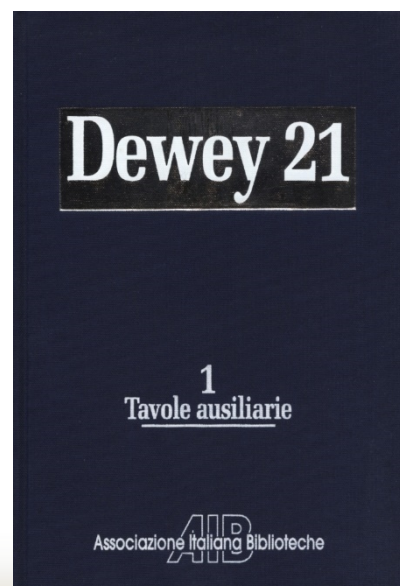

Classification Systems

DEWEY... OR SOMETHING ELSE...

Who I Am:

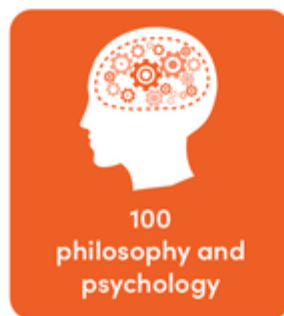
- My name is Emily O'Neal, I work at Deschutes Public Library in Bend Oregon.
- I am the Technical Services Manager
- I am a member and former Chair of the OLA Technical Services Roundtable
 - SIDE NOTE: We are always excited for new members! If interested, please let me know and I can give you the details!
- I've lead a number of initiatives on what Technical Services can do to create a more inclusive library catalog

Which Brings us to Dewey....



