

How to Memorize 36 Basic Classifications in LC and Dewey (Blake?) in 3 Minutes or Less

Ed. Note: Having had considerable success with a mnemonic device he worked up for his classes in library orientation, Howard F. McGaw, professor and chairman, Learning Resources Program at Western Washington State College, Bellingham, sent it on to WLB as a possible aid to others. It's just one man's device, it doesn't encompass both halves of all the main headings of the two classifications (e.g., geography-anthropology in LC, geography-history in Dewey), and it might not complete every circuit in your particular memory pattern. But it's a good start to which we added a few editorial touches--so why not do the same? Let us know if you get a brainstorm.

000 & A	Natural for general material to come first.
100 & B	Philosophy next; one of the oldest disciplines.
150 & BF	Psychology an offshoot of philosophy
200 & B	Religion shares with philosophy the earliest of beginnings, "B" for the Beatitudes.
300 & H	Think of an "H" with widely separated vertical lines; social sciences very broad.
370 & L	Practically all material in education uses one or the other of these two classifications. "L" for Learning.
400	Associate with 800, (One half of literature is language.
500 & 600	Pure and applied Sciences next to each other.
700	Remember the traditional "seven liberal arts."
800	Conversely, think of this number as double 400; twice language is literature.
900 & C-F	Think of history as, at the end of time (900 at the end of the system), looking backward. C-F: Chronicle of Father Time.
G	Geography--easy.
J	Crooked letter; some politicians are crooked. Political science.
K	"Kangaroo Court." Law.
M	Music--easy.
N	Simple to associate other fine arts with music.
P	Prose and poetry; philology--all part of language and literature.
PR & PS	Remember the English comes first in LC; in Dewey, second to American.
Q	Quest, inquiry, in science.
R	Rx for physician's prescription. Medicine.
S	Seed. Agriculture.
T	Technology--easy.
U	"Uncle Sam needs You!" Military science.
V	Naval vessel. Naval science.
Z	Bibliography at the end of book.
I & O	Not used because of confusion with numerals one and zero.
W, X, Y	Reserved for further expansion.