Dip into Dewey

Ten Main classes

The Dewey Decimal system is used in libraries around the world. It divides information into classes by using numbers and letters to help group similar books, on similar subjects together. This means that they are easier to find on a library’s shelves.

The Dewey Decimal System is divided into ten main classes:

000  Computer science & encyclopaedia
100  Philosophy & psychology (Ethics)
200  Religion (The Bible, Saints)
300  Social Sciences – (Energy, Environment, Conservation)
400  Language – (Dictionaries)
500  Science – (Mathematics, Plants, Animals)
600  Technology – (Health, Food)
700  Arts & recreation - (Painting, Photography, Sport)
800  Literature – (Quotations, Poetry, Plays)
900  History & Geography

Past the decimal point

The ten main classes are broken down into smaller topics … the bigger the number the more detail about that subject or class you can find in a book.

For example:

On this spine label the 994 … tells us the book is about Australian history
The 65 beyond the decimal point says that it is a book about Launceston.
But you do not have to worry about what they mean … just use the number to find the book you are after on the library shelves.