

The Dewey Decimal System and Traditional Libraries

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Abstract: *The Dewey Decimal System, created by Melvil Dewey in the late 19th century, has been a linchpin of traditional library classification systems for well over a century. This abstract provides a concise overview of the historical significance, principles, and enduring relevance of the Dewey Decimal System in traditional library settings. The Dewey Decimal System revolutionized the way libraries organized their collections, simplifying the process of locating and accessing books and materials. This paper traces the historical development of the Dewey Decimal System and its profound impact on traditional library cataloging and information retrieval. Key principles, such as the use of decimal notation and hierarchical classification, are explored in detail, highlighting their pivotal role in enhancing library management efficiency. Despite its enduring utility, this abstract also acknowledges the system's limitations. Traditional libraries have faced significant challenges in adapting the Dewey Decimal System to accommodate digital resources, multimedia materials, and non-traditional formats. Furthermore, questions have arisen regarding the system's cultural biases and its ability to adequately represent the diversity of knowledge and perspectives. In today's digital age, traditional libraries confront a unique set of challenges, necessitating a reevaluation of the Dewey Decimal System's role and adaptability. This abstract underscores the ongoing dialogue surrounding the system's relevance and its capacity to meet the evolving needs of modern libraries and information seekers. In conclusion, the Dewey Decimal System remains a cornerstone of traditional library organization, albeit with notable adaptational challenges. This abstract serves as a foundation for understanding the historical and contemporary significance of the Dewey Decimal System within the context of traditional libraries, setting the stage for a more comprehensive examination of its impact and future prospects in the full paper.*

Keywords: Dewey Decimal System, Melvil Dewey, library management, Classification, DDC

1. Introduction to the Dewey Decimal System

The Dewey Decimal System, developed by Melvil Dewey in the late 19th century, revolutionized library organization and classification. In 1873, Dewey, a librarian and educator, this system aimed to simplify and standardize the arrangement of library materials based on subject matter. Dewey's system was founded on a numerical structure where each class represented a general subject area, and the subsequent numbers represented more specific topics within that area. This decimal-based system allowed for easy expansion and adaptation to new subjects. Dewey's motivation was to provide a logical and efficient way for library patrons to locate books, regardless of their familiarity with the library's collection. Over time, Dewey's system evolved through various editions, incorporating new knowledge domains, accommodating emerging fields, and addressing the limitations of the original classification. His system found widespread acceptance and was adopted by libraries around the world, solidifying its status as a cornerstone of library science.

2. Background of the Study

The Dewey Decimal System, created by Melvil Dewey in 1876, represents one of the most iconic and enduring innovations in the field of library science. This system of classification and organization was developed with the primary goal of simplifying access to knowledge within traditional libraries. The background of this study encompasses several key facets that contextualize the Dewey Decimal System's historical significance and its enduring relevance in traditional library settings.

- 1) **Historical Significance:** In the late 19th century, libraries faced a pressing challenge - how to organize and retrieve an ever-growing collection of books and materials efficiently. Prior systems were often cumbersome and non-standardized. Melvil Dewey's creation of the Dewey Decimal System revolutionized this landscape. By introducing a systematic approach based on decimal notation, Dewey provided a comprehensive solution that facilitated consistent cataloging and easy access for library patrons.
- 2) **Principles of the Dewey Decimal System:** The system's foundation rests on several key principles. Decimal notation allows for the precise categorization of subjects, enabling a structured hierarchy of knowledge. It organizes materials into ten main classes, further divided into subclasses, facilitating a logical arrangement of topics. This hierarchical structure simplifies the location of books on shelves, enhancing the efficiency of library operations.
- 3) **Efficiency in Library Management:** The Dewey Decimal System significantly improved the efficiency of library operations. It enabled librarians to quickly classify and shelve new acquisitions, as well as assist patrons in finding relevant materials. This increased efficiency contributed to the growth and accessibility of libraries as centers of learning and research.
- 4) **Adaptations and Critiques:** Over the years, the Dewey Decimal System has undergone various adaptations to accommodate changing library needs, including the incorporation of digital resources and multimedia materials. However, it has not been without its criticisms, including concerns about cultural biases and its ability to represent diverse knowledge and perspectives.

- 5) **Challenges in the Digital Age:** In today's digital era, traditional libraries face unique challenges related to the integration of digital resources, online catalogs, and non-traditional formats. The Dewey Decimal System must adapt to remain relevant in an environment where information is increasingly accessible through digital platforms.

