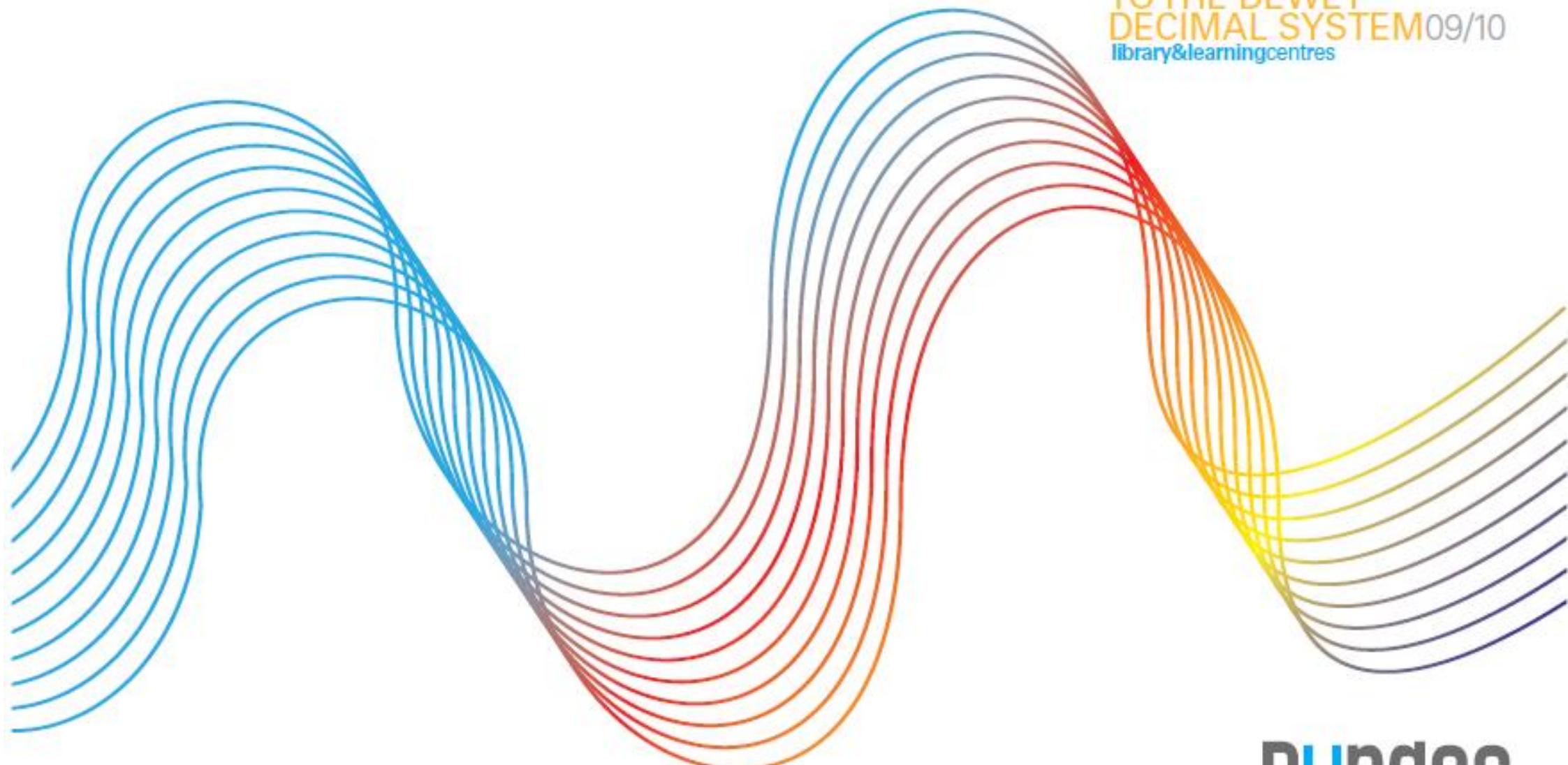


STUDENT GUIDE
TO THE DEWEY
DECIMAL SYSTEM 09/10
library&learningcentres



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Dewey Decimal Classification System

There are many tools in the Library to help you find the information you need for your studies. The material may vary in format i.e. print, sound, video or electronic resources but the procedure for locating information is the same for all.

