

OCLC cataloging community meeting

First session

The OCLC cataloging community meeting

21 JUNE 2024

#OCLCcataloging





David Whitehair

Director, Metadata & Digital Services
OCLC

Welcome

Today's schedule



- Welcome
- Diversity, equity, and inclusion
- Open questions
- Break

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- Welcome
- Diversity, equity, and inclusion
- Open questions
- Break
- OCLC update
- Open questions
- Closing

Housekeeping...



Webex

- If your computer audio is not working, please dial-in by phone
 - Dial-in information has been posted in Chat
- To submit questions, use Chat and send to “Everyone”
 - Note: Your question will be visible to others attending this session

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Post-event

- OCLC will make available:
 - Recordings of each session
 - Slides
 - Cited links list
- Notifications:
 - Registrants will receive an email via Webex
 - OCLC will post links to content in the [Cataloging & Metadata](#) community and on the series site: oclc.org/oclc/cataloging-community-meetings

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A screenshot of a Webex chat interface. At the top, there is a 'To:' dropdown menu with 'Everyone' selected. Below it is a text input field with the placeholder text 'Enter chat message here' and a send button (a right-pointing triangle). At the bottom, there are two buttons: 'Participants' with a person icon and 'Chat' with a speech bubble icon.

Housekeeping...



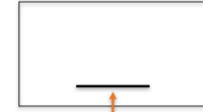
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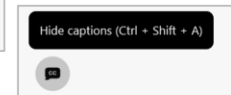
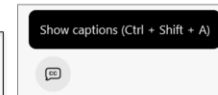
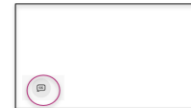
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Captions

- This event has automatic captions enabled -- you may toggle this feature on and off.
- Look for the “CC” icon in the lower left corner of the screen.



OCLC: If you have captioning turned on, it will appear in this box.



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[Cataloging & Metadata](#) | oclc.org/cataloging-community-meetings

A screenshot of the OCLC Community Center interface. The top navigation bar includes 'Community', 'Welcome', 'Product Communities', 'Knowledge Communities', 'Events', 'Recordings', and 'Ideas'. The main header is 'Cataloging and Metadata' with a search bar. Below the header, the breadcrumb trail reads 'OCLC Community Center > Knowledge Communities > Cataloging and Metadata'. A 'Manage subscriptions' link is visible. The main content area features five icons with post counts: Discussions (105 POSTS), News (193 POSTS), Events (41 POSTS), Recordings (38 POSTS), and Member Merge (70 POSTS). A blue arrow points to the 'Recordings' icon. A welcome message box on the right says 'Welcome to the Cataloging and Metadata community'.

OCLC cataloging community meeting

Diversity, equity, and inclusion



Cynthia Whitacre

Senior Metadata Operations Manager, Metadata Engagement
OCLC

#OCLCcataloging



Increase religious equity by reclassifying Dewey 200s



Emily McDonald
Lawrence (Kansas)
Public Library




Matthew Jaquith
Springfield (Massachusetts)
City Public Library



Elizabeth McKinstry
Springfield
(Massachusetts)
City Public Library



Alex Kyrios
OCLC



6.21.2024

Virtual

OCLC Cataloging Community 2024

Increase religious equity by reclassifying Dewey 200s

Matthew Jaquith

Springfield City Library

Alex Kyrios

OCLC

Emily McDonald

Lawrence Public Library

Elizabeth McKinstry

Springfield City Library

What we'll cover today

What the optional arrangement of the 200s is,
and why OCLC created it

Why and how two libraries implemented the
new classification

Following through - making your collection diverse
and equitable

Why your library should switch to the optional arrangement,
and the tools available to make that easier

Introduction to the optional arrangement

What's the problem?

First edition (1876)

- 200** Theology.
- 210** Natural Theology.
- 220** Bible.
- 230** Doctrinal Theology.
- 240** Practical and Devotional.
- 250** Homiletical and Pastoral.
- 260** Institutions and Missions.
- 270** Ecclesiastical and History.
- 280** Christian Sects.
- 290** Non-christian Religions.

Today

- 200** Religion
- 210** Philosophy & theory of religion
- 220** The Bible
- 230** Christianity
- 240** Christian practice & observance
- 250** Christian pastoral practice & religious orders
- 260** Christian organizations, social work & worship
- 270** History of Christianity
- 280** Christian denominations
- 290** Other religions

Why hasn't it been changed?