3. Objectives of the Study

- 1) To Examine the Historical Development
- 2) To Analyze the Principles of the Dewey Decimal System
- 3) To Assess the Significance in Traditional Libraries
- 4) To Explore Adaptations and Challenges
- 5) To Examine Cultural and Diversity Issues
- 6) To Provide Recommendations
- 7) To Contribute to Academic Discourse

Objectives of the Study

The methodology for this study involves a multifaceted approach. Firstly, an exhaustive literature review will be conducted to gather existing knowledge on the historical development, principles, adaptations, and challenges of the Dewey Decimal System in traditional libraries. Subsequently, surveys and interviews with librarians in traditional libraries will provide real-world insights, while selected libraries will serve as case studies to examine practical implementation. Content and statistical analyses will be employed to evaluate the system's effectiveness, especially in handling digital resources and addressing diversity concerns. Ethnographic observations will capture user experiences and any cultural biases in classification. Comparative analyses will juxtapose the Dewey Decimal System with alternative classification methods. The findings will culminate in recommendations for traditional libraries, offering insights into optimizing the system and addressing its limitations. Ethical considerations will be paramount throughout the research process.

Arranging Books on Library Shelves Using the Dewey Decimal System:

- 1) **Main Classes and Numerical Ranges:** The DDC is divided into ten main classes, each covering a broad subject area. Each main class is assigned a numerical range, such as 000 - 099 for "Computer Science, Information, and General Works." These main classes represent the major categories into which knowledge is classified.
- 2) **Decimal Subdivisions:** Within each main class, decimals are used to further divide the subject matter into more specific categories. For example, within the main class 600 for "Technology (Applied Sciences)," you might find subclasses like 620 for "Engineering and Allied Operations." The decimal point allows for finer divisions of topics.
- 3) **Hierarchical Structure:** The Dewey Decimal System's hierarchical structure allows for increasingly specific subdivisions as you move from left to right in the number sequence. For instance, the class number 620 might lead to "621 - Applied Physics" and "622 - Mining and Metallurgy." This hierarchical approach accommodates a wide range of topics and subtopics.
- 4) **Shelf Arrangement:** To arrange books on library shelves, librarians use the Dewey Decimal System

numbers as call numbers. For instance, a book about computer programming might have the call number 005.133. When arranging books on shelves, librarians organize them in numerical order from left to right, ensuring that books with similar subjects are grouped together.

- 5) **Logical Flow:** The arrangement of books on shelves follows a logical flow of knowledge. Books on related subjects are located in proximity, making it easy for library users to browse and find resources on similar topics without needing to search through the entire collection.
- 6) **Expansion and Adaptation:** The Dewey Decimal System's flexibility allows for expansion and adaptation to new subjects. As new fields of study emerge, librarians can create new decimal numbers to accommodate these subjects within the existing classification framework.
- 7) **Ease of Use:** The Dewey Decimal System's use of numbers is intuitive and consistent, making it user-friendly for both librarians and patrons. Patrons can easily locate materials by searching for call numbers on library catalog computers or physical shelves.

Benefits of Using the Dewey Decimal System:

- 1) **Efficient Organization:** The Dewey Decimal System provides a systematic and consistent way to organize a wide range of materials within library collections. Its hierarchical arrangement ensures that resources are grouped logically, making it straightforward for both librarians and library users to understand the categorization of materials.
- 2) **Universal Classification:** The system's standardized structure is universally recognized across libraries, facilitating consistency and ease of use. Regardless of the library's location or size, patrons are familiar with the Dewey Decimal System's format, enabling them to quickly navigate collections.
- 3) **Intuitive Browsing:** The numeric nature of the Dewey Decimal System enables intuitive browsing. Users can browse the shelves within a specific subject area by simply following the numerical sequence. This browsing experience enhances serendipitous discovery of related materials.
- 4) **Ease of Identification:** The system's call numbers, based on the Dewey Decimal classification, are easy to identify and understand. This simplicity helps patrons locate desired resources on both physical shelves and digital catalogs.
- 5) **Clear Subject Grouping:** The Dewey Decimal System's structure inherently groups materials by subject matter. This arrangement facilitates the gathering of related resources in close proximity, allowing users to explore a topic comprehensively.
- 6) **Adaptability:** While the Dewey Decimal System's main classes remain consistent, it's adaptable to accommodate new subjects and emerging fields. Libraries can expand their collections without disrupting the established classification system.
- 7) **User Independence:** The system promotes user independence by empowering library patrons to locate resources without requiring assistance. By understanding the basic structure, patrons can navigate the library's holdings efficiently.

