

## Dewey Decimal Classification: A study of changes made in its 23<sup>rd</sup> edition

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### ABSTRACT

Growth of knowledge is a continuous process. Huge amount of literature is added every year, thus giving birth to new concepts. The basic purpose of any classification scheme is to map the existing knowledge. It is really a challenge before the classificationists to revise the scheme from time to time so that new concepts or branches of knowledge can be accommodated in the scheme. Only one scheme i.e. Dewey Decimal Classification emerged unique out of so many classification schemes, the reason is continuous revision and updation. OCLC has adopted a continuous revision policy for the revision of Dewey Decimal Classification. That is why the 23<sup>rd</sup> edition of DDC is released in May 2011 for USA and in July 2011 for rest of the world. The present paper highlights the different milestones fallen in the journey of DDC from its 1<sup>st</sup> edition to 23<sup>rd</sup> edition. The new features of DDC 23 and major changes have also been discussed in the paper.

**Keywords:** Library Classification; Dewey Decimal Classification; Recent Trends in Classification; Recent Advances in Classification.

### INTRODUCTION

Library classification is necessary for every big library to process its collection and arrange the documents on shelves. For this purpose, one or the other scheme of classification is used in each and every big library. To maintain the relevancy of a classification scheme, it must be continually revised and expanded. The Decimal Classification Editorial Policy Committee (EPC) is responsible for revisions and expansions in DDC. EPC was established in 1937 to serve as an advisory body to the DDC. The 23<sup>rd</sup> edition of DDC is released in May 2011 for USA and in July 2011 for rest of the world<sup>1</sup>. This new edition incorporates a number of welcome changes.

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### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Since the publication of its first edition in 1876, the Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC) system has crossed many milestones<sup>2</sup>. Some major milestones are mentioned in the below table:-

#### New feature of DDC 23

Edition 23 is the product of a new development of print editions of the Dewey Decimal Classification. Like its predecessor edition 22, it was produced in the context of the web, but edition 23 is the first edition produced as a by-product of the underlying database instead of as the sole focus of editorial development. The web also enables the OCLC to update the DDC continuously and provide the update regularly to the users of DDC.

#### Major changes in DDC 23

Edition 23 is a complete overhaul of the

representation of groups of people, significant A number of new numbers, relocations, revisions of several standard subdivisions, revisions and expansions have been provided in numerous updates throughout the tables and DDC 23. These are being discussed class wise:-

Year	Milestones
1876	The first edition entitled "A Classification and Subject Index for Cataloguing and Arranging Books and Pamphlets of a library" is published
1885	The second edition is published under the name of great Melvil Dewey
1900	The first abridged edition of the DDC is published
1916	The Decimal Classification Advisory Committee- the American Library Association's first advisory committee- is appointed
1923	The DDC editorial office moves to the Library of Congress in Washington, DC
1930	The Library of Congress begins to print Dewey numbers on catalog cards
1931	The great Melvil Dewey departs
1937	The Decimal Classification Committee is established
1953	The Decimal Classification Editorial Committee is reconstituted to represent the American Library Association (ALA), Forest Press and the Library of Congress to guide to editorial development of the DDC.
1958	The 16 <sup>th</sup> edition of the DDC is published. This edition was edited under agreement between the LC and Forest Press.
1988	Forest Press becomes a division of OCLC
1993	OCLC Forest Press publishes Electronic Dewey, the first library classification scheme in electronic form
1996	The 21 <sup>st</sup> edition of the DDC for Windows are published, the first time print and electronic formats are published simultaneously
2000	WebDewey in CORC is published
2002	WebDewey and abridged WebDewey are published
2003	22 <sup>nd</sup> edition of DDC is published
2008	First time EPC chairperson was elected from outside North America
2011	23 <sup>rd</sup> edition of DDC is published

schedules. It also includes some structural changes. These changes can be discussed under two subheadings as under<sup>3</sup>.

### Changes in tables

The phrase "kinds of persons" is replaced with "groups of people". The caption "History and description with respect to" is entirely deleted from table 1 at -08 and elsewhere in DDC. The caption "Social groups" at 305 is substituted with "Groups of people". The caption "Persons treatment" in table 1 at 092 is changed with "Biography". There is slight change at -09 in table 1 too, "Historical, geographic, persons treatment is now "History, geographic treatment, biography". There is also a significant expansion for collected biography of groups of people by various attributes in table 1 under -092.

