Find what you’re looking for in the Library.
Using the Dewey Decimal Classification System

To find what you’re looking for in the Library.
The Dewey Decimal System is a tool used to sort books into Groups or Categories.
Who created the Dewey Decimal Classification System?

- Melvil Dewey was born on December 10, 1851
- Melvil Dewey created the number order system for library books when he was 21 years old.
10 main classifications in Dewey’s System

• The world’s knowledge is divided into 10 categories or groups.

• Each group has a main title and is represented by three numbers.

100 500 900
Dewey’s Big Ten!

Brings order to the massive amount of world knowledge

Generalities – 000  Science & Math – 500
Philosophy – 100  Technology – 600
Religion – 200  Arts & Leisure – 700
Social Science – 300  Literature – 800
Language – 400  History & Geography - 900
Generalities - 000

Books that fit in this group have many different subjects in them. Like:

- Encyclopaedias
- News media
- Rare Books

This is also where books on unexplained subjects would be found-like The Loch Ness Monster.
Philosophy - 100

Books that fit in this group tell about how we think and feel.

- Paranormal phenomena
- Psychology
- Logic
Religion - 200

- Bible
- History of Christianity
- Other Religions
Social Science - 300

- Law
- Education
- Fairy tales and folk tales
Language - 400

Books in this group are about different languages or grammar.

- English
- French
- Other Languages
Natural Sciences & Math - 500

Books in this group are about things from nature.

- Mathematics
- Earth sciences
- Plants
- Animals
Technology – 600

This group has books that are about man-made things.

- Medicine
- Agriculture
- Family living
The Arts - '700

- Drawing
- Music
- Recreational & performing arts
Literature - 800

Books in this group are stories, plays, or poetry.

• English Literature
• Old English Literature
• Literatures of Other Languages
Geography & History - 900

Books in this group tell about events of the past and countries of the world.

- Geography

- Ancient History

- Biographies 92 - don’t forget this group. It contains books about famous people’s lives.

Matteo Ricci Library
XAVIER CATHOLIC COLLEGE
Knowing these big groups will help make it easier to find the books you want in the Non-Fiction collection.
Spine labels & shelving

Use Oliver to search for titles.
A spine label or call number is like the book’s address in the library. It tells where the book lives on the library shelf.
Non-Fiction call numbers are made up of two parts:

- Dewey Numbers (for the subject)
- The first three letters in the author’s last name
So a Non-Fiction call number for a book on mammals by Jane Mosley would look like this:

599
MOS
Fiction books (or novels) in our library are organised in a different way. They are shelved alphabetically by the first 3 letters of the author’s surname.
A fiction call number is made up of two parts:

• F (for fiction)

• The first three letters in the author’s last name
So a fiction call number for the author, Steven Donaldson would look like this:
F DON
Left-to-right, Top-to-bottom

All books are shelved: left-to-right, top-to-bottom
That means you start at the left on the top shelf and move to the right until the shelf ends.
Ask if you need help!