- 8) **Education and Familiarity:** The Dewey Decimal System is often introduced to students during their early education. This familiarity means that individuals entering libraries already have a basic understanding of how to find materials using the system.
- 9) **Global Acceptance:** The Dewey Decimal System is widely used internationally, making it useful for researchers, students, and scholars worldwide. This global acceptance facilitates communication and collaboration across geographic and linguistic boundaries.
- 10) **Historical Significance:** As one of the earliest and most enduring classification systems, the Dewey Decimal System has historical significance in the field of library science. Its legacy has shaped how information is organized and accessed in libraries.

Promoting Efficient Cataloging and Retrieval with the Dewey Decimal System:

- 1) **Uniform Classification:** This uniform classification ensures that books on the same or related topics are grouped together, allowing librarians to quickly catalog and shelve materials with similar themes.
- 2) **Numerical Hierarchy:** The numerical hierarchy of the Dewey Decimal System allows for easy categorization and differentiation of subjects. Each digit and decimal point in the call number represents a specific level of classification, making it clear where a book fits within the broader classification framework.
- 3) **Logical Organization:** The system's hierarchical structure logically organizes knowledge from general categories to specific subtopics. This organization mirrors how humans naturally categorize information, making it easier for both catalogers and users to locate relevant resources.
- 4) **Consistency:** The Dewey Decimal System's standardized structure ensures consistent classification across different libraries. This consistency minimizes confusion for both library staff and patrons, regardless of the library's size or location.
- 5) **Streamlined Cataloging:** Librarians can efficiently catalog new materials by applying the appropriate Dewey Decimal call number based on the subject matter. The systematic nature of the system simplifies the decision-making process during cataloging.
- 6) **Efficient Shelving:** The Dewey Decimal System's numeric sequence provides a clear order for arranging books on shelves. Librarians can shelve new materials quickly, knowing precisely where each book belongs in relation to others in the same subject area.
- 7) **Ease of Retrieval:** When patrons search for resources, they can use the Dewey Decimal call numbers to quickly locate materials on library shelves. This direct correlation between call numbers and physical placement minimizes the time spent searching for specific items.
- 8) **Accurate Identification:** The Dewey Decimal call numbers act as unique identifiers for books within a library's collection. This accuracy prevents confusion or errors in locating resources, enhancing the accuracy of retrieval.
- 9) **User Empowerment:** The system empowers library users to independently find materials on their own. By understanding the structure and meaning of Dewey

Decimal call numbers, patrons can confidently navigate the library's holdings.

- 10) **Effective Resource Discovery:** The logical arrangement of materials on shelves encourages serendipitous discovery. Users exploring a particular subject area are likely to encounter related materials nearby, fostering a comprehensive understanding of topics.

Application of the Dewey Decimal System in Different Types of Libraries:

- 1) **Public Libraries:** Public libraries serve diverse communities with a broad range of interests. The Dewey Decimal System is well-suited to organizing materials for public libraries due to its intuitive structure. For instance:
 - A book on gardening might be assigned the call number 635.
 - A mystery novel could have the call number 813, indicating American fiction.
 - A travel guidebook could be categorized under call number 910 for geography and travel.
- 2) **Academic Libraries:** The Dewey Decimal System's adaptability allows academic libraries to accommodate diverse subject areas. Examples include:
 - A physics textbook might have the call number 530 for physics and natural sciences.
 - A history book on World War II could be categorized under call number 940.
 - A psychology research text could be classified with the call number 150.
- 3) **School Libraries:** School libraries serve students at different grade levels, covering a range of academic subjects.
 - A children's book about dinosaurs might be assigned the call number 567.
 - A young adult novel could have the call number 813, similar to public libraries.
 - A reference book on chemistry for high school students could be categorized under call number 540.
- 4) **Specialized Libraries:** Specialized libraries focus on specific fields or topics, such as law, medical sciences, or music. While some specialized libraries use other classification systems, the Dewey Decimal System can be adapted to suit their needs. Examples include:
 - A law library might modify the Dewey system to accommodate legal topics, such as assigning a specific range to legal treatises.
 - A medical library might customize the system for medical subjects, like assigning call numbers to different medical specialties.
 - A music library could use the Dewey Decimal System to organize resources on music theory, history, and genres.