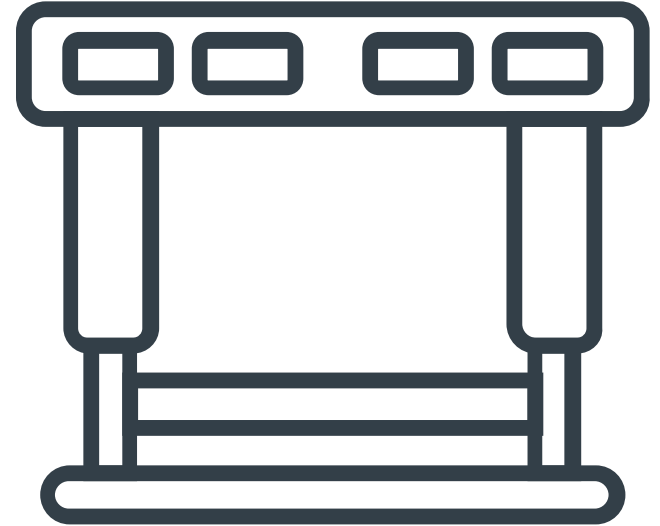
Inertia

The scourge of literary warrant

Existing options

“Editor brain”

Lack of a good alternative



A new arrangement...

Topic	Notation
Religions of Chinese origin	299.51
Religions of Indic origin	294
Religions of North American native origin	299.7
Judaism	296
Christianity	230-280
Islam	297

The optional arrangement

Topic	Standard	Optional
Religions of Chinese origin	299.51	221
Religions of Indic origin	294	223-229
Religions of North American native origin	299.7	239.7
Judaism	296	251
Christianity	230-280	252-279
Islam	297	281-298

tinyurl.com/optionalDDC220-290

Why hasn't it been changed?

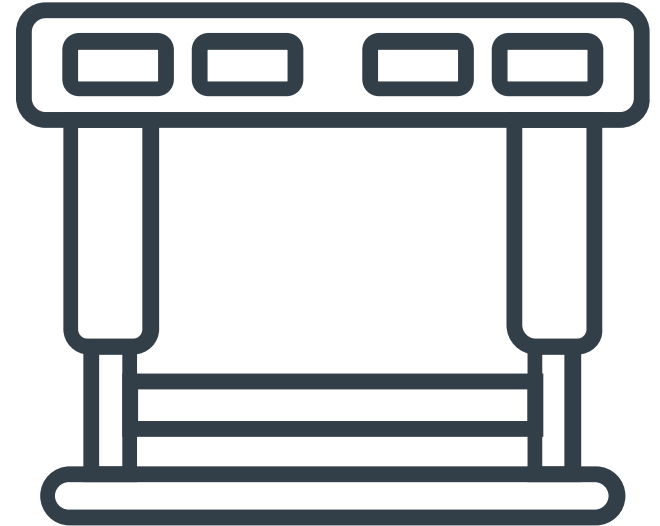
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The optional arrangement

Standard

- 220** The Bible
- 230** Christianity
- 240** ... practice & observance
- 250** ... pastoral practice & religious orders
- 260** ... organizations, social work & worship
- 270** History of ...
- 280** ... denominations
- 290** Other religions

Optional

- 220** East & Southeast Asian origin
- 230** African, American native, Australian origins
- 240** Bible
- 250** Judaism, Christianity
- 260** Christian moral & devotional theology
- 270** Christian social & ecclesiastical theology
- 280** Islam
- 290** Islam, modern spiritual movements, Wicca

tinyurl.com/optionalDDC220-290

Case Study – Lawrence, KS



Lawrence Public Library by the numbers

95,794

population

192,000

physical items

1

location

4

catalogers

Inspiration into action

May The Dewey Blog post

June Proposed to Collection Management to adopt optional arrangement

July Weed and project planning

August Update the collections

The project

5

staff members

2,500

books, audiobooks, & DVDs

1,500

on shelf in adult non-fiction

1

week

The crosswalk – a tool for everyone

Used the optional arrangement and translated it into a document for quick consultation

A	B	C
	Standard Dewey Call Number	Optional arrangement number
Jainism	294.4	226.[#s following 294.4]
Hinduism	294.5	223.1
Mythology and relations of Hinduism	294.51	223.2[#s following 294.51]
Doctrines of Hinduism	294.52	223.5[#s following 294.52]
Public worship and other practices of Hinduism	294.53	223.8[#s following 294.53]

