

North American public libraries have long favoured the Dewey Decimal Classification Scheme based on an expanding decimal system and a logical subject arrangement.

There are numerous other classification systems in use throughout the world. Dewey is used in the U. K. as is the Universal Decimal Classification system which is similar to Dewey. Bliss, Colon and Kanganathan are other classifications which have their following, the first seeing widespread use in Africa. Many British academic libraries have developed their own classification schemes which are used nowhere else, even in Britain.

This diversification of classification schemes can prove a problem if cataloguing copy is received with Canadian books, since the class number must be altered from the original card to conform with whatever system the particular library is using.

A similar problem exists with the subject headings normally found on cataloguing copy which is originally produced in Canada. Two basic subject heading lists are used in Canada; Library of Congress and Sears Subject Heading List, the former for academic libraries, the latter for public libraries (with very few exceptions).