Using the Dewey Decimal System to Maintain Organized Collections and Assist Patrons:

- 1) **Cataloging and Classification:** Librarians apply the Dewey Decimal System during the cataloging process. As new materials are acquired, librarians assign each item a specific Dewey Decimal call number based on its

subject matter. This call number reflects the item's place within the hierarchical classification system, ensuring its logical arrangement on library shelves.

- 2) **Shelving and Arrangement:** Once items are cataloged, librarians shelve them in their designated sections according to their Dewey Decimal call numbers. The system's numerical hierarchy helps librarians place books in sequential order, making it easy to locate items within a specific subject area.
- 3) **Maintenance and Reorganization:** Librarians regularly assess and maintain the organization of the collection. If the library acquires new materials or experiences shifts in user interests, librarians can adjust the placement of items by reorganizing sections or creating new subdivisions within Dewey classes.
- 4) **Assisting Patrons:** Librarians use the Dewey Decimal System to assist patrons in finding resources:
 - **Reference Assistance:** When patrons ask for specific topics, librarians can quickly identify the corresponding Dewey Decimal call numbers and guide patrons to the appropriate sections.
 - **Navigational Help:** If patrons are unfamiliar with the library layout, librarians can explain the system's numerical order and provide guidance on how to locate materials.
 - **Resource Recommendations:** Librarians can recommend additional resources related to a patron's chosen topic by utilizing the nearby items with similar Dewey call numbers.
 - **Online Catalogs:** In digital environments, librarians help patrons navigate the library's online catalog by teaching them how to search for materials using Dewey Decimal numbers or keywords.
- 5) **Enhanced User Experience:** By maintaining a well-organized collection using the Dewey Decimal System, librarians enhance the user experience. Patrons can independently browse shelves and confidently locate materials, fostering a sense of empowerment and efficiency.
- 6) **User Education:** Librarians educate patrons about the Dewey Decimal System, empowering them to navigate the library's resources on their own. This education helps patrons become more confident and skilled users of the library.
- 7) **Accessibility and Inclusivity:** Librarians consider the needs of diverse users when organizing materials. The Dewey Decimal System's classification structure allows librarians to accommodate a wide range of subjects and interests, ensuring that resources are accessible to various user groups.

Limitations of the Dewey Decimal System:

- 1) **Eurocentric Bias:** The DDC was developed in the late 19th century and reflects the knowledge and perspectives of that time. As a result, it has a Eurocentric bias, which means that it tends to prioritize European perspectives and subjects over those from other parts of the world. This bias can lead to underrepresentation of non - Western cultures, languages, and knowledge systems in the classification system.

- 2) **Cultural Sensitivity:** The Dewey Decimal System's Eurocentric bias can contribute to cultural insensitivity and misrepresentation of certain topics. For example, subjects related to indigenous knowledge, non - Western philosophies, and worldviews may not be adequately represented, leading to challenges in finding accurate and respectful resources on these topics.
- 3) **Limited Flexibility for New Subjects:** While the Dewey Decimal System is adaptable to new subjects, it can struggle to accommodate rapidly emerging or interdisciplinary fields. New and multidisciplinary subjects might not fit neatly into existing categories, leading to challenges in assigning appropriate call numbers.
- 4) **Changes in Knowledge Landscape:** The classification system's origins date back over a century, and significant shifts in knowledge and academic disciplines have occurred since then. New areas of study, technological advancements, and changing societal interests can lead to gaps or outdated categories in the system.
- 5) **Hierarchical Nature:** The Dewey Decimal System's hierarchical structure, while beneficial for organizing knowledge, can sometimes hinder cross - disciplinary exploration. Interdisciplinary subjects may fall between numerical ranges or lack a dedicated classification, making them harder to locate.
- 6) **Relevance in Digital Age:** In an increasingly digital world, where resources may not be physically shelved, the Dewey Decimal System's physical arrangement might be less relevant. While it can still be applied to digital catalogs, its emphasis on sequential shelving can feel less intuitive in online environments.
- 7) **User Familiarity:** Though widely recognized, the Dewey Decimal System's numerical notation can be less intuitive for some users compared to more descriptive or keyword - based classification systems.
- 8) **Copyright and Edition Changes:** The Dewey Decimal System is revised periodically to address limitations and reflect evolving knowledge. However, updating libraries' classifications to new editions can be time - consuming and challenging for staff and patrons.
- 9) **Subjective Decision - Making:** Deciding where to place certain materials within the classification hierarchy requires subjective judgment. Different librarians might assign slightly different call numbers to the same book, leading to inconsistencies.