Developed by Kate Ray

Tools for libraries

Adding optional arrangement numbers to records in OCLC

- 082 04 227.3 #2 23 #m b
-

200s Dewey Packet

- DDC Manual entry
- Crosswalk
- LPL's Action Plan



Case Study – Springfield, MA



Springfield City Library by the numbers

Serves a population of about 156,000, making it Massachusetts' 3rd largest municipality (4th largest in New England)

90 miles west of Boston, 25 miles south of Amherst where DDC began


Main library with 8 smaller neighborhood branches

Collection of about 166,500 volumes (print and media)

200s number about 2,000 system-wide for all media types

Background and inspiration


August 2019, Twitter thread from Lawrence Public Library in Kansas

 **Lawrence Public Library**
@lawrencelibrary

Heads up: If you wander over to the 200s in the nonfiction section and notice some empty shelves, don't worry! Our catalogers are working on a reclassification project. The books should be back by week's end.



12:09 PM · Aug 12, 2019 · Twit

 **Lawrence Public Library**
@lawrencelibrary

What's the project all about? The official Dewey editors have released an optional arrangement of the 200's that will allow better distribution and representation for non-Christian religions. You can read all about that here:



ddc.typepad.com

Mapping 220–290 standard notation to the Optional arrang...
Guest post by Rebecca Green The 2012 publication of the last print edition of 200 Religion Class was accompanied b...

12:26 PM · Aug 12, 2019 · Twitter Web App

Springfield City Library: what did we do?

Springfield's method was both similar and dissimilar to Lawrence's

- Central Library: somewhat complex
- Branch libraries: rather simple

Your method could be either, based on your staff and patron needs

Reclassification tips from other libraries

- Print an inventory at the beginning of the project to...
 - Assess what's missing
 - Record the new numbers and date completed
 - Use for collection maintenance and analysis to determine the above as well as what remains to be completed
-
- Pull items to be reclassified based on the new Dewey number, not the old number

How much shorter?

75

new call numbers are shorter than are the Standard Arrangement (about **50%**)

Of those 75, at least **one-third saves two or more digits**

44

of the Optional Arrangement numbers have no change in length (about **28%**)

Shorter, more user-friendly call numbers

Standard DDC23	Title	Optional arrangement
299.31	<i>Mummies, Myth, and Magic</i>	238
299.514	<i>Taoism for Dummies</i>	221.1
299.936	General book on Scientology	299.6

**Following through:
now what?**

Next steps to maximize impact

- Collection assessment and improvement
-

- Outreach to your community
-

- Outreach to other libraries

Collection assessment and improvement

Who's your audience for religion books?

- General information
 - Adherents to a faith
-

Look at your gaps

- 220s, 230s, 280s, 290s
- Get those core texts

Faiths in your community

Do you know what the major faiths are in your community?

Do some outreach – get out and talk to faith leaders

What books does your community need and want?

Outreach to colleagues

What	When
New England Library Association / NHLA (Manchester, NH)	October, 2022
Springfield Interfaith Council (Springfield, MA)	January 2023
Vermont Library Association (South Burlington, VT)	April 2023
Connecticut Library Association (Groton, CT)	May 2023
Massachusetts Library Association (Falmouth, MA)	May 2023
Maine Library Association (Sunday River, ME)	May 2023
Rhode Island Library Association (Providence, RI)	May 2023
Vermont Department of Libraries (online)	August 2023
Simmons University (South Hadley, MA)	March 2024

