

## Att. #1

### Library redesign overview

We are designing spaces for people, not collections.

Libraries historically were more equally divided as places for gathering as well as collection.

“The libraries Carnegie envisioned celebrated knowledge through both collection and congregation. Collections were concentrated in defined areas, while equal, if not more space, was dedicated to ornate reading rooms where the community could gather to share ideas.” (“Experiences, not collections, define libraries of the future”, The Des Moines Register, August 2016). While libraries have always been community gathering places, the growth of digital collections and access provide an increased opportunity to fulfill that roll.

Bookstore models in libraries are not new and have been pioneered by many other libraries across the nation. The version we’re recommending incorporates subject categories, while retaining Dewey number within those categories. This makes browsing simpler for those people (most) unfamiliar with the Dewey system while retaining the ability to readily locate a specific item. We already have two sections arranged this way: travel and cooking, and we found that circulation has increased 25% for those collections in 2015. Retaining the Dewey numbers within subject areas retains our control over the collection as a whole.

Some of the libraries that have done this and written about it:

- Maricopa County Library District, Arizona
- Darien, CT
- Frankfort Public Library District, Frankfort, IL
- Albany Public Library, DE
- Anythink Libraries, CO
- Ashland Public Library, OR

“Should libraries eliminate Dewey? There is no right or wrong answer, but we hope librarians are encouraged to evaluate whether or not their library should or shouldn’t make changes to stay relevant to their community. We are not selling a new system. We are simply attempting, like all other libraries, to make the best decisions with our patrons in mind.”

(“Frankfort Public Library District’s Decision to Go Dewey Free,” ILA Reporter, June 2009)

“Today’s libraries are reinventing themselves as vibrant town squares, showcasing the latest best sellers, lending Kindles loaded with e-books, and offering grass-roots technology training centers. Faced with the need to compete for shrinking municipal finances, libraries are determined to prove they can respond as quickly to the needs of the taxpayers as the police and fire department can.” (“Libraries See Opening as Bookstores Close” *NYT*, Dec. 27, 2012)

What do the patrons’ want?

Naturally, we will get arguments both for and against. But in an era when fewer people know how to use the Dewey Decimal system or want to search for titles in the online catalog, it makes sense to try to simplify our customers’ interaction with the non-fiction collection.

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