes

Overview of new classification systems: 10 minutes
Discussion: pros & cons of different systems: 6 minutes
3 Examples: Libraries Who Have Done It (2 public, 1 school)

A game: Where would you put it? Cautionary Tales (How not to do it)



How about we start with where we are now? Discuss Poll Findings. Let's be clear: I am NOT here to talk you out of using the Dewey Decimal system. My local library, the school library where I worked---they all used Dewey. Tell story of Dewey in college (looking for books).

What I AM here to do is to let you know that you have options, and that the best thing you can do for your patrons is consider how they use the library and how things might be arranged in a way that has fewer barriers for them in finding what they are looking for.

Pop Quiz!

Catalog? or Classify?

Hint: To catalog is to describe the item—to make a written record of what it is without having the actual item in hand. Biblio-graphic comes from the Greek and it MEANS a book that is drawn or written.

To classify is to place with like or similar things—to create a system by which items are arranged.

Explain how it works:

- 1.) Grab a piece of scrap paper and make two columns on it (Hold Up Example)
- 2.) At the top of one column, write "catalog. On the other, write "Classify" A pop quiz on material I haven't taught you yet! You are starting to see why I did not last very long as a school librarian.

No, this is just to wake us up and get us moving and thinking about these terms and ideas. Not trying to trap anyone who has not spent long hours pondering the difference between cataloging and classifying,. However, I think often we lump them together without thinking about the distinction between them.

To catalog is to describe the item—to make a written record of what it is without having the actual item in hand. BIBLIO-GRAPHIC comes from the Greek and it MEANS a book that is drawn or written.

To classify is to place with like or similar things—to create a system by which items are arranged.

(My definitions and I have a library degree from many years ago so if anyone wants to debate me on these definitions, I am happy to meet later and arm wrestle or whatever.)

Clear instructions:

-I am going to read a list out some terms in a minute that are can be found in either the catalog record or the classification scheme. When I read the thing, put it in the column where you think it belongs. -You will not be graded.

Catalog: Describes

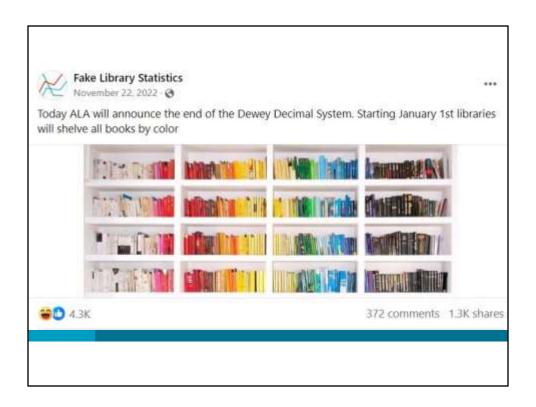
- Uses MARC Data
- Describes the item
- Credits creator(s)
- Title and subtitle
- # of pages
- If it includes illustrations, maps, or other special features
- Publication date
- Assigns subjects
- Groups like works by using authorities
- Place of publication
- Physical size (dimensions)
- Format description
- (Hardback, CDs, Blu-Ray)
- INCLUDES the Dewey number of classification indicator (in the 082 field)

Classification: Locates

- Where the item is located
- Call number
- Spine label
- Stickers (dots, genre stickers, etc.)
 - Cutter
- Shelving location
- The item's "address"
- · Section of the library or areas
- Indicates location by age (juvenile, teen, or adult)
- Indicates location by format (Audiobooks, DVDs)
- Dewey decimal number
- Ensures like items can be found near each other

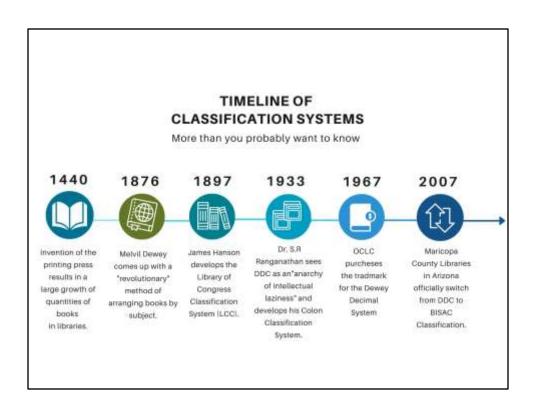
Official PURPOSE of classification schemes is to bring related items together in a helpful sequence from the general to the specific. We are trying to EASE access and to provide a means for browsing for relevant resources.