Some selected changes are provided below:

### Changes in schedules

#### Computer science, information & general works

The schedules 004-006 Data processing Computer science has been completely updated. Many new numbers like 003.72 Networks, 004.167 Hand-held computing devices, 004.568 Semiconductor devices, 004.6782 Cloud computing, 004.695 Internet telephony, and subdivisions, etc. have been included in the schedules. Certain relocations have also been made such as class number for Embedded computer systems is relocated to 006.22 from 004.1. World Wide Web is relocated in 025.042 (Library Science) from 004.678 (Computer Science). Data mining is relocated to 006.312 from 005.74. Overseas information libraries relocated to 027.5 from 027.65.

The class number for general encyclopedic works in Serbian and Croatian (037.82 in DDC 22) is bifurcated in 037.82 for Serbian and 037.83 for Croatian. The class number [001.432] is

discontinued in DDC 23 and the class number and relocated in 017.1-017.4. The numbers [018] for Historical methods already available at 907.2 Catalogs arranged by author, main entry, date, is to be used. The class numbers for Alphabetic or register number and [019] Dictionary catalogs catalog of nonprivate libraries; private and are also discontinued and relocated to 017. The family libraries; subject auction catalogs; subject numbers for pre-coordinate indexing [025.482] sales catalogs [017.5-017.8] are discontinued and coordinate and post-coordinate indexing

### Table 1. Standard Subdivisions

-0141	Discourse analysis <i>(This is new number introduced in DDC23)</i>
-0286	Green technology (Environmental technology) <i>(This caption is changed from waste technology)</i>
-0721	Research methods <i>(This is new number introduced in DDC23)</i>
-081	People by gender or sex <i>(This caption is revised and expanded)</i>
-0865	People by marital status <i>(This caption is changed from marriage status)</i>
-0867	Transgender and intersex people <i>(This is new number introduced in DDC23)</i>
-09	History, geographic treatment, biography <i>(This caption is changed from Historical, geographic, persons treatment)</i>
-0925	Collected biography of people by specific gender or sex; age groups; relationships <i>(This is new number introduced in DDC23)</i>
-0928	Collected biography of members of specific religious group

### TABLE 2. GEOGRAPHIC AREAS, HISTORICAL PERIODS, PERSONS

-31	China to 420
-32	Egypt to 640
-34	South Asia to 647
	<i>(Note: under these captions, time is added for the first time and below to many of these ancient world numbers an add note is added instructing to add the numbers from the modern world)</i>
-46911	Viana do Castelo district [formerly -46912]
-46912	Barga district <i>(This is new number introduced in DDC23)</i>
-4861	Skane County
-4862	Blekinge County
-4863	Kalmar County <i>(-486 is expanded and new nos. from -4861 to -4869 are introduced in DDC 23)</i>

**Table 3B: Subdivisions for works by or about more than one author**

-3082	Autobiographical and biographical fiction <i>(this is new number introduced in ddc23)</i>
-308768	Alternative histories <i>(this is new number introduced in ddc23)</i>

**Table 3C: Notation to be added where instructed in table 3B, 700.4, 791.4, 808-809**

-32	Travel and geography <i>(This caption is changed from Places)</i>
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**Table 4. Subdivisions of individual languages and language families**

-01430285	Computer Applications
-0145	Pragmatics
-0147	Languages for special purposes
-0188	Corpus linguistics
-823	Punctuation

*(These are the new numbers and two of these are further expanded too)*

**Table 5. Ethnic and national groups**

-591	Romanians
-5992	Friulians
-5994	Ladins
-5996	Romansch
-5998	Sardinians and Corsicans
-91454	Bihari
-9517	Hakka

*Note: All these numbers are new introduced in DDC 23. In addition to these many other numbers like -935, -954, -959, -9838, -9922 are expanded in DDC 23)*

**Table 6. Languages**

*-599 is expanded and many other new numbers are added:*

-5992	Friulian language
-5994	Ladin language
-5996	Romansch language
-5998	Sardinian and Corsican
-699	Galician
-91489	Divehi (Maldivian)
-95978	Yao
-99482	Tongan (Tonga)
-99484	Niue (Niuean)
-9959	Eastern Fijian languages