In summation

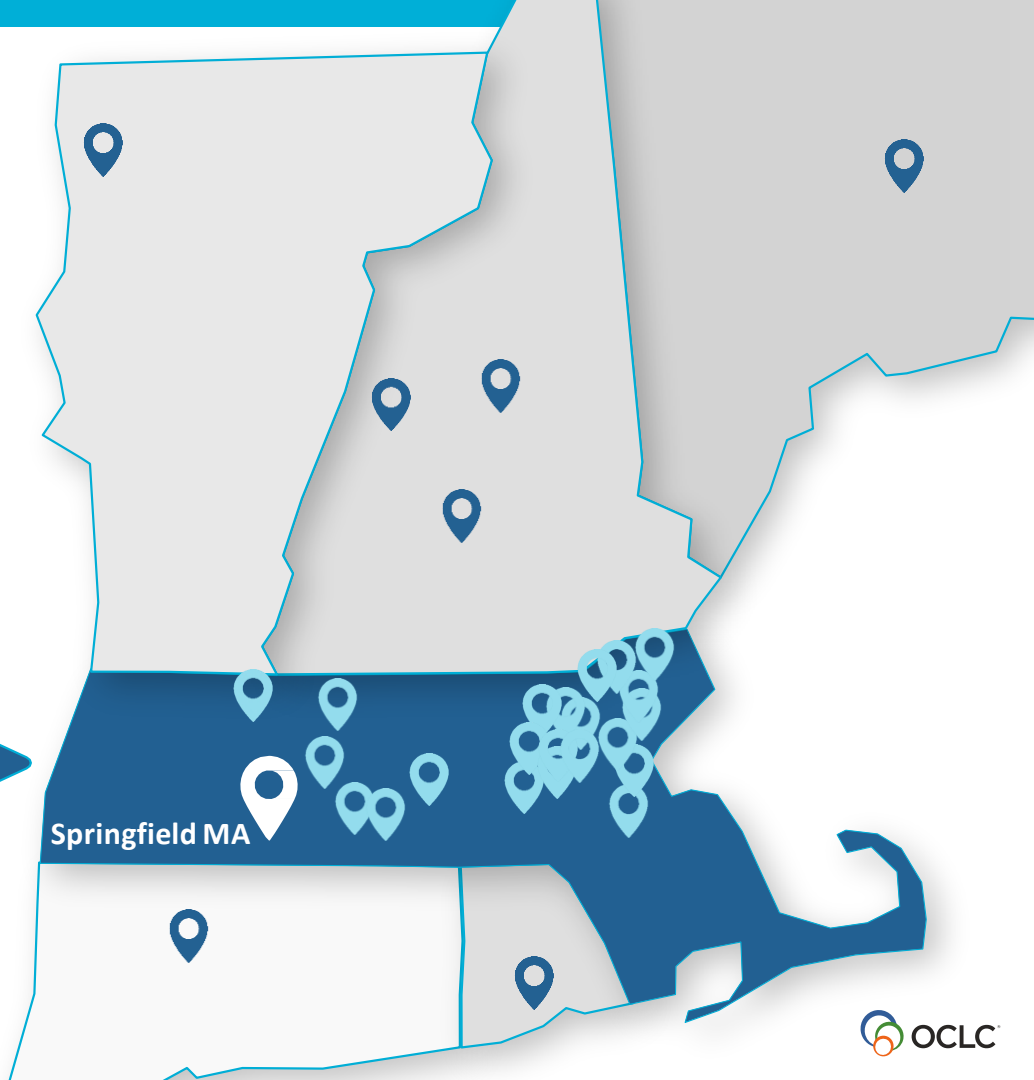
Why the optional arrangement?

- More logical browsing sequence (east to west / oldest to most recent)
- Shorter call numbers to help the public and staff alike
- It's easy and inexpensive; project tools and colleagues are available to help
- Much greater social equity

Yesterday vs. today



The New England wave (that we know of)



Resource list: Dewey blog posts

- [Mapping 220–290 standard notation to the Optional arrangement for the Bible and specific religions](#) (May 2019)
- [Why are the 200s so heavily focused on Christianity? An explainer](#) (November 2019)
- [What's the distinction between myth and religion in Dewey? An explainer](#) (December 2019)
- [Reclassifying the 200s at Simmons University](#) (February 2020)
- [Revisions to witchcraft and Wicca](#) (August 2020)
- [Reclassifying the 200s at Lawrence Public Library](#) (Sept 2020)

Resource list: Other

tinyurl.com/optionalDDC220-290



LPL 200s Dewey Packet

**Because
what is
known must
be shared.®**

Thank you!

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Diversity,
Equity, and
Inclusion



Please enter
questions in
chat and send
to everyone

Happy 5th Anniversary: Virtual OCLC cataloging community meetings



- First event in June 2020
- 26 community presenters over the series
- Registrations from 100+ countries

THANK YOU!

See all past meetings at oc.lc/cataloging-community-meetings

OCCLC cataloging community meeting

21 June 2024

Break



OCLC cataloging community meeting

The OCLC cataloging community meeting

21 JUNE 2024

#OCLCcataloging