Example: Gone with the Wind sequels: YES! Put them together.



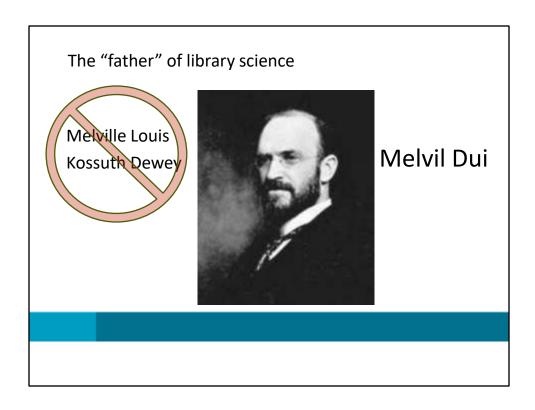
We assume that our library patrons come with a level of understanding of how our libraries are arranged, but.... (Silverton School example)

Before classification schemes came into existence, there was really no agreed-upon way to arrange library materials. Most often they were actually arranged by accession, so in the order the books were added into the library. This was fine when libraries mostly had closed stacks, but once stacks were opened for patron browsing, the deficits of such a system became apparent.



You can't have a history lesson without a good timeline... so I am not going to take you all the way back to the first library in Alexandria...

2007: Gilbert, AZ Outside of Phoenix. Patrons were used to the ease of using search engines, and the big bookstores like Barnes & Noble had gained a share of the market. Some patrons reacted strongly against the "googlization" of libraries



Melville Dewey, the father of library science in the United States. About which there is much to say (could be it's own presentation).

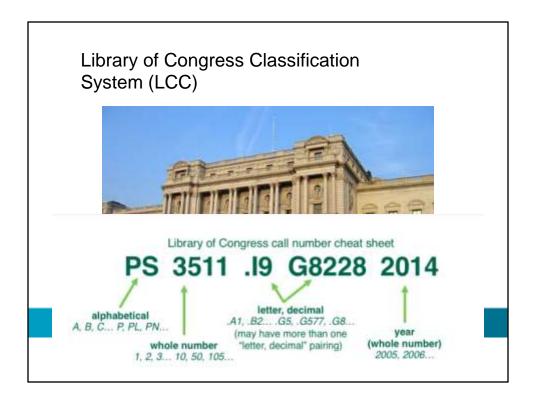
CALL OUT: Ask about how much the audience already knows about Mr. Dewey.

Melville Dewey... brief history. Obsession with efficiency and organization (from a young age) Highlight reel: Metric System, rule of 10s. In 1895 formed the exclusive Lake Placid Club (\$10/ year, lights out at 10 pm)

Obsessions had their benefits: State Librarian of New York in Albany, he implemented the first library for the blind, the first interlibrary loan program, and the first children's library. DDC, like most things, was an evolution of systems that had already been created, but Dewey was quick to take the credit. This legacy lasted until very recently, with the most

prestigious ALA award up until 2019 was the Melvil Dewey Award. And of course, we all know the system that bears his name...

There is a biography written about him called "The Irrepressible Reformer" by Wayne Wiegand



But how much do we know about other classification systems? James Hanson in 1897 came up with it. The main one used in this country is the Library of Congress Classification System

Developed FOR the Library of Congress (Large)

Developed FOR the Library of Congress (Large Collections)

21 main classes (indicated by letters)
Each letter (except E and F) is divided into subclasses

Each Subclass is subdivided further into divisions Not to be confused with the Library of Congress Control Number assigned to each published work, nor the Library of Congress Subject Headings, which are the approved subject heading language libraries use. (Which have their own set of problems).