## Philosophy and Psychology

Two new numbers 150.1985 for Personal construct psychology and 150.1988 for Positive Psychology are introduced in the psychology main class. The schedule 155 of Differential and developmental psychology is revised and expanded. Now under 155 a table is provided with add notes, so that the different aspects of individual psychology can be applied to the numbers identified with \*. In Philosophical logic 160, under standard subdivision .1 Philosophy and theory, provision of specific systems of classical and non-classical logic and its subdivisions is made as 160.119 and 160.1198. Certain new numbers like: 176.2 Ethics of reproductive technology; 176.22 Ethics of Human cloning; 176.3 Ethics of Birth control; and 176.4 Ethics of Sexual relations are added.

The class number for inter-personal relationship is relocated to 155.4192 from 155.418. The relocations made in psychology schedule include: from 155.6 (Psychology of adults), Sensory perception, movement, emotions, physiological drives of adults is relocated to 152, conscious mental processes and intelligence to 153 and applied psychology of adults to 158. The relocations are also made in the schedule of Philosophy. Some of these are: From 197 Philosophy of former Soviet Union; Philosophy of Azerbaijan relocated to 199.4754, Philosophy of Armenia relocated to 199.4756, Philosophy of Georgia relocated to 199.4758, Philosophy of Moldova relocated to 199.476, Philosophy of Ukraine relocated to 199.477, Philosophy of Belarus relocated to 199.478, Philosophy of Lithuania relocated to 199.478, Philosophy of Latvia relocated to 199.4796, and Philosophy of Estonia relocated to 199.4798.

A few class numbers are discontinued and relocated. These are: [155.334] Bisexuality

relocated to 155.343; [155.60866] Adults in general by sexual orientation relocated to 155.34; [155.6089] Ethnic and national groups relocated to 155.82; and [155.63] Adults by gender or sex relocated to 155.33.

## Religion

In main class for religion the numbers for codex iruis canonici (262.94) and Eastern churches (281.5) are expanded and many new numbers like 262.941 General norms, 262.942 The people of God, .943 Teaching mission of the church, 281.52 Eastern Catholic churches, .54 Saint Thomas Christian churches, etc are introduced. 296.76 for Persons experiencing illness, trouble, bereavement is also a new number in DDC 23.

The class numbers for creeds of Eastern Catholic churches relocated to 238.15, creeds of Saint Thomas Christian churches relocated to 238.154, creeds of Oriental Orthodox churches relocated to 238.16, creeds of Assyrian Church of the East relocated to 238.18, from 238.19. Hadith (Traditions) [297.124] is discontinued and relocated to 297.125. The class numbers [297.09023] and [.09024] for 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> century are discontinued and relocated to higher order i.e. 297.09022.

## Social sciences

In the schedule of social sciences numerous new numbers are introduced. These are: 302.343 Bullying, 332.04246 Emigrant remittances, 335.4346 Asian national variants, 340.114 Justice, 341.2421 Council of Europe, 347.057 Legal costs and fees, 361.43 Self-help groups, 362.682 Elder abuse, 363.3494 Tsunamis, 371.391 Waldorf method, 378.1035 Industry relations, 391.72 Finger rings, and 393.93 Funerals.

The class number 320.54 Nationalism is revised and termed as Nationalism, regionalism,

internationalism. Under 320.54 the provision of adding area table is made. The class number 304.2082 for factors affecting social behavior of women is relocated from 305.42. Ideologies based on groups of people have been relocated to 320.56 from 320.508. The number for Appellate procedure in criminal courts is relocated to 345.144 from 347.08. Young people as parents relocated to 362.7874 from 362.7085. The class number for explosives is relocated to 363.1798 from 363.33. The class number for riddles as jokes by known authors is relocated from 398.6 to 808.882.

A large number of class numbers in social science schedule are discontinued and relocated. Such as: Women by social and economic levels [305.48963] relocated to 305.482; white collar classes relocated to office worker .96513 and clerks .965137 in 305; Regional nationalism [320.549] relocated to 320.54; numbers [331.114224], [.11423], [.1143] relocated to 331.11422; groups of people [362.608] relocated to 362.69; [372.82] Home economics relocated to 372.37; and Chapbooks [398.5] relocated to 002 and chapbooks relating to a specific subject with the subject.