The typical public library Classification System

The Dewey Decimal System

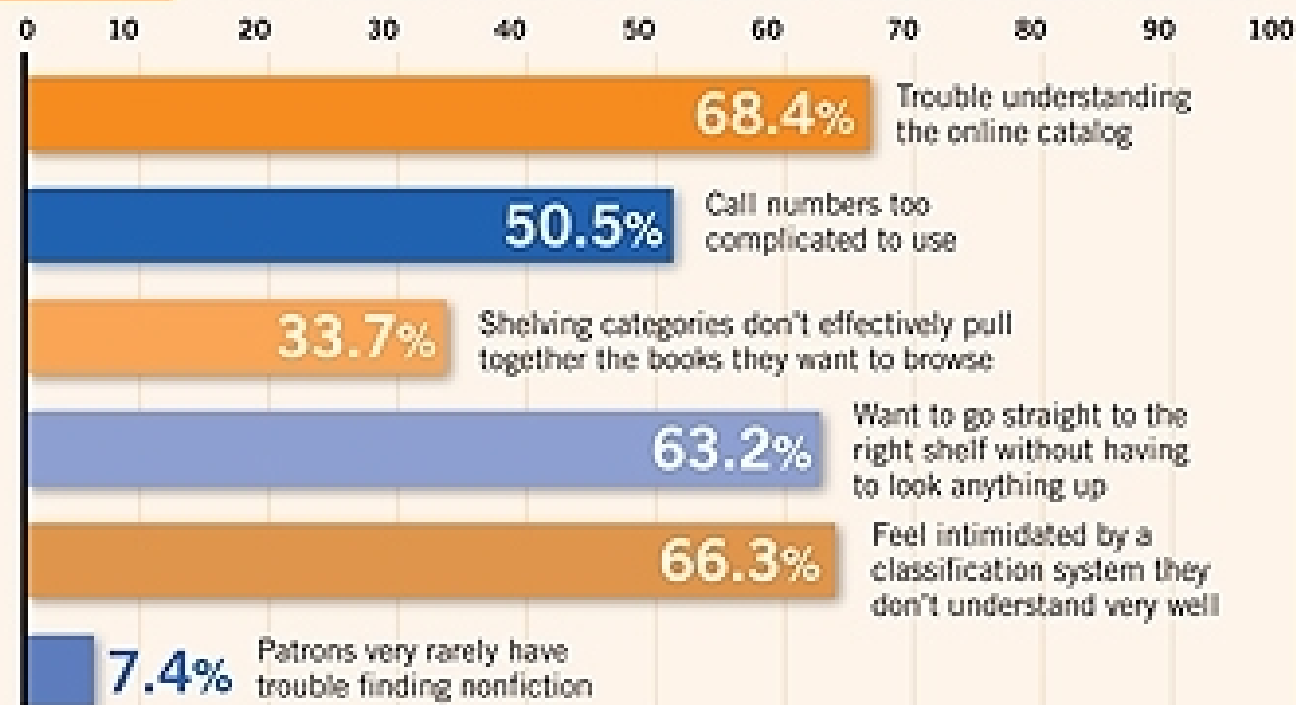


If it ain't broke don't fix it...

- But it is broken! Here are the three main reasons why:
 1. Customers don't know how to use the system
 2. It is best suited for “known item finding” not browsing – and browsing increases circulation!
 3. Melvin Dewey AND his created system is full of bias

The Dewey Dilemma

TABLE 1 WHY PATRONS HAVE TROUBLE FINDING NONFICTION



SOURCE: ONLINE DEWEY SURVEY CONDUCTED BY BARBARA FISTER, 2009



Why do guides about “how to navigate a library” need to exist?

