

Chat Contributions from CSL In Session - Dewey or Don't We?

with Becky Russell, Colorado State Library, January 22, 2014

What are the benefits you foresee in transitioning to this model?

- ease of access for kids
- patrons would be able to find things more easily
- Patrons are used to thinking in subjects - they may not care to learn the classification system
- Increase circulation and student engagement
- once system is learned, easier to find
- Benefits: kids can more easily find books of a genre interest.
- ease in browsing
- hopefully an increase in circulation
- and it's more intuitive
- higher circulation
- Kids can find books easier...more intuitive
- understood better
- Makes sections more naturally browsable
- Much easier for patrons to find things related to a particular topic
- People can go straight to the shelf for the subject they're looking for
- Deeper alignment with curriculum content
- Benefit: It will help our patrons find resources more easily.
- Happier patrons
- Easier for patrons to find materials - don't have to look in both non-fiction and reference both for example
- easier for customers to understand without explanation from staff
- Able to find more books through browsing mode.
- Already in Dewey, I want to see how others are 'doing it'; we won't change
- My students will be able to find books in their interest area more easily
- patrons that are unfamiliar with dewey are intimidated by it.
- What everybody else said... :-)
- Allows patrons to seamlessly use our services/collections.
- Our DVDs are already by topic, this will make sense with that!
- yes, Dewey can be intimidating and confusing
- Better for ELL and SpEd learners
- :We're thinking of doing fiction only in this model.
- Flexibility for collections to shift depending on curriculum focus
- Yes, less explanation from staff. Save staff time.
- Student helpers can actually shelve NF!!
- Just want to see the other options out there
- Finding materials isn't a challenge
- Still support Dewey for organizing Adult nonfic but ideal to create browsing environment for children's materials
- We already shelve our popular picture book topics this way
- combined format dewey, one stop subject shop

- Why should our patrons have to be trained to use our collection/find material? It should be the other way around.
- We're more interested in getting books in people's hands than worrying about traditional librarianship

What are some challenges you see in transitioning?

- people don't always like change
- no standardization
- It's harder to find something specific
- afraid kids won't know how to use dewey when they go somewhere else that has it
- confusion
- new system to teach staff
- Cataloging and labeling!
- time to actually transition
- TIME
- transition is large
- Cataloging and labeling
- Different from our local public libraries.
- librarian is the only who really knows where things are
- other librarians don't want to give it up
- I agree about children losing the ability to use dewey if they are at another place
- Time to transition within the work day.
- Hard to determine headings to use
- Who decides where items will go?
- Not a lot of time to re-catalog
- Some patrons might be confused if they are already used to Dewey - time consuming - what about people go somewhere else
- patrons used to the old layout
- the transition feels like completely starting over
- Cataloging standpoint highly time consuming and puts NEW books on the backburner.
- Miss-shelved materials new vs. old
- resistance from cataloging department
- no standardization
- perception that I'm lazy
- Time and effort in redoing it all
- where to put books that are multi-genre
- classifying fiction
- cataloging, labeling, & deciding where items go (what subject)
- We just finished a huge weeding project and committing to a new bigger project is daunting.
- yuck :)
- time required to retro classification
- How to organize within the categories
- categorizing the books, what to do with books that meet more than one category
- Culture shift..

- May be a moot issue because of the increase of nonfiction ebook content
- no one will see that work
- resistance to change
- Kids do not know how to use the dewey system and it would be easier I think to just file the books under categories but not really sure how to go about it.
- teaching student basic library skills
- dumbing down of society perception
- If you teach kids about classification, it doesn't matter what that system is.
- teaching library skills that are transferrable to other libraries
- totally not work related, but my tattoos won't mean anything :))
- Why are we lazy when this is just another way to organize the books?
- So every library will be different? Where's standardization?
- how to address areas that are underserved.
- We are there to help the patron to find what they want regardless of where it is or how it is cataloged. Bookstores often can't find their items!
- isn't BISAC a standard system?
- Jolie, the "dumbing down" perception is pretty significant. "It was good enough for MY generation!"
- Are we dumbing down society? Ultimately making it hard in the end for patrons?
- what's BSAC?
- wasn't Dewey originally supposed to make things easier?
- Shouldn't worry about standardization because you are trying to create collections that match demographics, curriculum content, and grade level
- BISAC is the bookstore model of classification.
- BISAC is a bookstore-style organization model
- We're using the BISAC categories in Ingram and chose which ones we want to use.
- That is marvelous!!
- better
- ah ha