Challenges in Keeping the Dewey Decimal System Up - to - Date:

- 1) **Accelerated Knowledge Growth:** Advancements in various fields, especially in technology, sciences, and interdisciplinary subjects, have led to an accelerated growth of knowledge. The Dewey Decimal System's structure and hierarchy might struggle to accommodate new and rapidly evolving topics.
- 2) **Emerging Interdisciplinary Subjects:** Many modern research fields and disciplines are inherently interdisciplinary, bridging traditional subject boundaries. The Dewey Decimal System's rigid classification structure can struggle to represent and organize subjects that span multiple domains.

- 3) **Niche and Specialized Fields:** As new niche and specialized fields emerge, they might not fit neatly within the existing Dewey Decimal categories. Materials related to these fields may be challenging to classify, leading to inconsistencies in organization.
- 4) **Evolving Technologies:** The Dewey Decimal System was keeping up with technological advancements and their corresponding subjects is complex within the system's framework.
- 5) **Ethical and Cultural Shifts:** As societies evolve and cultural norms change, new ethical and cultural subjects emerge. The Dewey Decimal System's Eurocentric bias and potential insensitivity to certain topics can hinder accurate representation and organization.
- 6) **Multilingual and Global Perspectives:** Globalization has led to an increased emphasis on multiculturalism and diverse languages. Incorporating resources in multiple languages and representing different cultural perspectives within the system can be challenging.
- 7) **Constant Revisions and Updates:** To remain relevant, the Dewey Decimal System requires periodic revisions and updates. However, implementing these changes across libraries can be time-consuming and may require retraining library staff and educating users about the updates.
- 8) **User Expectations:** Library users, particularly those accustomed to more dynamic and digital search experiences, might find the Dewey Decimal System's hierarchical arrangement less intuitive. Meeting user expectations while maintaining the system's integrity can be a balancing act.
- 9) **Historical Significance vs. Modern Needs:** The Dewey Decimal System's historical significance and widespread use create a tension between preserving its legacy and meeting the needs of modern users, who often seek more flexible and adaptable classification systems.
- 10) **Digital Environments:** As libraries transition to digital environments, the Dewey Decimal System must adapt to effectively organize and present digital resources. Its sequential numerical structure may not align as naturally with digital search and discovery tools.

Alternative Classification Systems to Address Dewey Decimal System Limitations:

- 1) **Library of Congress Classification (LCC) System:** Developed by the Library of Congress, the LCC system is another widely used classification system in libraries.
 - **Greater Specificity:** The LCC system offers a higher level of specificity, allowing for more detailed classification of materials.
 - **Flexibility:** The LCC system is adaptable to accommodate new subjects and interdisciplinary fields.
 - **International Scope:** The system's development by the Library of Congress contributes to its international scope, making it suitable for diverse libraries.
 - **Subject Depth:** The LCC system often provides richer subject depth and nuanced representation of interdisciplinary topics.
- 2) **Colon Classification:** The Colon Classification system, developed by S. R. Ranganathan, is based on facets of a subject. It allows for multidimensional classification, where an item can be assigned multiple facets based on different characteristics.
- 3) **Bliss Classification:** The Bliss Classification system, developed by Henry Evelyn Bliss, aims to provide more precise subject organization by using a combination of letters and numbers to represent concepts.
- 4) **Universal Decimal Classification (UDC):** The UDC system is another alternative that combines features of both the Dewey Decimal System and the Library of Congress Classification. It uses numbers, letters, and symbols to represent subjects, aiming to provide a balance between specificity and adaptability.
- 5) **BISAC (Book Industry Standards and Communications):** While not a traditional classification system, BISAC codes are used in the publishing industry to categorize books for marketing and distribution purposes. BISAC codes often align with reader interests and can provide an additional layer of classification.
- 6) **WebDewey and Digital Systems:** To address the limitations of the Dewey Decimal System in the digital age, systems like WebDewey have been developed. WebDewey offers more frequent updates and integration with online catalogs, enhancing accessibility and adaptability.

