


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)

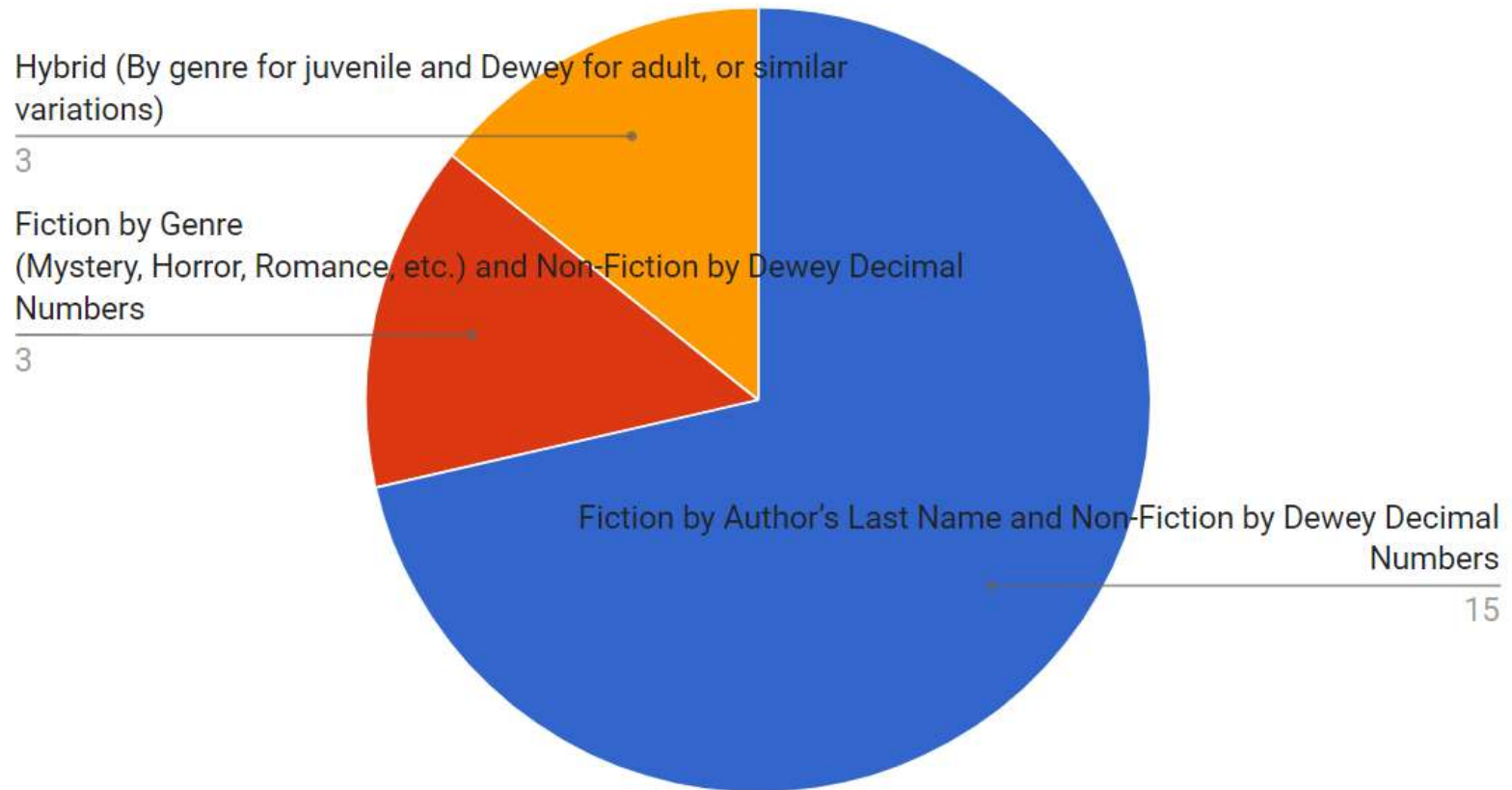


Where will our journey take us today?

- 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
- 

Where do we start?

Which of these most closely describes how your library is currently organized?



21 responses in 21 results

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.