So that's where we have been.

Since about 2011, it's the wild west of classification systems!
After Maricopa AZ,:

- "Anythink" Libraries north of Denver went with BISAC
- Butcher Classification System for schools out of the Saint Vrain School District (Colorado)
- Greenwood, Indiana Library: "Subject Savy"
- Cumberland, Rhode Island: "Browse System"
- Brooklyn Public Library is now using "tags" instead of subject headings



Today: So that's where we have been. Now for the good stuff: Where are we going?

Well, Since about 2011, It's the wild west of classification systems
After Maricopa, the "Anythink" Libraries north of Denver went with BISAC
Butcher Classification System out of the Saint Vrain School District

Greenwood, Indiana Library: "Subject Savy"

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Brooklyn Public Library is now using "tags" instead of subject headings (Nod to Book Riot's "Alternatives to the Dewey Decimal System" article by Mara Franzen, June 22, 2022



A browsable or genrefied collection enables users to more easily stumble up on items of interest. The catalog can be used to locate specific things, but there's rarely a good way to have a good user experience "browsing" the catalog.

Genrefy has become the catch-all phrase for moving away from Dewey and is used often to describe this whole movement. But technically it is more moving to genres like mystery, western, horror, etc.

Libraries find that circ goes up after "genrefying" because the collection is now user-centric.

BISAC (Book Industry Standards and Communications)
Subject Headings: A Sample

PETS

PET00000 PETS / General

PETS/Amphibians see Reptiles, Amphibians &

Terrariums

PETS/Aquariums see Fish & Aquariums

PET002000 PETS/Birds

PET00300 PETS/Cats/General

PET003010 PETS/Cats/Breeds

BISAC is an acronym for Book Industry Standards and Communications. Its purpose is to provide guidance and lay out a set of subject headings for bookstores Katherine is dropping the full subject heading list in the chat now. That shows the main categories. Here is an example of how those categories can be sub-divided. We are going to look at a library who uses BISAC shortly. https://www.bisg.org/complete-bisac-subject-headings-list

PLUSES:

- -Books are assigned these subjects by the book sellers. So they come with them from Ingram, Baker & Taylor, Mackin, etc.
- -The spine is not this numbered system on the left. On the Spine you would write these words just as they appear here—I will show you an example in a minute.
- -Works best for smaller collections (35,000 items or fewer). Larger collections are tough because dividing the categories gets very granular.

CONS:

- -Some people do not like the commercial basis for the subjects and say that libraries are different from bookstores.
- There is a cost—about \$300 \$1200 per year, depending on your library's book budget.

Metis: Child-centered & Flexible O. Traditions A. Facts/Concepts B. Machines P. Tales Q. Verse C. Science D. Nature R. Humor E. Animals S. Mystery F. Pets T. Adventure U. Scary G. Making Stuff V. Graphic H. Arts W. Memoir I. Sports X. Fiction/Picture Stories J. Ourselves K. Community Y. Beginning Fiction L. USA (Then and Now) Z. Middle Fiction M. Countries (Then and Now) N. Languages

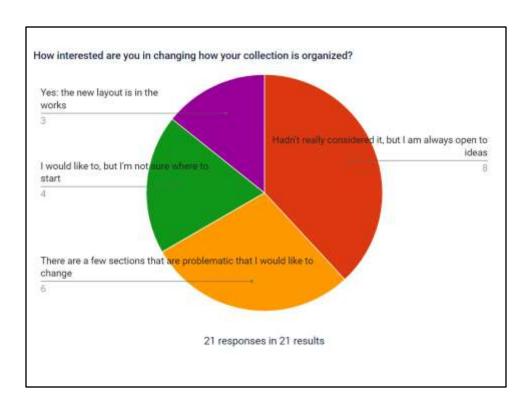
Created by four school librarians in 2011. They tried to consider the thinking, interests, and information-seeking behavior of children at the center of their system. They wanted it to be browsable, and intuitive for children.

