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## Dewey-Lite: A Solution to the Nonfiction Problem

Kiera Parrott  
School Library Journal  
Elisabeth Gattullo Marrocolla  
Darien Library, Darien, CT

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### Topics For Discussion

- Brief history and inspirations for Darien Library's collection reorganizations
- Planning and Logistics
- Evaluation 
- Q&A




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### The Dewey Decimal Problem

- Not designed with the needs of a child user in mind
- Difficult for children to browse for topics that interest them
- Like topics (animals and pets) are not shelved together
- Oddly dated/misogynistic Dewey numbers





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### Daring to Reorganize

- Darien Library Picture Book Reorg
- Metis - The Ethical Culture Fieldstone School
- Natural Language - Alexander Central Schools



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### Concerns About a Switch

- All of the Darien Schools use DDC in their libraries—would children become confused?
- Would parents and grandparents be upset with changes to a system in place for decades?
- Very little flexibility in shelving and floor plan.
- Balanced: would the system facilitate browsing and finding?



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**The Solution:  
Dewey-Lite!**



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### Goals of Dewey-Lite

- Highly browsable
- Intuitive to navigate
- Grouped in subject areas that directly address the browsing and searching patterns of children
- Increasing types of Nonfiction circulation




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### Steps Before Reorganization

- Set a budget
- Get the key players on board




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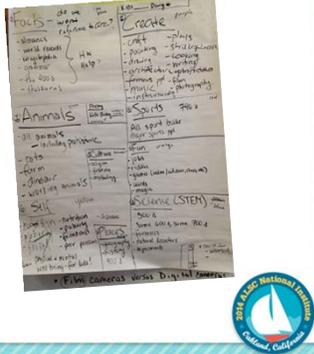
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### Steps, Continued...

- Create your categories
- Design your layout
- Chose your labels/stickers




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### Steps, Continued...

- Decide who will carry out the physical changes
- Set a deadline!



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### Dewey-Lite at Darien Library

Kids Animals	All living things, both prehistoric and currently living	
Kids Create	Music, arts, gardening, dance, cooking - anything that gets your creative juices flowing!	
Kids Facts	Encyclopedias, dictionaries, word records, and thesauri	
Kids Fun	Werewolves, ghosts, jokes, riddles, and more!	
Kids Self	All about you - your body, your mind, and your spirit!	
Kids STEM	STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math	
Kids Sports	All sports, all the time	
Kids Then & Now	Geography, history, and current events	
Kids Traditions	Folktales, religions, and mythology	



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Moving the collection!



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### Challenges

- Outlier titles - where do they belong?
- Deciding contested titles
- Marketing



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### The Public Debut

- Outreach to School Librarians
- Signage (pre and post Reorg)
- Dedicated space for Non-Fiction displays
- Talking Points for entire library Staff
- More even library usage of fiction and nonfiction titles



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### Measuring Success

- Total circulation of nonfiction books
- Circulation of specific Dewey ranges
- Circulation percentages of fiction vs. nonfiction



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### Take this home!

- If Dewey-Lite is not be a perfect fit for your library, try another model, or use pieces of one to make it work for you.
- The goal is to create a more patron-focused Non-Fiction collection
- Kids who browse become kids who read!



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*We hope Dewey-Lite can bridge the gap between the debut of DDC in 1876 and the way children search for and use informational text, today and in the future.*



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