Understanding the Dewey Decimal System

Division
{Drawing/Decorative Arts}

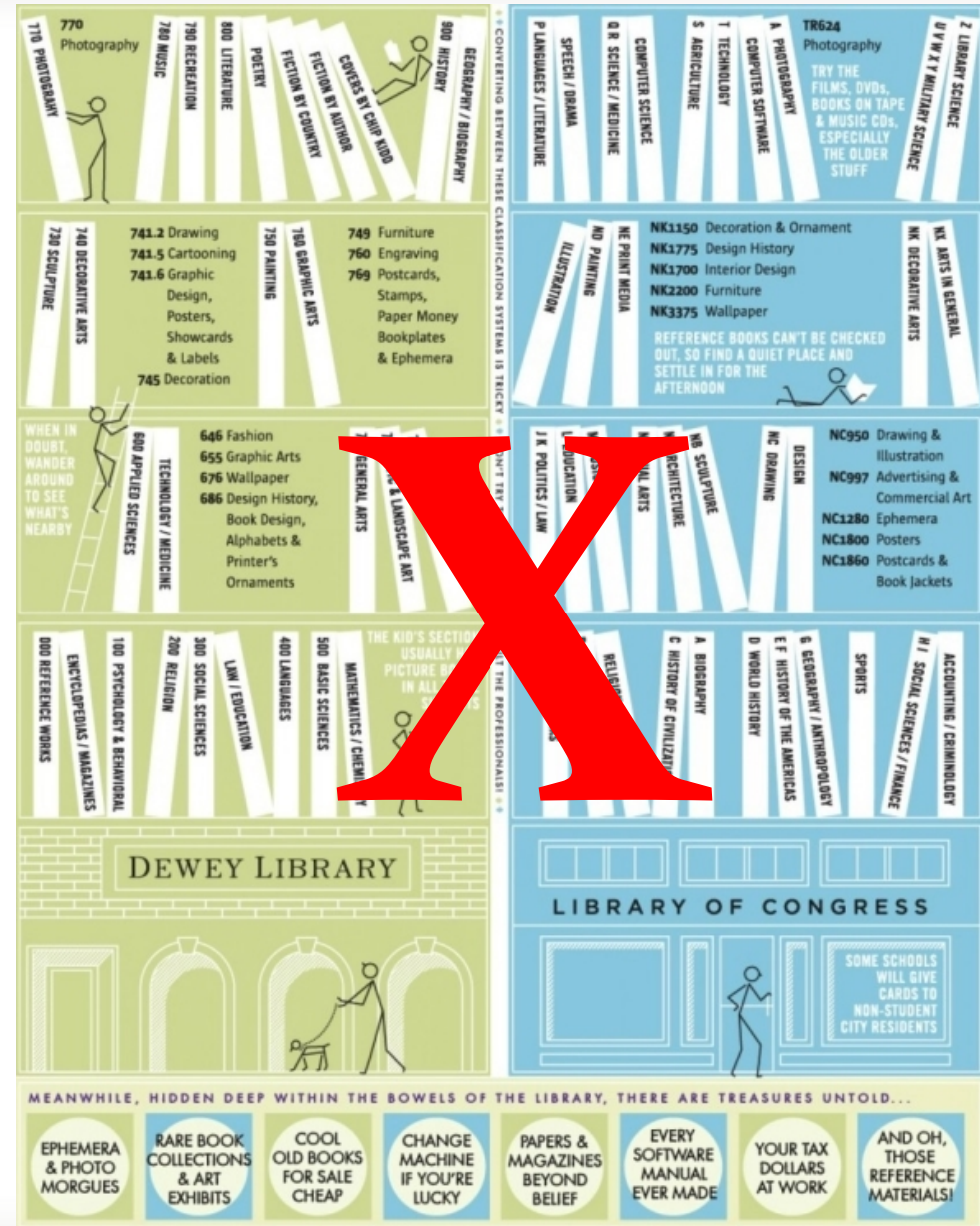
746.43

Section
{Textile Arts}

Main Class
{Art}

Classification
Within the Section
{Type of Textile}

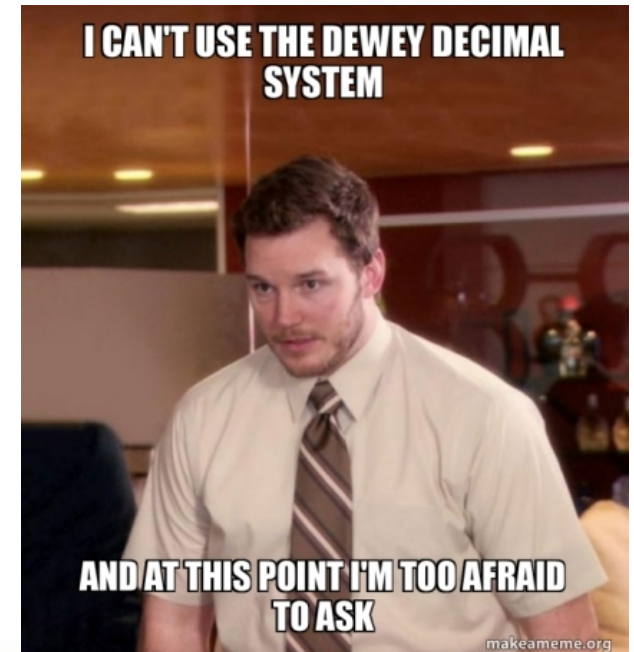
amyallender.com



Advantages for Word Based categories

Puts customer experience first

- Easier to use
- Easier to browse
- Encourages spontaneous discovery
- Increases collection use



We've seen this before...

Picture Book Categories

An easy way to find picture books!

Animals

Farm, wildlife, animal characters

Celebrations

Holidays, birthdays, special times

Concepts

Alphabet, counting, colors, shapes, and more

Dinosaurs

Roar with the dinosaurs

Favorites

Beloved authors and characters

Growing Up

Potty training, bedtime, tough times, and more

Make Believe

Princesses, pirates, monsters, fairies

Our World

Community helpers, cultures, history

Pets

Cats, dogs, gerbils, hamsters

Play

Puzzles, singing, sports, movement

Science & Nature

Gardening, weather, seasons, outdoors, space

Stories

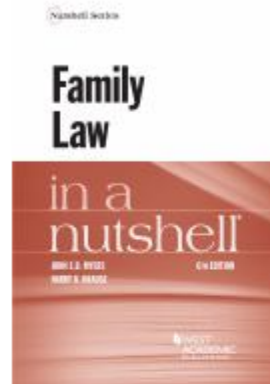
General topics

Things That Go

Trucks, cars, planes, trains

Toddler

Books for the very young



Family Law in A Nutshell

by Myers, John E. B.

