

Knowledge Organization

Unit 4

Salient Features of DDC

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► Features Of DDC

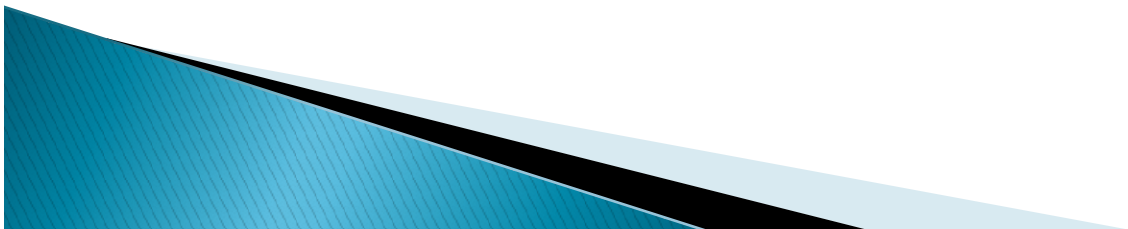
- Dewey introduced the notion of using notation for the subjects in his scheme and applying the notation to the book and not to the shelves. But certain features forming the basis of its present form can be still recognized as follows:
 - 1. **Universal Scheme** – A distinctive feature of the DC is that its classes reflect all the areas of specialized knowledge developed in modern society. These specialized areas are loosely put together in the main classes in the scheme, albeit in this manner the principle of collation of bringing of related subjects in close proximity is sometimes violated.
 - 2. **Relative Location** – In his scheme, Melvil Dewey introduced the brainwave of ‘relative location’ as opposed to ‘fixed location.’


For this purpose, he utilized the decimal notation consisting of Arabic numerals for the subjects and assigning that notation to the books on the basis of thought content and not on the basis of the shelves.

3. **Decimal Notation** – Melvil Dewey used decimal fraction notation for the arrangement of knowledge on the shelves.
- Indo–Arabic numerals (0 to 9) are used decimally for the sub– divisions of knowledge.
 - In this process, the universe of subjects is divided into ten main classes, each of which is again divided into ten divisions.
 - Again each division is further divided into ten sections.
 - At each stage of division, a given number is sub–divided decimally. All the class numbers in DC are decimal fractions.



- ▶ **Minute Division** – The first edition of DC consisted of only 42 pages and at that time, it was criticized for its being too broad in its sub-division.
- ▶ • The number of pages had since been increasing as shown in Table 1.
- ▶ • This growth suggests the enormous number of sub-divisions which are possible and useful for minute classification.
- ▶ • Dewey emphasized the need of minute division as “the advantage of close classing is unquestioned if the user knows just what it is.”



- ▶ **Auxiliary Tables** – Auxiliary tables provide an important basis for preparing numbers and lead to uniform meanings of numbers when used in various contexts.
 - ▶ A document, which is a source of knowledge, always has some physical form.
 - ▶ Melvil Dewey in the second edition of the scheme published in 1885 introduced the concept of “Form Divisions” to be used for the sub-divisions of a subject based on the characteristics of documents, either in accordance with the point of view of the author, i.e. Bibliographical, Philosophical, Theoretical, Historical or in accordance with the form of thought content in documents, i.e. Digest, Manual, Monograph, Dictionary, Periodical or Manual.
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THANKS