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**



Fake Library Statistics

November 22, 2022 · 🌐



Today ALA will announce the end of the Dewey Decimal System. Starting January 1st libraries will shelve all books by color

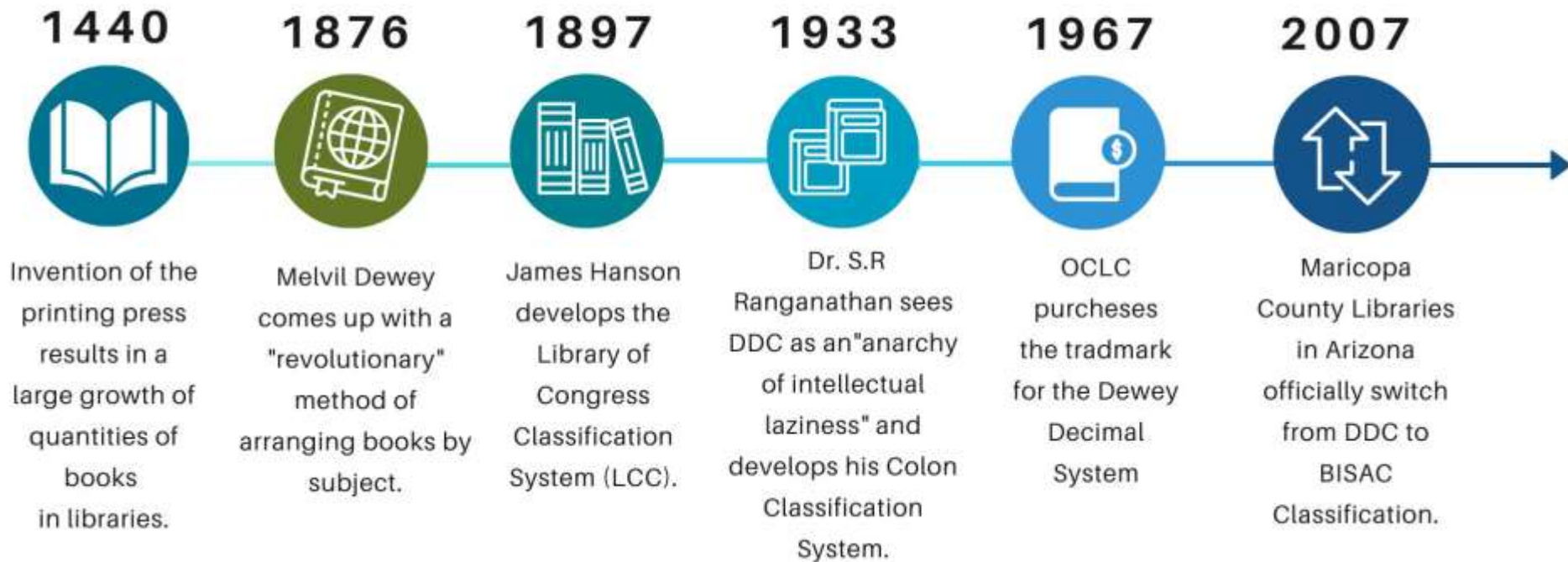


😄👍 4.3K

372 comments 1.3K shares

TIMELINE OF CLASSIFICATION SYSTEMS

More than you probably want to know



The “father” of library science



Melvil Dui

Library of Congress Classification System (LCC)



Library of Congress call number cheat sheet

PS 3511 .I9 G8228 2014

↑
alphabetical
A, B, C... P, PL, PN...

↑
whole number
1, 2, 3... 10, 50, 105...

↑
letter, decimal
.A1, .B2... .G5, .G577, .G8...
(may have more than one
"letter, decimal" pairing)

↑
year
(whole number)
2005, 2006...

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



“Browsable”

vs.

“Genrefied”



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 for small libraries where many patrons “browse” the stacks, a browsable collection can lead to higher circulation.

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

Metis: Child-centered & Flexible

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



How interested are you in changing how your collection is organized?