Book - 2017

Copies: 1

Available (1)

Location ↕	Collection ↕	Call No. ↕
Downtown Bend	Bend Law - Circulating	FAMILY 346.015 MYERS JOHN

Advantages for Word Based categories

Supports Equity, Diversity & Inclusion initiatives



Religion Example

- The 200's range for religions offers 90% of the range, 200-290 to Christianity alone.
- no other religion besides Christianity is covered until 290.
- Given that there are more than 4000 religions in the world, saving a mere 10 numbers for their classification does not leave a lot of room for basically ANYTHING else.
- As an example, to get to Buddhism, it is 6 points past the decimal, which at DPL is an issue, as we do not even cuter past the fifth digit.
- This essentially means that all Eastern Religions are lumped together as “other”.
- In addition, a final point here, Wicca is currently classified under the paranormal, rather than a recognized religion.

The Same Can be said for:

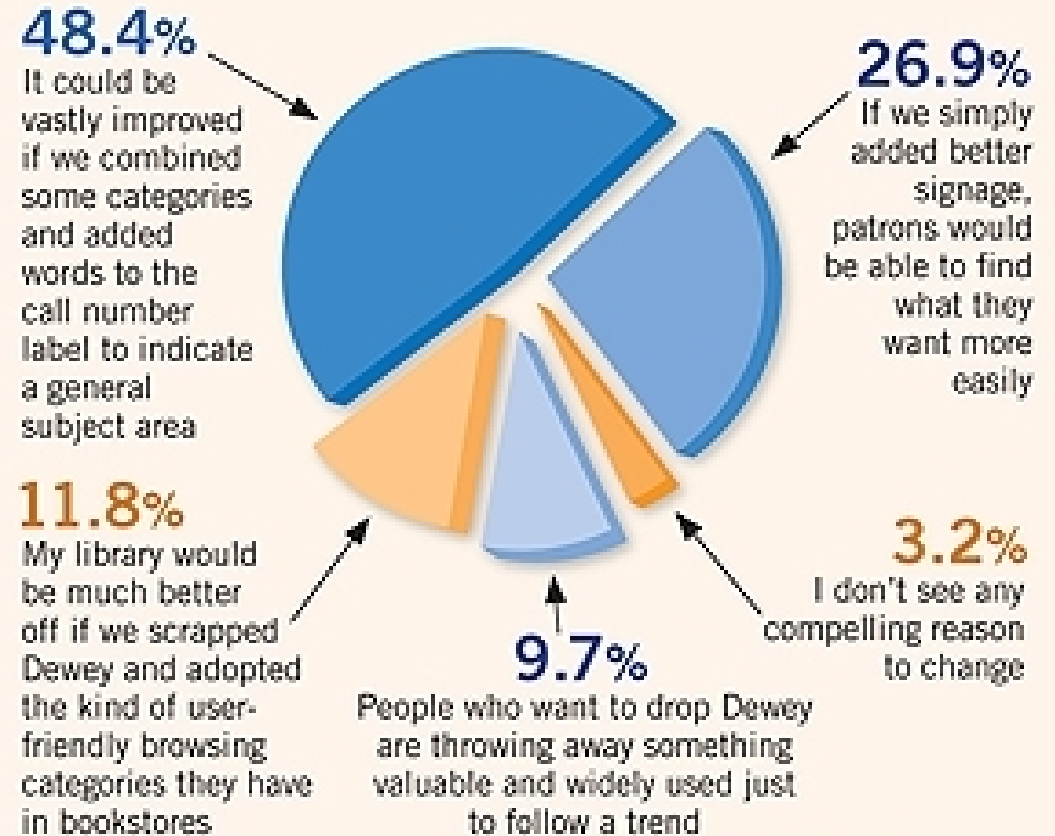
- Languages
- Gender
- History



Some benefits of Dewey

- Better subject granularity
- Easier to find one specific item or title
- Library industry “gets it”
 - Staff
 - Vendors

CHART 1 WHAT'S YOUR TAKE ON DEWEY?



SOURCE: ONLINE DEWEY SURVEY CONDUCTED BY BARBARA FISTER, 2009

So you are saying what exactly?

In order to fix what is broken (Dewey), in an effort to allow customers to more easily find what they are looking for, and remove bias in our foundation system, it starts with OUR willingness to change!



Options Do Exist!