## Language

Pragmatics 401.45; speech perception 401.95; Corpus linguistics 410.188; Picture dictionaries 413.17; Maldivian languages 491.489; and Pahari languages 491.496 are the new numbers introduced in the schedules of languages. The class numbers which are revised and expanded include: 427.942 Geographic variations of English in England and Wales; 437.943 Geographic variations of German in Germany and neighboring central European countries; 447.944 Geographic variations of French in France and Monaco; 457.9 Geographic variations of Italian; and 467.946 Geographic variations of Spanish in

Spain, Andorra, Gibraltar, Portugal.

Here also some numbers are relocated, and some are discontinued and relocated. These numbers are: Geographic variations of languages are discontinued and relocated from [427.1-.8] to 427.9421-.9428; [437.1-.6] to 437.9431-.9436; [439.8171-.8175] to 439.81794891-.81794895; [439.8272-.8274] to 439.8279482-.8279484; [447.1-.8] to 447.9441-.9448; [457.1-.8] to 457.9451-.9458; and many others. The provision of adding standard subdivisions to few languages is changed. Now only one zero is to be added instead of two zeros for the languages of Old Norse, Icelandic, Faroese; Hindi; Bulgarian and related South Slavic; Polish and related West Slavic; Tibetan and related Tibeto-Burman; and Thai and related Tai languages. Natural sciences and mathematics:

## Natural science and mathematics

The schedule of natural sciences and mathematics has very limited changes. Certain new numbers introduced are 511.314 Modal logic; 511.317 Conditional logic; 511.318 Probabilistic logic; 514.746 Singularity theory; 515.882 Convex functions; 551.417 Wetland geomorphology; and 581.39 Age characteristics of plants. The only relocation is Trans-Neptunian objects 523.49 from 523.48. The discontinued and relocated numbers are: Meridional instruments [522.3] and Extra-meridional instruments [522.4] relocated to 522.2; and Sextants relocated to 527.0284. One zero is reduced while adding the standard subdivisions to Foundations of algebra 512.9. So, now standard subdivision numbers will be 512.901-.909 instead of 512.9001.9009.

## Technology

In the schedule of Technology, a large number of new numbers have been introduced. Some of these are: 613.265 Raw food diet; 613.71489

Qi gong; 615.8514 Biofeedback therapy; 616.0475 recreation.

Shock and multiple organ failure; 616.34473  
Ulcerative colitis; 616.89147 Brief psychotherapy;  
616.9693 Candidiasis; 618.29 Nonsurgical  
methods of abortion; 623.8282 Fishing boats;  
624.238 Cable-stayed bridges; 636.08321 Animal  
hospitals; 641.8153 Crepes, pancakes, waffles;  
659.1045 Use of image and themes in advertizing;  
665.37 Biodiesel fuel; 684.162 Manufacturing of  
shelving; and 690.4 Specific parts of building.

Many relocations are also made in these classes. The class number for Connective tissue cells is relocated to 611.01826, Adipocytes to 611.018276, and Epithelial cells to 611.01876 from 611.0181; Local surface rail system using conventional (heavy) rail technology is relocated to 625.4 from 625.6; Pants (trousers) relocated to 646.436 from 646.433; Headscarves 687.19 relocated to 687.4; and headwear used as equipment in a specific sport is relocated to 688.7 from 687.4.

A number of class numbers are discontinued and relocated to other places. These are The class numbers [611.0183-.0186] are relocated to other places in 612; other hydraulic structures [627.92], [.922], and [.924] are relocated to 623.893, .8942, and .8944 respectively; [641.532] Branches relocated to 641.52; [667.8] Japans and Japanning relocated to 667.75; [685.361], [.362], [.363], [.364], and [.367] Footwear for specific activities relocated to Ice-skates 688.7691, Roller skates 688.7621, Skateboards 688.7622, Snowshoes 688.7692, Skis 688.7693, and stilts 688.7.