Yes: the new layout is in the works

3

I would like to, but I'm not sure where to start

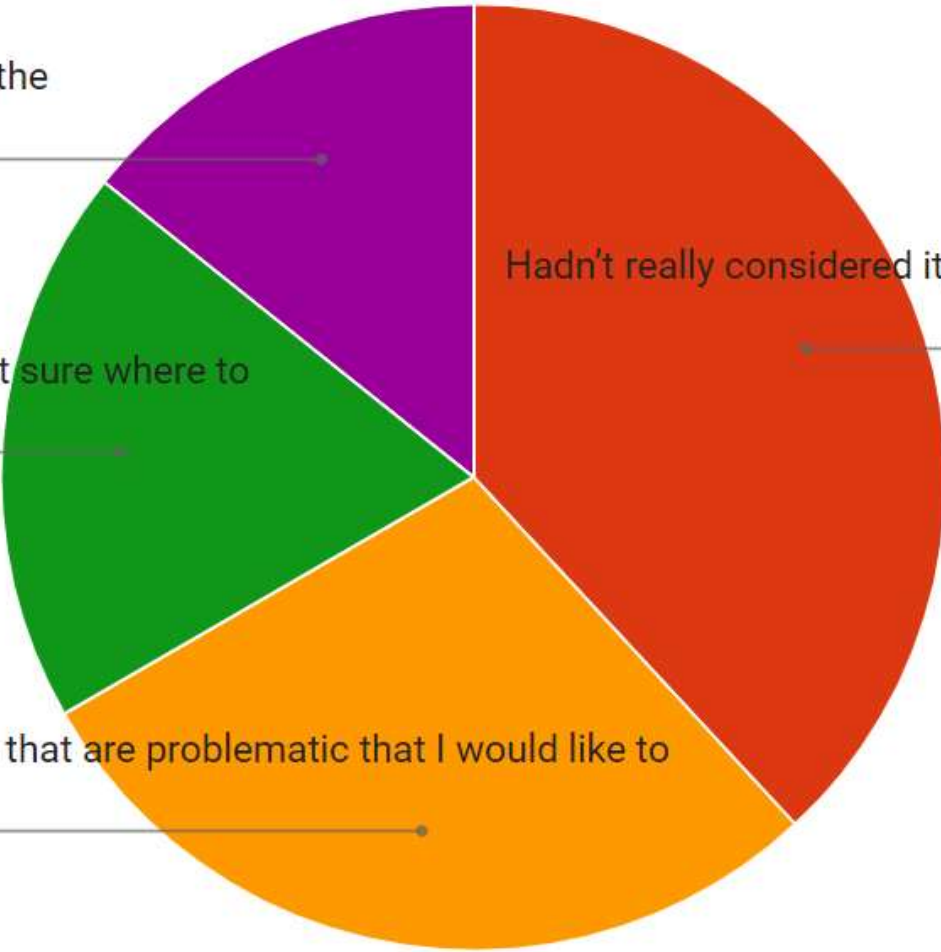
4

There are a few sections that are problematic that I would like to change

6

Hadn't really considered it, but I am always open to ideas

8



21 responses in 21 results

Pros

- Increase your circulation statistics (possibly)
- Better meet patron needs
- Not as biased as Dewey
- Reduce barriers to use
- More flexible & customizable (ex: Countries-can 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

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



Case Study: Pine River Library in Bayfield Signage





Case Study: Pine River Library in Bayfield
Spine Labels



End Cap Signs



Juvenile BISAC
(no subcategories)



Custom shelf-
markers



3) Alone together: why we expect more from technology and less from each other

Author: Turkle, Sherry
Publisher: Basic Books
Language: English

Choose a Format

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <p>+ Book
Show Editions</p> | <p>On Shelf
Pine River Adult Non-Fiction
RELATIONSHIPS
Quick Copy View</p> | <p>Place Hold</p> |
| <p>+ OverDrive eBook
Show Edition</p> | <p>Available Online
1 copy, 1 person is on the wait list.
Online OverDrive Collection
Online OverDrive Collection</p> | <p>Check Out OverDrive</p> |

In "Alone Together," MIT technology and society professor Sherry Turkle explores the power of our new tools and toys to dramatically alter our social lives. It's a nuanced exploration of what we are looking for--and sacrificing--in a world of electronic companions and social networking tools, and an argument that, despite the hand-waving of today's self-described prophets of the future, it will be the next generation who will chart the path between...