Adapting the Dewey Decimal System to Digital Environments:

- 1) **Online Catalogs and Searchability:** Libraries have digitized their collections and integrated them into online catalogs, allowing users to search for materials based on Dewey Decimal call numbers, titles, authors, keywords, and more. Online catalogs provide advanced search features that enable users to find resources quickly and efficiently.
- 2) **Digital Metadata and Keywords:** In addition to Dewey Decimal call numbers, libraries use metadata and keywords to enhance the discoverability of resources in online catalogs. Metadata includes information like author names, publication dates, and subject descriptors, enriching search results and guiding users to relevant materials.
- 3) **Dynamic Browsing:** Digital catalogs allow for dynamic browsing by providing virtual shelf browsing experiences. Users can navigate through subjects and subcategories, simulating the physical act of browsing shelves in a traditional library.
- 4) **Hyperlinked Cross - References:** Digital environments enable libraries to incorporate hyperlinked cross - references. Users can explore related subjects, helping them discover materials beyond their initial search.
- 5) **Customized Resource Lists:** Libraries can create curated lists of resources on specific topics, which can be especially useful for research or academic purposes. These lists help users access a range of materials related to a particular subject.
- 6) **User Personalization:** Digital catalogs often offer features for users to create accounts, save searches, mark favorites, and set preferences. This personalization enhances the user experience by allowing them to manage their interactions with the library's resources.
- 7) **Enhanced Accessibility:** Digital environments enable libraries to provide accessible formats for visually

impaired users, such as screen reader compatibility and text - to - speech functionalities.

- 8) **Real - time Updates and Notifications:** Libraries can promptly update catalog records to reflect changes in availability or editions. Users can receive notifications about new arrivals, holds, and due dates.
- 9) **Interactive Learning Tools:** Some libraries integrate interactive learning tools, multimedia resources, and online educational platforms within the digital catalog, enriching the user experience and encouraging engagement.
- 10) **Mobile Apps and Responsive Design:** Libraries develop mobile apps with responsive design, making it convenient for users to access the digital catalog on smartphones and tablets. This mobile accessibility extends the reach of the Dewey Decimal System to users on - the - go.

By adapting the Dewey Decimal System to digital environments, libraries provide users with powerful tools to explore, access, and engage with resources remotely. The digital transformation enhances the timeless principles of organization and accessibility that the system was designed to achieve.

Exploration of the Dewey Decimal System's Relevance in the Digital Age and Evolving User Needs:

Relevance in the Digital Age:

- 1) **Digital Catalogs:** The Dewey Decimal System remains relevant in the digital age as it has been successfully adapted to online catalogs and databases. It provides a familiar framework for users to navigate and locate resources in digital environments.
- 2) **Standardized Classification:** The system's standardized classification structure translates well into digital spaces, ensuring consistency and organization in online catalogs. This enables users to search, discover, and access materials with ease.
- 3) **Integration with Metadata:** The system can be integrated with metadata and additional keywords in digital catalogs, enhancing resource discovery through multiple access points.
- 4) **User Education:** Despite digital advancements, users still benefit from understanding classification systems like Dewey, as it empowers them to navigate and utilize library resources more effectively.

Evolving User Needs:

- 1) **Interdisciplinary Subjects:** The Dewey Decimal System's rigidity can pose challenges when it comes to classifying interdisciplinary subjects. As user needs shift toward more interdisciplinary research, there is a demand for systems that can accommodate complex and fluid subject relationships.
- 2) **Personalization:** Users in the digital age expect personalized experiences. Digital catalogs can offer personalized recommendations based on users' search history and preferences, supplementing the Dewey system.
- 3) **Keyword Searching:** While the Dewey system relies on predefined subject categories, users increasingly use keyword searches for resource discovery. This shift

requires libraries to incorporate keyword - based access alongside classification systems.

- 4) **Inclusive Representation:** Users expect libraries to provide resources that reflect diverse perspectives and voices. The Dewey Decimal System's Eurocentric bias can be limiting in this regard, prompting discussions about the system's inclusivity.
- 5) **Ease of Use:** In the digital age, users value intuitive and user - friendly interfaces. Digital catalogs need to balance the hierarchical nature of the Dewey system with user - friendly navigation.
- 6) **Visual Discovery:** Visual discovery interfaces, which allow users to explore resources through visual representations, offer an alternative to Dewey - based browsing. These interfaces cater to users who prefer more visual and intuitive navigation.

4. Conclusion

While the Dewey Decimal System's core principles of classification and organization remain relevant, its applicability in the digital age and in the face of evolving user needs presents challenges. Libraries are tasked with finding a balance between honouring the system's historical significance and meeting modern users' expectations for efficient, inclusive, and personalized resource discovery. The Dewey system, while enduring, may need to be supplemented or complemented with alternative approaches that align with the diverse and dynamic nature of contemporary information landscapes.

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