



Ditching Dewey

A Survey of U.S. Public Libraries



Who We Are

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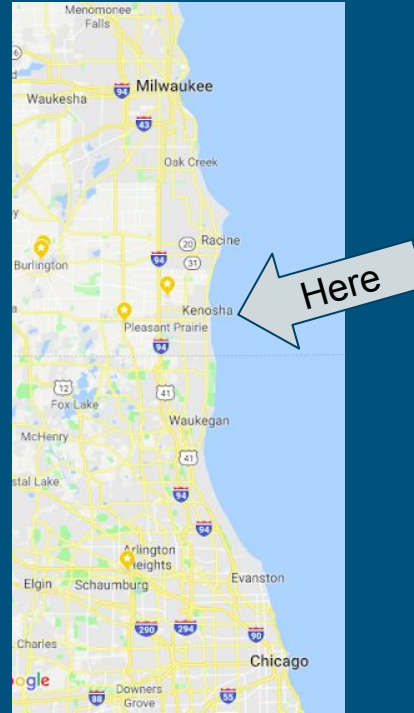
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About KPL

Located between Milwaukee
and Chicago

Service Population: 99,960



About KPL



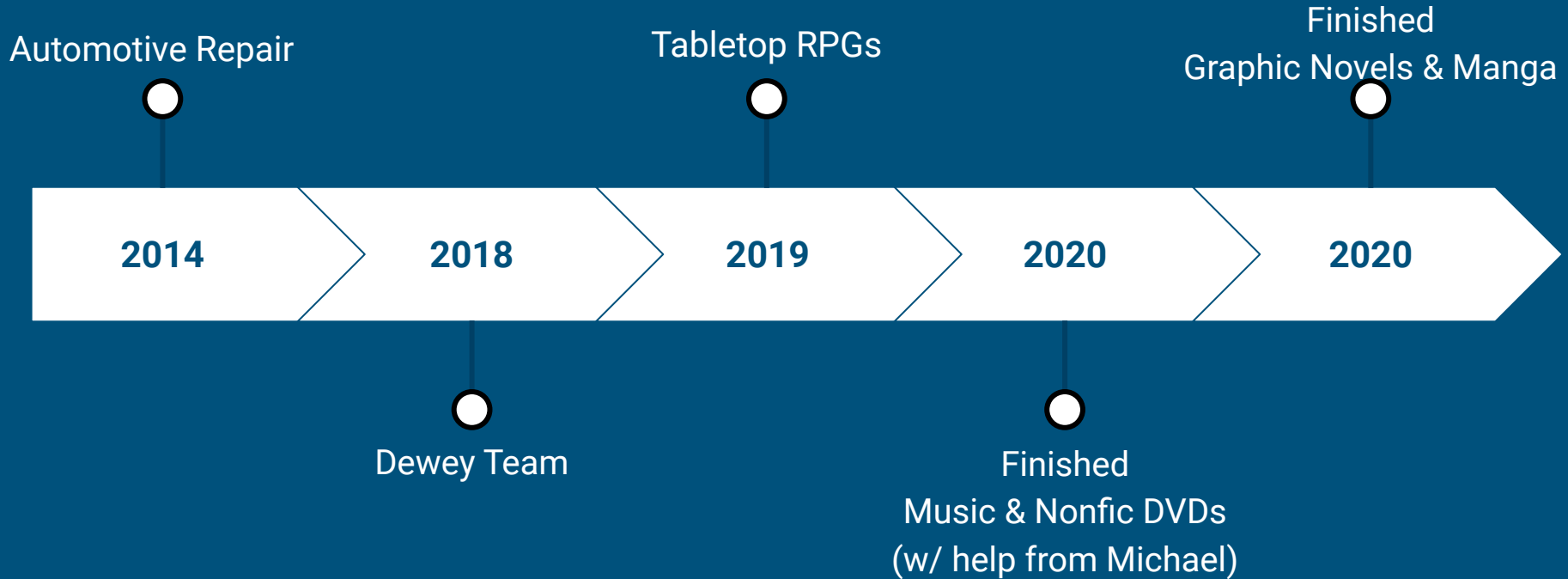
4 Branches + 3 Outreach Vehicles

Why ?!?!?!?!?