[More Info](#)

[Add a Review](#)

[Add To List](#)

SHARE





Avail. Copies	Location	Call #
1 of 1	ASU Main (3rd floor)	HM851 .T86 2011
1 of 1	Basalt Non Fiction	303.483 TUR
1 of 1	Bemis Lower Level	303.4833 TURKLE,S
1 of 1	CMC Quigley Library	HM851 .T86 2011
1 of 1	CMC Steamboat Campus	HM 851 .T86 2012
1 of 1	CMU Main Books 3rd Floor	HM851 .T86 2011
1 of 1	DC Paonia Adult Non-Fiction	303.483 TURKLE
1 of 1	MCPLD Central Non-Fiction	303.48 T939
1 of 1	MCPLD DeBeque Adult	303.48 T939
1 of 1	Pine River Adult Non-Fiction	RELATIONSHIPS
1 of 1	Pitkin County Library	303.48 T939
1 of 1	Summit-Frisco Non Fiction	303.48 TUR
1 of 1	TELL WPL Adult NonFiction	303.483 TURKLE

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

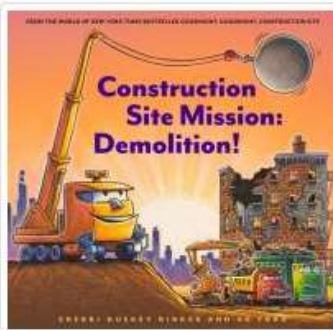
- Hot Sulphur Springs has a population of 873 people
- Part of a 5-Branch County Library System
- SMALL Library: about 500 sq. ft.
- The Librarian decided to put the picture books into browsable categories because parents asked for books by topic, not author.
- Used her own subjects (not BISAC)
- Takeaway: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



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







Average Rating

- 5 star (2)
- 4 star (0)
- 3 star (0)
- 2 star (0)
- 1 star (0)

Author: Rinker, Sherri Duskey,
Contributors: Ford, AG, illustrator.
Published: San Francisco : Chronicle Books, [2020].
Format: Book
ISBN: 9781452182575, 1452182574
Accelerated IL: **LG** - BL: **3.6** - AR Pts: **0.5**
Reader:
Lexile measure: AD: Adult Directed 640L
Status: **On Shelf**

GRC HSS Juvenile E VEHICLES / MACHINES RIN
 GRC Kremmling Juvenile E RIN
[Quick Copy View](#)

Place Hold

[Add a Review](#)
[Add To List](#)
[SHARE](#)

▼ Description

In rhyming text, the vehicles of the construction crew set to work demolishing an old rickety building--the necessary first step to building something new.

▼ Copies

Grand County Library District			
Location	Call Number	Status	Last Check-In
GRC HSS Juvenile	E VEHICLES / MACHINES RIN	On Shelf	Feb 13, 2023
GRC Kremmling Juvenile	E RIN	On Shelf	Feb 10, 2024
Other Locations			
Location	Call Number	Status	Last Check-In
Basalt Juvenile Picture Book	JP RIN	Due Apr 20, 2024	
Basalt Juvenile Picture Book	JP RIN	On Shelf	Mar 18, 2024
Bemis Children's	E RINKER,S	Due May 2, 2024	
Bemis Children's	E RINKER,S	On Shelf	Apr 12, 2024
EPL Picture Book	ZOOM RINKER, SHERRI	Due May 5, 2024	
EPL Picture Book	ZOOM RINKER, SHERRI	Due Apr 27, 2024	
EVLD Avon Juvenile	E RIN	On Shelf	Feb 11, 2024
EVLD Eagle Juvenile	E RIN	Repair	
EVLD Gypsum Juvenile	E RIN	Due Apr 30, 2024	
Gunnison Easy	E Rinker	On Shelf	Apr 14, 2024
SRL Easy Children's Fiction	E RIN	Due May 3, 2024	
Summit-Breck Easy	E RIN	On Shelf	Mar 5, 2024
Summit-Frisco Easy	E RIN	In Transit	
Summit-Silver Easy	E RIN	In Transit	
TELL WPL Picture Book	JP GO-GO-GO CONSTRUCTION RIN	On Shelf	Apr 6, 2024