They wanted the system to use real natural language.

There are subcategories not listed here—they are arranged based the age range: PreK-2, 3-5, and 2-4

*ASK: Does anyone know what the name "Metis" refers to? Metis the Titan was the mother of Athena in Greek Mythology.

Direct from Wikipedia: Some of the main categories differ markedly from the Dewey main classes. One example is Making Stuff, which includes anything which children like to do for fun, including arts and crafts, collections, games, cooking, putting on plays, and magic tricks. Another is Mystery, which includes nonfiction on codes, crime, optical illusions, puzzles, spies and unexplained mysteries such as the Bermuda Triangle, as well as mystery and detective fiction. In these categories, one can see the principle of user interest at the center of the system.



Browsable Curious

Tell about ARSL person who said, Your talk convinced me NOT to change it."

Pros

- Increase your circulation statistics (possibly)
- Better meet patron needs
- Not as biased as Dewey
- Reduce barriers to use
- More flexible & customizable (ex: Countriescan have the geography, culinary, travel, and language all in one place.)

Cons

- It's a lot of work
- Dewey is consistent across libraries
- Ease of staff use (pulling holds, etc.)
- Dewey is more established
- · Patrons are used to it
- You may need more shelf space

Shout Out:

OK, let's have some frank talk here:

What would be the pros of changing your classification system away from Dewey?

What would be the cons?

Cons: Patron/Staff Buy-In (example from New York Library that changed and then "un-did" it.)

Enough with the theory... how does this work in real life?

Three examples:

- BISAC Non-Fiction Categories for adult and children's collections: Pine River Public Library (Bayfield, Colorado)
- Self-Identified Juvenile Categories for Picture Book Collection Hot Sulphur Springs Library (Grand County Library District, Colorado)
- Interfiled Fiction & Non-Fiction by browsable categories (Del Norte Secondary School, Del Norte, Colorado)

Case Study: Pine River Library in Bayfield, CO

- Bayfield is a community in southwestern Colorado, near Durango.
- Population: 2,821 but growing very quickly they serve almost 10,000 people from the surrounding area.
- Collection in 2022 was 21,317 Volumes
- Switched to BISAC Subject Headings for Adult & Juvenile Non-Fiction in 2011-2012
- Adult Fiction is divided into Fiction, Mystery, Sci-Fi/Fantasy and Western



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The Pine River in Bayfield, CO has been on the BISAC catalog system since 2012. It does feel much like a bookstore model, with these custom-made shelf separators to indicate different parts of their collection. The spine labels are arranged by: Broad Category (Nature), subcategory, Trees, and then author's last name within the category. But can you do it in a consortium shared catalog? You sure can...



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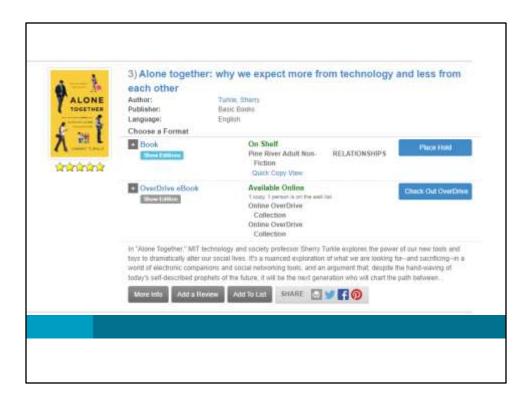
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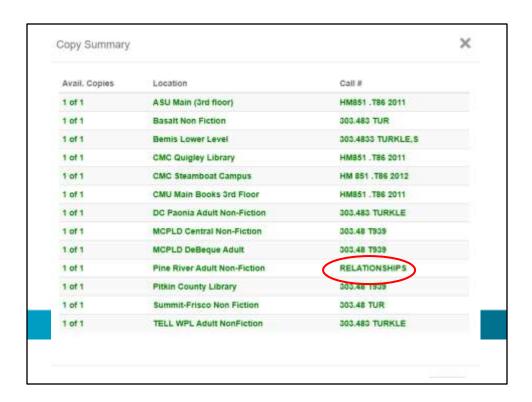
Differences in how spine labels look in a BISAC Library. Then the books are in alphabetical order by title within each category or subcategory.