Most resources in the Library are arranged in subject order according to the **Dewey Decimal Classification Scheme**. The Dewey Decimal System co-ordinates materials of the same and related subjects, by using a combination of letters and numbers. This makes items easier to find on the shelves.

The Dewey Decimal Classification System is by far the most common system in the world and is the one you will probably have come across in your school or public library.

Understanding how it works will help you trace the books and other learning materials that you require much more easily.

Quite simply, the system organises books by dividing them into 10 main groups each represented by a number - beginning at **000** and advancing to **999**.



599.885 – Chimpanzees



Therefore, the classification number for any resources on Chimpanzee is:

599.885

REMEMBER: You still have to add the 3 letter code after the classification number to make up the Shelf Mark.

For example: **599.885 ROB**

If you require any additional help in using the Dewey Decimal Classification system, then please do not hesitate to email:

s.stirling@dundeecollege.ac.uk

The Animals, the **590's**, are then divided into ten divisions:

- 591 Specific topics in natural history of animals
- 592 Invertebrates
- 593 Miscellaneous marine and seashore invertebrates
- 594 Mollusca and Molluscoidea
- 595 Arthropoda
- 596 Chordata
- 597 Fishes
- 598 Birds
- 599 Mammals

Mammals, including chimpanzees would be under **599**. Now we have the first three numbers of the classification number **599**. The **599's** are further divided by the use of decimals to specify what type of mammal.

500 Natural Science



590 Animals



599 Mammals



599.8 Primates



599.88 Great Apes and Hylobatidae

000-099	Encyclopaedias, dictionaries, directories
100-199	Philosophy, psychology
200-299	Religion
300-399	Social sciences - economics, sociology, education
400-499	Languages- English, French, Italian etc
500-599	Sciences - chemistry, physics, biology, zoology
600-699	Technology and applied sciences - medicine, engineering, agriculture
700-799	Arts - architecture, painting, music, photography
800-899	Literature, novels, poetry, drama, literary criticism
900-999	Geography, history

Each of these 10 main groupings (or classes) is then broken up into even more specialised subject areas. For example,

300	Social Sciences
310	Statistics
320	Politics
330	Economics
340	Law
350	Government
360	Social care
370	Education
380	Transport
390	Customs, folklore

Again each of these groupings is broken up into more specific subject areas, with additional numbers added after a decimal point. For example:

330	Economics
331	Labour economics
331.1	Labour force and market
331.12	Labour market
331.124	Job Vacancies

This arrangement means that all books on the same or a similar subject are shelved next to each other, making it easier for you to browse through the collection.

REMEMBER!

The more numbers, the more specific the resource.

Also note that all of our books have a 3 letter code after the number. For example,

331.1	AIN
331.1	STU
331.1	THO

The 3 letter code represents the first three letters of the first author's surname or if there are no authors the first three letters of the title. This means that all books on the same subject and with the same classification number are arranged alphabetically to enable you to trace books easily. The complete number is known as the **Shelf Mark**.

Example

To find the classification number for chimpanzees, we need to start with the class for natural sciences the **500s**. This means that the first number of the shelf mark number will begin with **5**.

The list below shows the ten divisions of this **500** class.

510	Mathematics
520	Astronomy
530	Physics
540	Chemistry
550	Earth Sciences
560	Palaeontology
570	Life Sciences
580	Botanical Sciences
590	Animals

Chimpanzees will be classified under Animals 590; therefore we know that the second number of the classification number will be a **9**.

The list on the following page shows the ten divisions of the 590's.