Case Study: Del Norte Secondary School (Del Norte, Colorado)



- South-Central Colorado
- Town Population of 1,667
- 178 Students Grades 7-12
- Connie, (pictured) created her own custom system which interfiles fiction and non-fiction together by subject (category)

Inter-shelved Fiction & Non-Fiction by Genre



Low-Cost Signage (recycled DVD cases)

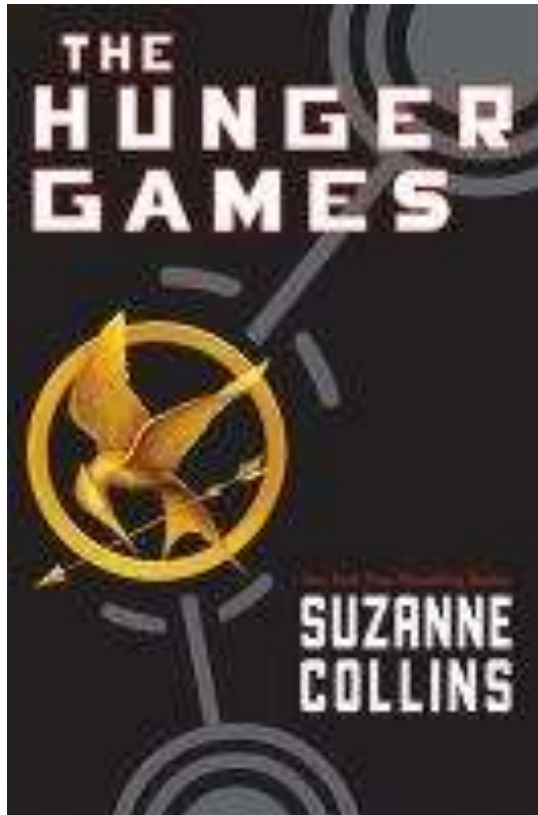
Or Demco Signs



Del Norte Secondary Classification Scheme

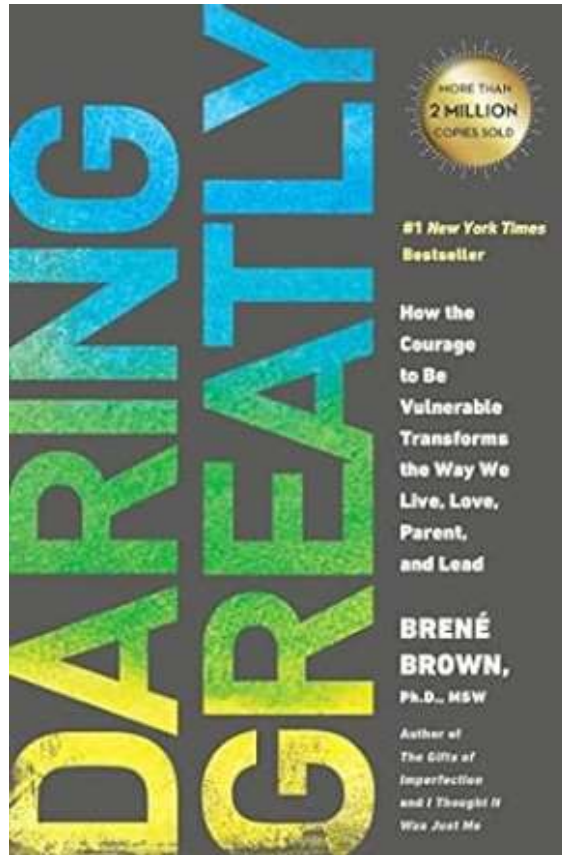
Genre	Spine line 1	Spine line 2	Spine line 3	Spine line 4
ADVENTURE	ADV		FIC	First five letters of author's last name
and Survival	ADV	SUR	FIC or NF	First five letters of author's last name
Contemporary	CONT		FIC	First five letters of author's last name
Dystopian	DYSTO		FIC	First five letters of author's last name
Fantasy	FANT		FIC	First five letters of author's last name
Historical Fiction	HIST		FIC	First five letters of author's last name
LGBTQ+	LGBT		FIC	First five letters of author's last name
Mystery/Myths	MYS/MYT		FIC or NF	First five letters of author's last name
Paranormal	PARA		FIC	First five letters of author's last name
Romance	ROMA		FIC	First five letters of author's last name
Science Fiction	SCIE		FIC	First five letters of author's last name
Thriller/Suspense	THR/SUS		FIC	First five letters of author's last name
Spies/Espionage	SPI/ESP		FIC	First five letters of author's last name
Humorous	HUMOR		FIC or NF	First five letters of author's last name
Comics & Graphics	COM/GRA		FIC or NF	First five letters of author's last name
SPORTS	SPORT		FIC or NF	First five letters of author's last name
Baseball	SPORT	BASE	FIC or NF	First five letters of author's last name
Basketball	SPORT	BASK	FIC or NF	First five letters of author's last name
Football	SPORT	FT BALL	FIC or NF	First five letters of author's last name