What are some of the reasons your library is considering dropping Dewey?

- we are using it in our patient library at our hospital and the clients really like it
- YEA!!
- i may not work in a bookstore, but I want my student to read. I'm willing to give up control if they read more.
- I'm trying to teach students to find materials no matter what library they are in, school, public, college (Dewey transitions to LOC)
- I want them to read wherever they go to school
- i admit that i never used my university's library in part because i was so accustomed to dewey (which i grew up with) and didn't want to learn another system
- I'm in youth services - we think it'd be easier for youth. Overall - higher circulation
- Getting kids to read more books!
- ditto Maria
- My library is not considering it but I'm curious
- less need for staff to help people find NF books

- Ease of browsing for the kids.
- more user friendly
- I work in an elementary school, public
- It's not how our patrons ask for materials or browse. And our DVDs are already in topics, so the books should match.
- We are a prison and it's easier for the offenders to find things they want to read.
- easier for ELL
- Easier for young children to locate books
- We are in the beginning stages of new carpet, shelving, paint and wonder if this is a trend that is sticking?
- Our patrons are intimidated by dewey numbers.
- Do you have any standardization compared to other libraries?
- Ease of use for end user seems to be a common theme!
- we want to be trendy
- Robin, ours are too.
- So true, Robin!!
- I'm afraid of trendy!!!
- Looking to heighten circulation.
- We have a small collection and often the people helping our hospital inpatients are not knowledgeable about Dewey
- Good to know about the hospital perspective, Kate!
- How can dewey be secret when all the schools teach it? I start at 3rd grade???
- Yes, all the prisons think Dewey is a secret code
- extra long numbers wrap around the spines
- Interesting Sandy!
- I have high circulation and a layout that would make this difficult. See the advantages for small library or children section but can't see it for other areas.

How would you break down science materials at your library?

- domestic vs wild?
- I do it alphabetical
- Agree with Erin
- pets
- mammals,
- animal vs. reptile
- different groups - reptiles, mammals, pets, etc.
- mammals reptiles birds
- Dinosaurs would get its own sub-category for sure!
- marine
- barn animals, farms
- habitat, land sea air?
- extinct
- no dinos are birds
- we use nature/animal type and also pets
- reptiles
- piggy backing on dinos :)

- endangered?
- I don't think I'd separate out pets...

What Data Would Make An Impact on Your Principal, Superintendent?

- Higher circ statistics
- Book selection habits and Circulation stats.
- Increased usage
- higher circs, maybe
- Or any supervisor, for you public library people?
- Kids reading
- Improved customer service.
- increased usage - both reading and teachers using the library.
- If struggling readers are accessing more materials?
- I think kids would see more books that interest them.
- successful students and staff - I have teachers who also struggle with Dewey
- books that don't usually get checked out will then be checked out
- Kids diving into areas they may not have used. Higher circ in that area.
- Higher circ was definitely something our board was looking for
- do you have issues with declining circs?
- Indirectly, we could show that increase circulation = increased test scores
- yes, test scores are the bottom line for many
- As far as ditching Dewey in adult NF... I think adults are more often looking for a specific book, so the current system MAY be better for adults.
- Interesting stats!
- I could see it increasing the amount of non-fiction books students would pick out to read instead of just fiction
- Thinking of how we can share impact is so important...This is a great question to think about