

Why the Change?

98% of academic libraries in the United States use the Library of Congress (LC) classification scheme. Converting our collections will bring the University Libraries in line with our peer institutions and national standards.

By transitioning to LC, Carnegie Mellon is preparing students for the library environment that they will most likely encounter when they go on to graduate school. Faculty are also likely to have used LC in other academic libraries.

LC makes finer distinctions among disciplines and subjects than Dewey. As a result, books on related topics are usually shelved in proximity. Users can find books on related topics by just by looking (browsing) nearby shelves.

In LC, browsing for language or literature works will be easier because they are arranged by author.

LC call numbers include the book's publication year. This helps users find the most current publications while browsing the collection.



Fall 2007

The relabeled books will be arranged in their new call number order as quickly as possible, and new signs will identify new call number ranges.

Ask a staff member for assistance to find what you need, as it may be quite difficult to find some titles.

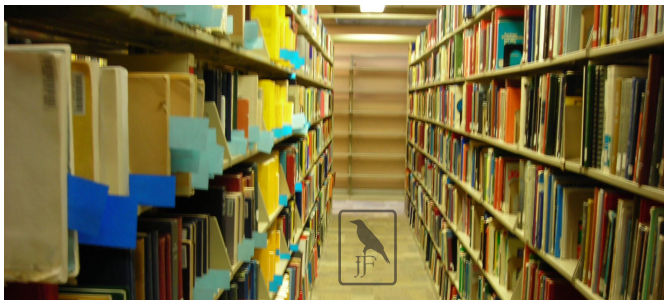


Future

Because of fundamental differences between LC and Dewey subject categories, some of the reclassified books may eventually be relocated on a different floor in Hunt, or a different library to consolidate call numbers.

For more information please refer to the Transformation web page located at:

www.library.cmu.edu/transformation



TRANSFORMATION PROJECT 2007

Carnegie Mellon[®]
UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

Project Overview

In summer 2007, the Engineering & Science Library and Hunt Library undertook a major project: to reclassify, relabel and reshelve their collections—about 400,000 books in all. The University Libraries are replacing the Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC) system with Library of Congress Classification (LC) system.

Library faculty and staff have formed working groups to oversee various aspects of the project, from publicity to temporary staffing, relabeling, reshelving, and educating staff and users about the new classification system.

In a nutshell, the Libraries have contracted a vendor who will produce new LC labels in the old Dewey Decimal order, based on library catalog records for each facility. A small army of temporary employees have been applying the new LC number labels to the books. Once the labels are applied the workers will reshelve the books in LC Classification order. Far from shutting down during the project, books will circulate, and E&S and Hunt will make every effort to conduct business as usual over the summer and into the fall.



Engineering & Science Library

The work began at E&S Library. You will notice changes in how subjects are shelved, because the LC is quite different from Dewey.

One possible effect would be the relocation of books that used to be near each other on the shelf.

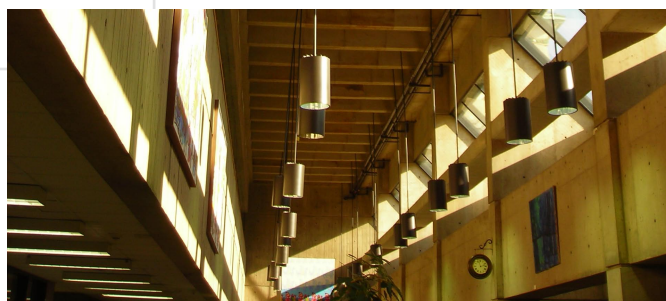
For example:

Human Factors in Web Design goes from:

(DDC) 005.72 H236
(LC) TK 5105.888 H3635 2005

XML in a Nutshell changes from:

(DDC) 005.72 H29XM2
(LC) QA 76.76 H94 H36 2002



Hunt Library

Work began at Hunt Library in mid-summer.

You will notice a significant change with LC: literature is arranged by author rather than by genre or an author's nationality.

For example:

Mikhail Bulgakov's *The Master and Margarita* will go from:

(DDC) 891.73 B93M
(LC) PG 3476.B78 M3 1969

Bulgakov's book entitled *Six Plays*, had been separated by a large number of volumes from other authors. Now it would be within the same run of books, as the call number would be:

(DDC) 891.7242 B935
(LC) PG3476.B78 A6 1994