Where Would You Put It?



Where would you put “The Hunger Games” series if you were to change to a more browsable system?

Try this one...



“Daring Greatly: How the Courage to Be Vulnerable Transforms the Way We Live, Parent, and Lead”
by Brené Brown.

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



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



Cautionary Tales:

Think of the
librarian
who comes
after you.




Cautionary Tales (Don't do this!)

DON'T assign more than one genre.

DON'T mix fiction and non-fiction unless you distinguish the difference.



DON'T forget to update the records in your computer system

 Tunnels	
Gordon, Roderick and Williams, Brian.	
Copies at Alexander Dawson Libraries	
Call #	Barcode
FIC GOR	T 500237
Off-site Copies	

“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

Your turn!

What will you change
at your library based
on what you
learned?

Small or Large
Changes?

Share with the
Group?



Anna Szczepanski, Colleague on Call Consultant
Colorado Library Consortium

aszczepanski@clicweb.org

720-739-5366



Connecting. Energizing. Inspiring.
Services for libraries throughout
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:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1G9sO0FxFtDTbhEbQ54D7tK7Ez6hXpyVgdXyV-0aAT8U/edit>

Hot Sulphur Springs Library: Rationale & Process:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/19TRMKNKCKYNYQL-6DcqioLsrU5arCWao7IYCMHxUeJh8/edit?usp=sharing>

Hoadley, Deb. June 2012 BISAC: A New Way To Organize (Video Series)

<https://vimeo.com/showcase/2375809>

Franzen, Mara. Alternatives to the Dewey Decimal System. Book Riot, June 22, 2022. <https://bookriot.com/alternatives-to-the-dewey-decimal-system/>

Wiegand, Wayne A. Irrepressible Reformer: A Biography of Melvil Dewey

<https://www>

References

American Heritage <https://www.americanheritage.com/melvil-dewey>

Ford, Anne. "Bringing Harassment Out of the History Books: Addressing the troubling aspects of Melvil Dewey's legacy. American Libraries online. <https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/2018/06/01/melvil-dewey-bringing-harassment-out-of-the-history-books/>

Lambert, Isadora. Melvil Dewey Day: Examining the Problematic Roots of the Dewey Decimal System. December 10, 2021. <https://videolibrarian.com/articles/essays/examining-the-problematic-roots-dewey-decimal-system/>

LaValle, Andrew. Discord over Dewey. Wall Street Journal, July 20, 2007. <https://www.wsj.com/articles/SB118340075827155554>

Lin, Library. The Dewey Decimal System: A Brief History. <https://librarylin.com/the-dewey-decimal-system-a-brief-history/>

Library of Congress Classification. June 23, 2020. Librarianship Studies and Information Technology (blog post). <https://www.librarianshipstudies.com/2017/11/library-of-congress-classification.html>

Wiegand, Wayne A. Irrepressible Reformer: A Biography of Melvil Dewey <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/1282932.Irrepressible>