- Browsability
- Removing barriers
- DDC no longer taught in some elementary schools
- Created in 1876
 - Western & American prejudices built in
 - Doesn't cover all subject categories



History



Spreadsheet for DVD Conversion

	A	B	C	D
1	Barcode	Title	Old Call Number	New Call Number
158	3064511043814	Life part 2 /	305.244 L626 VOL. 11	HEALTH AGING
159	3064511009781	Life part 2 /	305.244 L626 VOL. 12	HEALTH AGING
160	3064511043789	Life part 2 /	305.244 L626 VOL. 13	HEALTH AGING
161	3064511009807	Life part 2 /	305.244 L626 VOL. 2	HEALTH AGING
162	3064511009754	Life part 2 /	305.244 L626 VOL. 3	HEALTH AGING
163	3064511043770	Life part 2 /	305.244 L626 VOL. 4	HEALTH AGING
164	3064511009763	Life part 2 /	305.244 L626 VOL. 6	HEALTH AGING
165	3064511043823	Life part 2 /	305.244 L626 VOL. 7	HEALTH AGING
166	3064511043832	Life part 2 /	305.244 L626 VOL. 8	HEALTH AGING
167	3064511043798	Life part 2 /	305.244 L626 VOL. 9	HEALTH AGING
168	3064513203692	Menopause in an hour : an appointment with Tar	618.175 M547	HEALTH AGING
169	3064510246964	Intricate minds III : understanding elementary sc	616.858832 C832 VOL. 3	HEALTH AUTISM
170	3064511038296	Navigating the social world /	616.8588 M478	HEALTH AUTISM
171	3064512480607	Tackling diabetes	641.5631 641.5631 B259	HEALTH DISEASE
172	3064513223457	Type 1 diabetes caring with confidence /	616.462 T991	HEALTH DISEASE
173	3064513223466	Type 1 diabetes caring with confidence /	616.462 T991	HEALTH DISEASE
174	3064513223475	Type 1 diabetes caring with confidence /	616.462 T991	HEALTH DISEASE
175	3064512815550	The Engine 2 kitchen rescue /	613.262 F721	HEALTH NUTRITION
176	3064512815621	The Engine 2 kitchen rescue /	613.262 F721	HEALTH NUTRITION
177	3064512863622	The Engine 2 kitchen rescue /	613.262 F721	HEALTH NUTRITION
178	3064512126304	Common sense PARENT. /	649.1 C734	PARENT BEHAVIOR MANAGE
179	3064512126313	Common sense PARENT. /	649.1 C734	PARENT BEHAVIOR MANAGE
180	306458324770	The happiest baby on the block : the new way to	649.122 K148	PARENT BEHAVIOR MANAGE
181	3064510616494	Passport to friendship : / facilitating peer play for	649.154 P289	PARENT BEHAVIOR MANAGE
182	3064511995527	1-2-3 magic. /	649.64 P538	PARENT BEHAVIOR MANAGE
183	3064513224063	An overview of dynamic temporal and tactile sup	616.8552 QV657	PARENT CHILD DEVELOP



Health & Fitness

How To

Travel

Music

Everything else

Example Call Numbers



What Happened?

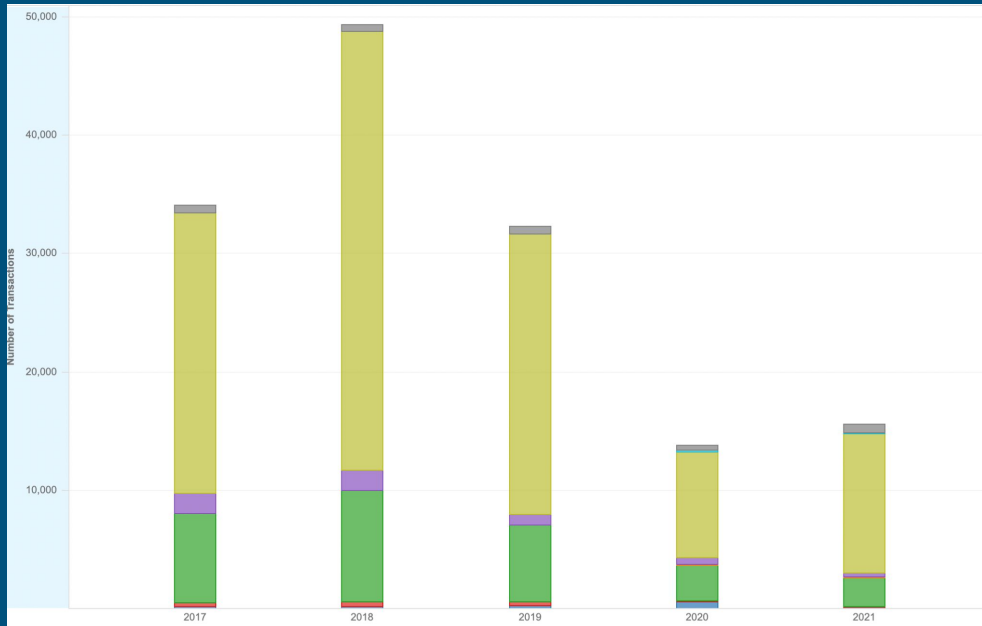
Nonfiction DVDs : 30% increase

Automotive : ~3% increase

Tabletop RPG : 20% increase

Graphic Novels & Manga : Jumped 100%, settled at 20% increase

What about Music CDs?