Signs & Children's (fewer subcategories)



Faceted classification in action: I thought this book would be classified in "Technology," but they saw a different facet and put it in RELATIONSHIPS. ASK: Can anyone tell me what the Dewey call number would be for this title at another Marmot Library? One of 45 people: 303.48 TUR



Pine River is part of a shared catalog consortium, so you when you look at the holdings for the Alone Together title, you see all the libraries that have it. Point out Library of Congress Call #s vs Dewey Call Numbers

From a patron perspective, which of these call numbers makes sense? Does that remove a barrier to use?

Case Study # 2: Hot Sulphur Springs Public Library (Hot Sulphur Springs, CO)

- Hot Sulphur Springs has a population of 873 people
- Part of a 5-Branch County Library System
- SMALL Library: about 500 sq. ft.
- The Librarian decided to put the picture books into browsable categories because parents asked for books by topic, not author.
- Used her own subjects (not BISAC)
- Takeaway: You don't have to do the whole library. Start with one section and gauge how well it works.

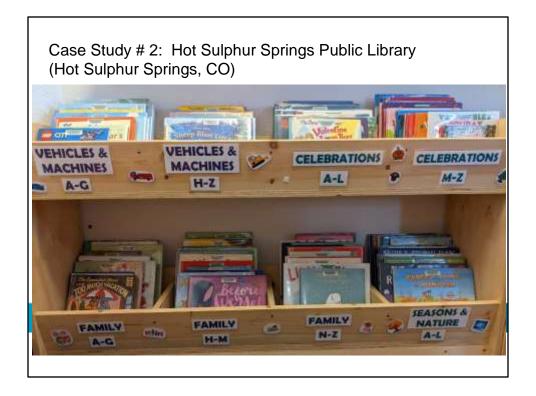


HSS is part of a five-branch system. Town (County Seat of 873 People) Came from requests following story time...

Nimble—they can try things and see how it goes.

TIP: But collect some data before you change things. I often walk into libraries and they tell me—oh, our patrons love this new arrangement. And I ask, "How do you know?" So have some before and after data to back it up.

Small libraries – Picture Books only – start here. But have a PLAN.



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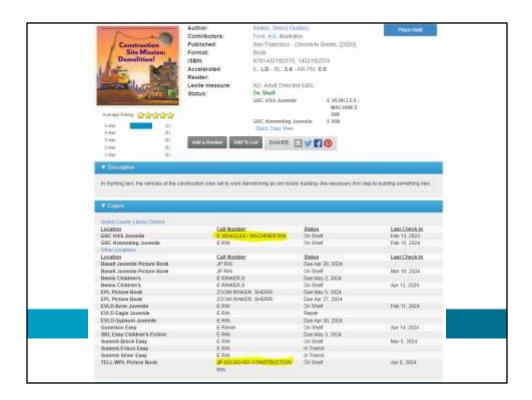
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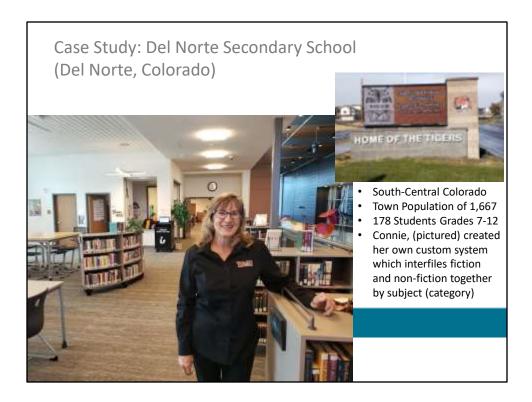
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Small libraries – Picture Books only – start here. But have a PLAN.