Examples:

- Genrefication
- BISAC
- Self created
- GLADES



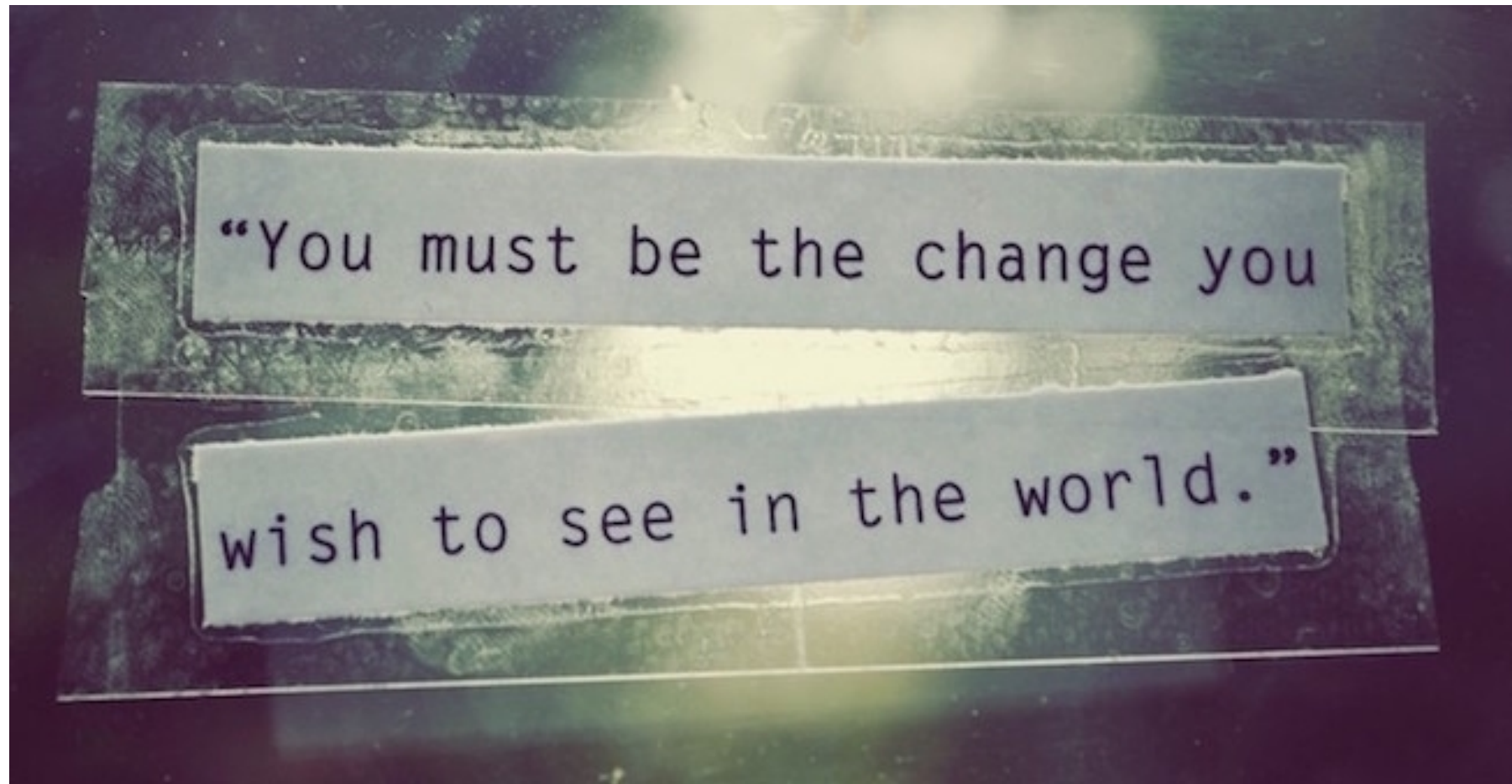
Examples:

- Maricopa
(Phoenix Are)
- Anythink
(Colorado)
- Deschutes!
Bend, OR

You may be doing something similar already! Genrefication in Fiction



It CAN be done!





Emily O'Neal – emilyo@deschuteslibrary.org