The Dewey Team



Results

- Dewey is fine
- We need better finding aids
- Patrons won't be able to tell Fic from Nonfic
- Ask UWM for research help

Previous Research

Redihan, E. (2020): Case studies

- 4 libraries, adopt Book Industry Standards and Communications (BISAC) model
- 1 reverts back to DDC

Chiavaroli, M. (2019): Cumberland Public Library, RI case study

- Browse Method (9 categories) with BISAC sub-categories
- Spine labels: Color coded & plain English
- Discusses practical items (cost, materials used)

Fister, B. (2009):

- Sentiments in the field for keeping or abandoning Dewey

The Study

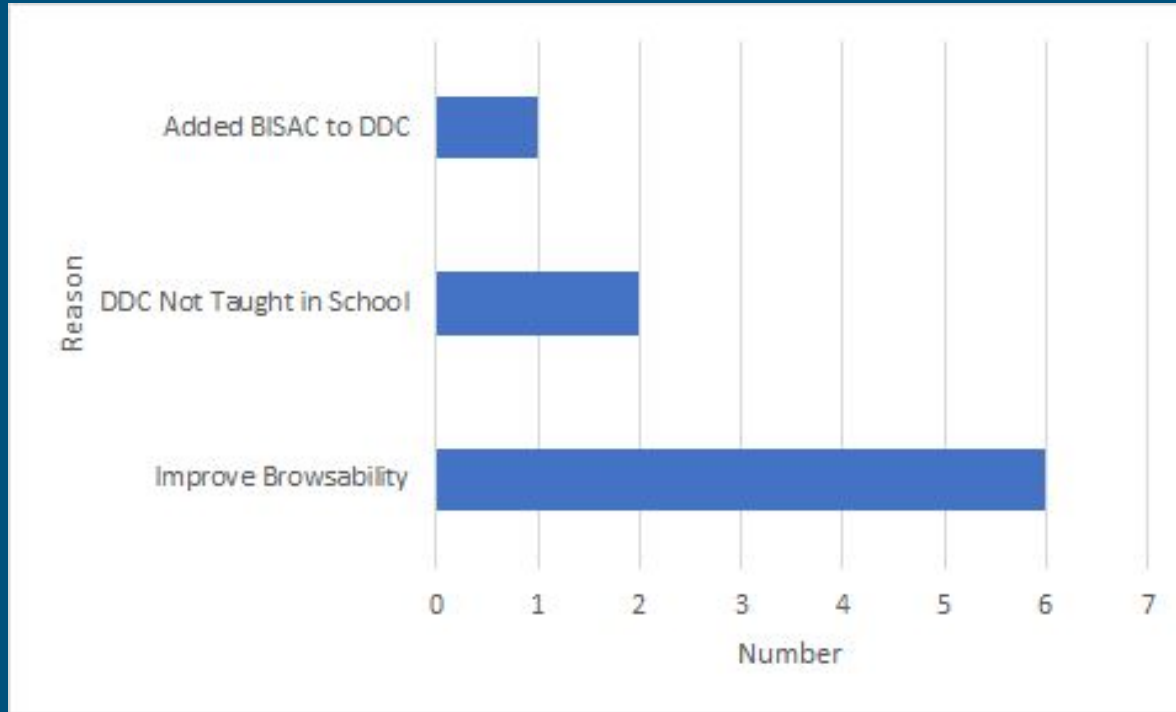
- Identified U.S. public libraries that stopped using DDC
 - Targeted Google and UWM Library searches
- Located contact information for assistant directors
- Qualtrics survey sent to 19 libraries by email (Spring 2021)
- 9 libraries (47.4%) completed survey
- Qualitative & quantitative analysis of survey data

Libraries Surveyed

- Cumberland Public Library, RI
- Darien Library, CT
- Madison Public Library, OH
- Greenwood Public Library, IN
- Kendallville Public Library, IN
- Gail Borden Public Library District, IL
- Westmont Public Library, IL
- Anythink Libraries, CO
- Maricopa County Library District, AZ



Findings: Why Drop DDC?



Findings: Abandon DDC Completely?

- 6 libraries did
- 3 libraries did not
 - Only converted sections
 - Use DDC in some way still
 - Darien, CT's Dewey Lite



Findings: What Replaced DDC?