More Pictures of HSS





Del Norte Secondary School



I had heard rumors and I had seen YouTube Videos, but it HAS been done Del Norte Secondary School

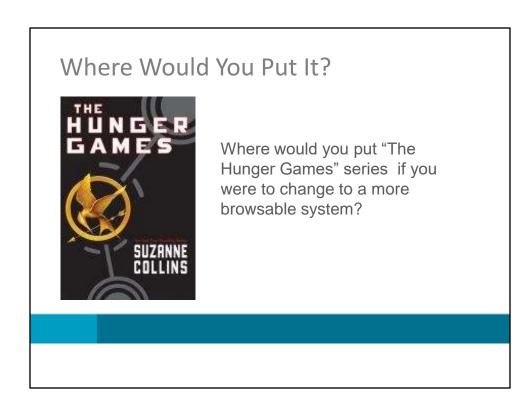


TIME CHECK: 1:40 or earlier! Low-Cost Signage option

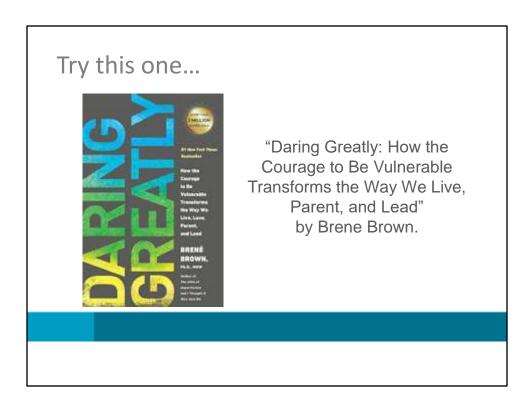
Demco sign markers (Gift Certificate!)

Del Norte Secondary Classification Scheme

FIC or NF	First five letters of author's last name First five letters of author's last name
FIC or NF	First five letters of author's last name
FIC	First five letters of author's last name
FIC	First five letters of author's last name
FIC	First five letters of author's last name
FIC	First five letters of author's last name
FIC	First five letters of author's last name
FIC or NF	First five letters of author's last name
FIC	First five letters of author's last name
FIC	First five letters of author's last name
FIC	First five letters of author's last name
FIC	First five letters of author's last name
FIC	First five letters of author's last name
FIC or NF	First five letters of author's last name
FIC or NF	First five letters of author's last name
FIC or NF	First five letters of author's last name
FIC or NF	First five letters of author's last name
FIC or NF	First five letters of author's last name
FIC or NF	First five letters of author's last name
FIC FIC	or NF or NF or NF



Give brief overview of the book



Self Help?
Parenting?
Psychology?
Social Science?
Business?
Leadership?

Blueprints: Options for HOW it can be done • DO use the resources available to you • DO get staff buy-in and input • DO get patron buy-in and input • REALLY think about how your patrons use the library • Write it ALL Down • Run it by others: if it only makes sense in your head, that may be a problem down the road

This could be a whole separate presentation...

-Students at Silverthorne Elementary

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Blueprints: Ideas for how to do it

- YOU WILL HAVE TO WEED FIRST
- Do it all at once or over time
- Get help or do it all yourself
- Try to have a method in which you touch the books as few times as possible
- Be OK with "a work in progress"
- Delegate some tasks to others if possible





