How To Use the Dewey Decimal System

The Dewey Decimal System organizes information into 10 broad areas, which are broken into smaller and smaller topics. Different topics are assigned numbers, known as "call numbers." For example, "Tigers" are given the number 599.756. To see what books the library currently has in on tigers, go to the nonfiction shelves and find the books that have that number on their spine label. A list of some of the information you can find in the different Dewey Decimal areas appears below. Use the Library's Catalog to search for specific subjects.

Dewey Decimal System

- **000 General Knowledge**
  Computers and the Internet, UFOs and Unexplained Mysteries, Almanacs, Encyclopedias, Libraries, Museums, Newspapers, World Records...

- **100 Psychology and Philosophy**
  Death & Dying, Ethics, Emotions and Feelings, Logic, Making Friends, Optical Illusions, Superstitions...

- **200 Religions and Mythology**
  Amish, Bible Stories, Buddhism, Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Quakers, and other world religions; Greek, Roman and other myths...

- **300 Social Sciences and Folklore**
  Careers, Customs, Environment, Families, Folktales, Government, Manners, Money, Recycling, Transportation...

- **400 Languages and Grammar**
  Dictionaries, English grammar, Sign Language, Arabic, Spanish and other languages from around the world...

- **500 Math and Science**
  Animals, Biology, Chemistry, Dinosaurs, Fish, Fossils, Geology, Insects, Physics, Planets, Plants, Stars, Weather...

- **600 Medicine and Technology**
  Cookbooks, Engineering, Farming, Health, Human Body, Inventions, Manufacturing, Pets, Nutrition, Robots and Space Science...

- **700 Arts and Recreation**
  Architecture, Crafts, Drawing, Games, Jokes, Movies, Music, Puppets, Songbooks, Sports...

- **800 Literature**
  Children's Literature Anthologies, Plays, Poetry, Shakespeare, Writing Process...

- **900 Geography and History**
  Ancient World, Biographies, Countries, Native Americans, States, Travel, Wars...

To learn even more about the Dewey Decimal System, see:

- The Dewey Program at the Library of Congress
- Dewey Services from OCLC : Online Computer Library Center

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