

Guide to Library Organisation: the Dewey Decimal System

In the Learning Centre, we use the **Dewey Decimal Classification System** to arrange our books. This is the same system used at most university libraries.

Introducing the Dewey Decimal System

The **DDC** or **Dewey** is the system used by most public and academic libraries in the UK to organise their collections of books and resources.

The DDC lists different subjects/topics and gives each of them a number. These **subject numbers** (also called **class marks**) are the numbers we use to organise our books on the library shelves so that similar topics appear together.

This guide will introduce you to the basics of the Dewey Decimal System. Understanding how the Dewey system works will help you to navigate the library effectively!

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INTO 

MANCHESTER

A Brief Summary of Dewey Numbers

In the below table are the 10 overarching themes of the Dewey sequence. Knowing these number ranges will give you a general idea of where certain topics will be.

Dewey Number	Subject
000	Computer Science, Information and General Works
100	Philosophy and Psychology
200	Religion
300	Social Science
400	Language
500	Science
600	Technology
700	Arts and Recreation
800	Literature
900	History and Geography

Useful Dewey Numbers at INTO

Below are some of the more specific Dewey numbers which you may need to refer to when studying at INTO Manchester.

Dewey Number	Subject
320	Politics
330	Economics
428.24	English as a Second Language
510	Mathematics
530	Physics
540	Chemistry
570	Biology
650	Business
658	Management
746.92	Textile Design

Looking for a Specific Book

If you are looking for a specific book, use the library catalogue to find the Dewey number. You can then use this to navigate the Learning Centre and find your book!

If you can't find what you're looking for please ask the learning centre staff!

You can find **Help Videos** and **further guides** on how to use resources effectively on our website or via *Learning Centre (Research Skills)* on **Brightspace**.

Any other questions? Just ask.

Contact Us:

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