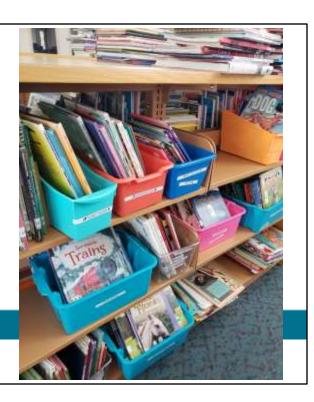
Weed and Collection Map

Over time: Can get patron buy-in

Example: Adventure/Military – had to scrap it

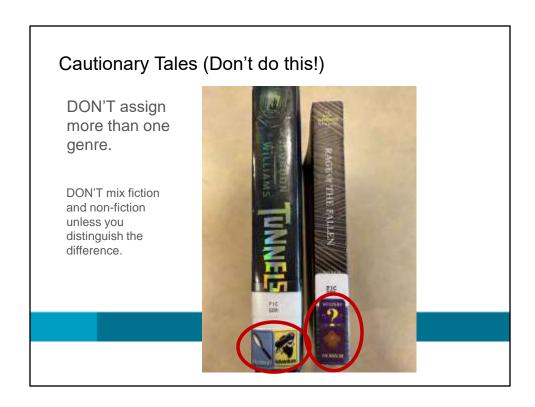
Cautionary Tales:

Think of the librarian who comes after you.

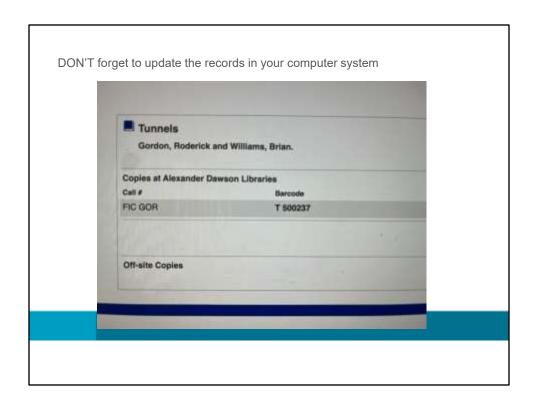


Will she curse your name?

Don't get too granular with your divisions: Animal books verses "Bear Books" Don't create a system that ONLY you understand: "Hockey books are of interest" -- the 4th grade boys found the Hockey Books whether or not I put them in a bin A "dot" on a spine label means NOTHING to the next librarian who will work at your library.



The book can only go in one place on the shelf, so you have to decide.



This should have the call number of MYSTERY FIC GOR A GOOD CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM MUST HAVE:

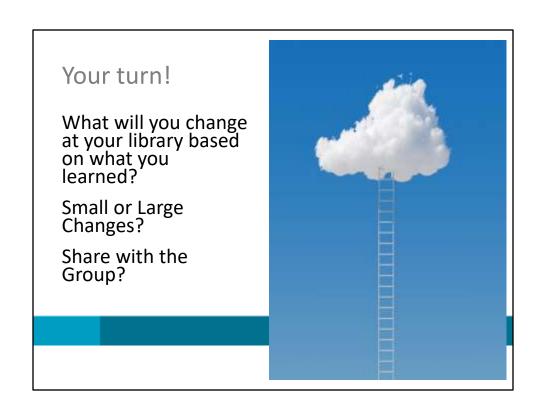
- -Controlled vocabulary
- -Consistent Spine Label Rules
- -Consistent Labeling

"Critical Librarianship acknowledges that invisible intellectual structures actually have a relationship to the material world of knowledge construction."

--Emily Drabinsky, President of the American Library Association

Why does this all matter??

If you get one thing from today, I hope it's that you'll think critically about how our libraries are arranged, and how it may change.



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Connecting. Energizing. Inspiring. Services for libraries throughout Colorado.

We'll wrap up today the way we often do: with this reminder about our mission at CLiC.

And Beyond Colorado!

To learn more

Book Industry Study Group. Complete BISAC Subject Headings List, 2023 Edition. https://www.bisg.org/complete-bisac-subject-headings-list

About Metis: https://sites.google.com/view/metisinnovationsforlibraries/home

Metis Schedules:

 $\label{lem:https://docs.google.com/document/d/1G9sO0FxLtDTbhEbQ54D7tK7Ez6hXpyVgdXyV-0aAT8U/edit$

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