### Arts & recreation:

Minimalism 709.04058; Use of solar energy 720.4724; Fountains as handicrafts 745.5946; Electronica 781.648; Beauty contests 791.66; Taekwondo 796.8157; Broomball 796.965; Water polo 797.252; Eventing 798.242; etc are the new numbers introduced in the schedules of Arts and

The number for Green technology 720.28 relocated to 720.47; Cloisters 726.69 relocated to 726.796; Architecture of agricultural buildings 725.37 relocated to 728.92; Groups of hunter 757.6 relocated to 758.979929; Photography of specific subjects by special kinds of photography relocated to 778.9 from 778.3; Stereoscopic photography and projection of specific subjects relocated to 778.9 from 778.4; and Third stream music tradition relocated to 781.68175 from 781.657.

The numbers which are discontinued and relocated are: [721.01-.03] Standard subdivisions of Architectural materials and structural elements relocated to 720.1-.3; [760.01-.03], [760.044], [760.05-.09], [760.0901-.0905], and [760.092] relocated to 740.1-.3, 740.4, 740.5-.9, 740.901-.905, and 740.92 respectively; [771.33] Digital cameras relocated to 771.3; [771.47] Waste technology relocated to 771.40286; [775] Digital photography relocated to 771.44; [781.284] Polyphony relocated to 781.286; [796.78] Travel by private passenger automobile and [796.79] Travel by motor homes, recreational vehicles, trailers both relocated to 910.

### Literature:

Plagiarism 808.025; Toasts and after dinner speeches 808.512; Galician literature 869.9; Maldivian literature 891.489; Pahari literature 891.496 are the few new class numbers introduced in the schedules of literature. Two new instructions appeared under 808.8198 has made the provision of adding notation 05-09 from Table 5 to base number 808.8198 for Poetry for and by ethnic and national groups and under 808.8199 has made the provision of adding the numbers following -9 in notation 91-99 from Table 3C for Poetry for and by groups of people with specific attributes, residents of

specific areas. Resultantly, the numbers like, [808.810081-.810088], [.810091-.810099] and other similar subdivisions of .82-.87 are discontinued and relocated to other places i.e. according to the above mentioned instructions. Another number discontinued and relocated to 894.57 is [894.55] Sami literatures.

### History & geography:

Historical periods of couple of countries have been revised and expanded in this edition of DDC. These countries are Italy, San Marino, Vatican City, Malta; and Vietnam. The historical periods of other countries are also expanded and new periods are included e.g. 947.0862 Administration of Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin; 954.0532 Prime minister ship of Manmohan Singh; 966.9055 Administration of Umaru Musa Yar'adua; 972.0842 Administration of Felipe Calderon Hinojosa; 985.0645 Administration of Alan Garcia; 994.071 Later part of prime minister ship of John Howard; etc.

A number of relocations are also made: Early history of Ireland for the period of 410-433 is relocated to 936.1502 from 941.501; Medieval history of Italy, San Marino, Vatican City, Malta relocated to 945.01 from 945.03; History of Moldova to ca. 640 relocated to 939.88 from 947.6; Early history to 358 of Indonesia and East Timor 959.8012 relocated to 959.8011; History of Ethiopia during 1991-1993 relocated to 963.0721 from 963.071; and many other numbers have been relocated. This all is a result of expansion of historical periods of various countries. Many numbers are discontinued and relocated to other places like: [939.47] relocated to 935.4, 935.5, and 953.02; [940-990:086914] relocated to 940-990:1; [959.8036], [.8038], [.8039] relocated to 959.8035, .8037, and .8041; [971.0187] relocated to 971.5017.

### CONCLUSION

Though the credit of continuous revisions and modifications should not be taken from Decimal Classification Editorial Policy Committee, still there is a scope of improvement in Dewey Decimal Classification. The major areas are: i. The separation of Languages from Literature, ii. Separation of Geography and History from Social Sciences, iii. Area Table. The separation of Languages from the literature is a problem for the readers. In a large multi-storey library, even the floors at which the documents relating to Languages are different from that of Literature. Though, the users are more comfortable when both these classes are available side by side. In the similar fashion, there are great chances that a user of social science would also have some interest in History and Geography too. The same problem as of Languages and Literatures comes in the way of readers of large libraries. The notation for numbers of cities and states of countries other than USA and UK is not exhaustive one. In other words, we can say that the numbers provided for the Asian countries specifically are insufficient. For instance even the numbers for all the Districts of India is not covered in spite of its regular revisions.

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