

## DEWEY DECIMAL SYSTEM

Melvil Dewey invented a system called the Dewey Decimal System in 1876 which brought much-needed order to libraries. The system is made up of ten main classes organized by disciplines or fields of study. All other subdivisions follow under each discipline. This ensures that each book will have its own unique call number and place on the shelf.

000 Generalities	100 Philosophy & psychology
200 Religion	300 Social sciences
400 Language	500 Natural sciences & mathematics
600 Technology (Applied sciences)	700 The arts
800 Literature & rhetoric	900 Geography & history

### How to read a DDC call number:

The best way to get used to DDC call numbers is to review and compare examples of books in different subject areas. Examples:

Robinson, Richard H. *The Buddhist Religion: A Historical Introduction*. California: Wadsworth, 1982. **Call number 294.3**

200 represents Religion  
290 represents Other and Comparative religion  
294 represents Religions of Indic origin  
294.3 represents Buddhism

Gootman, Marilyn E. (2001) *The Caring Teacher's Guide to Discipline*. California: Corwin Press. **Call number 371.102**

300 represents Social Sciences  
370 represents Education  
371 represents Generalities of education  
371.102 represents Teaching: including teacher-student relations

### How DDC Classified Books are Ordered on the Shelves:

Every DDC call number begins with three numbers (003 is never written as 3 in DDC) some with decimal numbers followed by various letters, and/or number combinations.

Numbers to the left of the decimal point in DDC are whole numbers. Therefore 015 comes before 150.

Numbers to the right are decimal numbers. Therefore 970.13 comes before 970.3.