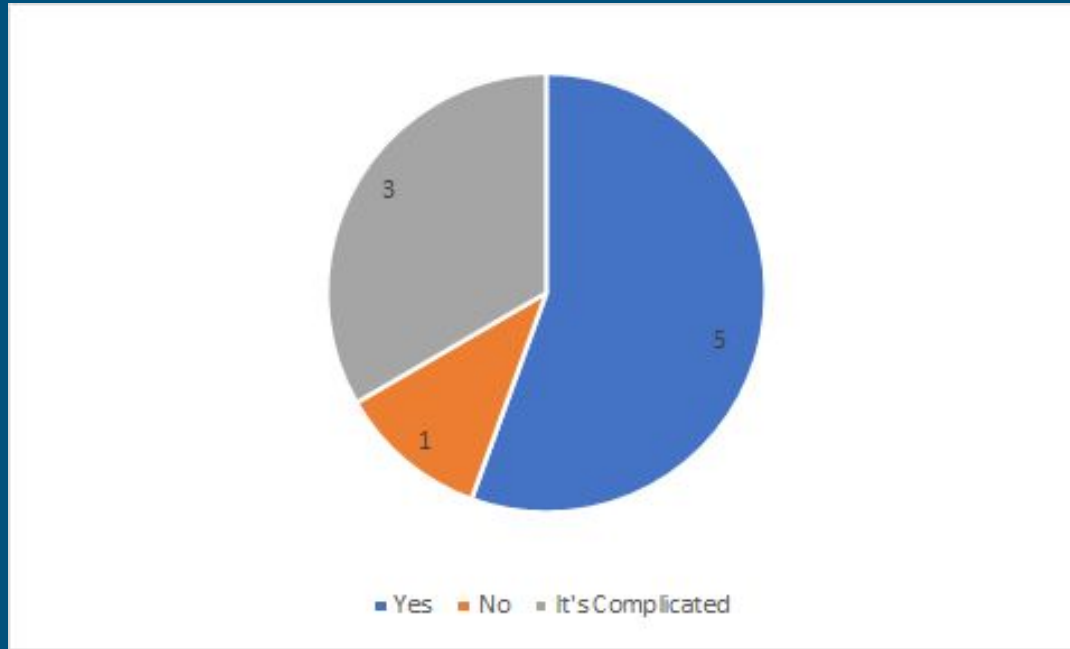
- BISAC
- WordThink
- Browse Method
- "Dewey Lite"
- "Shelf Logic"
- Topic Driven (custom)
- Other, unspecified

Findings: What Replaced Dewey?

- BISAC, 52 categories
- Other systems adapted from BISAC

- ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES
- ARCHITECTURE
- ART
- BIBLES
- BIOGRAPHY & AUTOBIOGRAPHY
- BODY, MIND & SPIRIT
- BUSINESS & ECONOMICS
- COMICS & GRAPHIC NOVELS
- COMPUTERS
- COOKING
- CRAFTS & HOBBIES
- DESIGN
- DRAMA
- EDUCATION
- FAMILY & RELATIONSHIPS
- FICTION
- FOREIGN LANGUAGE STUDY
- GAMES & ACTIVITIES
- GARDENING
- HEALTH & FITNESS
- HISTORY
- HOUSE & HOME
- HUMOR
- JUVENILE FICTION
- JUVENILE NONFICTION
- LANGUAGE ARTS & DISCIPLINES
- LAW
- LITERARY COLLECTIONS
- LITERARY CRITICISM
- MATHEMATICS
- MEDICAL
- MUSIC
- NATURE
- PERFORMING ARTS
- PETS
- PHILOSOPHY
- PHOTOGRAPHY
- POETRY
- POLITICAL SCIENCE
- PSYCHOLOGY
- REFERENCE
- RELIGION
- SCIENCE
- SELF-HELP
- SOCIAL SCIENCE
- SPORTS & RECREATION
- STUDY AIDS
- TECHNOLOGY & ENGINEERING
- TRANSPORTATION
- TRAVEL
- TRUE CRIME
- YOUNG ADULT FICTION
- YOUNG ADULT NONFICTION

Findings: Did it Increase Circulation?



Findings:

- Movement away from numbers and toward words & color classification
- New strategies include fewer and more categories
 - 52 in BISAC
 - 21 in Library of Congress
 - 10 in DDC
 - 9 in Browse Method at Cumberland Public Library
- Focus on user friendliness/browsing not locating specific titles
- Limitations:
 - Not publicized, not found in our searches
 - Small sample
 - Time/money questions

What's Next?

- Academic:
 - Follow up interviews
 - Conduct additional searches and surveys
 - Write academic article
- Professional:
 - Survey KPL patrons about browsability and needs
 - Prepare report of research findings, replacement classification system, budget
 - Present findings to KPL board

Questions?



References

Chiavaroli, M. (2019). "Ditching Dewey: Take your Collections from Enraging to Engaging and Position your Library for 21st Century Success." *Public Library Quarterly*, vol. 38(2): 124-146.

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