

**A RATIONAL CLASSIFICATION
OF LITERATURE FOR SHELVING
AND CATALOGUING BOOKS
IN A LIBRARY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649314744

A Rational Classification of Literature for Shelving and Cataloguing Books in a Library by Fred. B. Perkins

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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FRED. B. PERKINS

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© : A

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WITH ALPHABETICAL INDEX.

BY
no Bisher
FRED. B. PERKINS.

SAN FRANCISCO:
BACON & COMPANY, BOOK AND JOB PRINTERS,
Corner Clay and Sansome Streets.
1881.

A Rational Classification of Literature

FOR

SHELVING AND CATALOGUING BOOKS.

THIS classification is published in consequence of a year's practice with Mr. Dewey's "Decimal System."

1. This system, and indeed any system, of classification may be used with either the movable or the fixed location. The chief difference is, that if the movable system is used, the books can be shelved in one unbroken row to begin with, and then shifted along as new books are inserted at their proper points in the line; while on the fixed system the space disposable for books needs to be mapped out to begin with, so that the row of books on each subject shall begin at the point where it is to remain. But Mr. Dewey's system (for example) could be used in the fixed-location manner, by simply mapping out the whole space of the shelves as before, beginning the row of books on each separate subject at a given place, and then keeping them there.

In both systems (as commonly used, *but not necessarily*) books newly added are placed at the ends of sections; i. e., books on Archaeology, at the end of the row of books on that subject already shelved; books on Spectroscopy at the end of the row of books on Spectroscopy already shelved, etc.

The numbering of the books in the two systems must, of course, differ: in the movable system it expresses the place of the book *in the classification only*; and in the fixed system, the place on the shelf, and in the classification too.

2. The classifying on the shelf need not be more than an approximate one, in most libraries. In specialty libraries, particularly where readers may go to the shelves and work in the alcoves (as in college libraries chiefly for the instructors), it may be a convenience to have all the books on each subject accurately together. Usually, however, a rough approximation will do very well; the indispensable condition being, not the scientific accuracy of the location of the book, but mechanical accuracy of its place on the shelf, exactly where its shelf-mark situates it, so as to be readily found when wanted. Any closer classification can be provided in the catalogue.

3. The classification here offered wholly neglects decimalism, and seeks to give to each subject just as many subdivisions as it requires. Under "Europe,"

for instance, it allows, not ten countries, but as many countries, divisions, etc. as there are.

It is in no sense founded on Mr. Dewey's system, its substance having been in print (reference alphabet and all) long before that very ingenious and symmetrical device was worked out by its enterprising and energetic author.

4. Criticisms on Mr. Dewey's system are unnecessary here. Those who like it will naturally adhere to it. The writer believes that his system accomplishes some good things which Mr. Dewey's does not, and cures some defects in it. Probably Mr. Dewey may reciprocate these sentiments.

5. Points (among others) of the present system :

First. **THREEFOLD ANALYSIS.**—Literature is laid off into eight classes, these into seventy chapters, and these again into a little more than 1,400 sections, with blanks left which will allow of expansion to 6,384 or more sections. The class names and the chapter names are used as labels or guides only, and have no number in the series of topics. It is the sections or ultimate subdivisions alone that have such numbers; and under these heads are to be placed the titles of the works in the library. The names of these sections are meant to be suitable for subject-heads in a catalogue; so that, in fact, each section name, along with its group of titles of single works, might safely be transferred to its alphabetical place in what is often called a "dictionary" catalogue. One change would, however, be necessary: the books are placed on the shelf at the end of each section in the order of their coming into the library; while in the catalogue they should be entered under the name of the section in the alphabetical order of the names of authors.

Second. **EXPANSIBILITY.**—Numbers are cheap, and just as many have been taken as was found convenient. For instance, after section 4 is this entry: "5-504, 500 blanks for alphabeting languages." Now in any small or moderately large general library, the single section 4, next before this supply of blanks (i. e., "Versions in other languages") will be ample for all such versions of the Bible in the library, as they will altogether cover but little space on the shelf. But in a large library, especially if its biblical department is full, the German Bibles (for instance) will form quite a series; the Latin ones another; and so on. Such blank numbers have been provided at those points in the series where further subdivision seemed most likely to be required.

A similar case will be found under Portuguese, Italian, and German languages (4970, 4978, 4986), where blank numbers are left for subdividing as fully as under English, should it be convenient.

Further subdivisions can be made at any point, by adding a letter to the figure (as 4994 A, 4994 B, etc.); or by Mr. Dewey's device of adding another digit (as, 49940, 49941, etc.); and there are other methods.

Third. **NATURALNESS.**—The divisions and subdivisions of subjects are meant to coincide with facts, so that each book shall fall into its right place with as little reasoning as possible.

Fourth. **VARIABILITY.**—In using this system in a small library, the eight

classes above might be the only divisions employed, each to have its number, from 1 to 8. In a larger library the chapters might be employed, which would give a series of seventy divisions; and it is believed that the system at full length might be used in any library, no matter how large.

Indeed, this classification, with its alphabetical key index, admits of many changes. Thus, the section numbers might be made to skip one throughout (i. e., by running 1, 3, 5, etc., instead of 1, 2, 3, etc.), or to skip four, by running 1, 5, 10, etc., thus giving room for much greater subdivision; or these expansions might be applied to any single chapter or class. New figures would probably be needed for all the subsequent portions of the classification, and the corresponding changes should of course be made in the index.

Fifth. CROSS REFERENCES.—It is believed that the (not very numerous) cross references which have been introduced will be useful as guides in an occasional doubt how to classify a new book, or how to pursue some research. They might, with the necessary changes of form, be advantageously transferred, along with the heads under which they stand, to a catalogue.

Sixth. CLASSIFICATION BY CONTRADICTION.—This method has been applied only in a few cases, and it might probably have been more extensively used with advantage. Many readers would be helped by finding the books on each side of a debated question indicated separately. Such cases are, Woman Suffrage, *for*, and Woman Suffrage, *against*; Capital Punishment, and *Same, works against*; and the like. It can, however, be easily introduced anywhere, by inserting the necessary additional section.

6. In regard to History, Geography, and Travels, a choice was made between these systems, namely :

a. To make three separate classes of them, or two such classes (by putting Geography and Travels together), in which event many countries would appear in three or two separate places; the classification for Geography and for Travels being substantially identical with that for History.

b. To deal with each country, continent, etc., only once for all three, subclassifying where necessary. This is what has been done, as on the whole the more convenient of the two.

In Biography, the double classification (i. e., applied to both collective and individual biographies) employed is believed an improvement. All the individual biography can at any time be thrown into a single alphabet, if desired for cataloguing purposes, by author's names, or (which is much the more convenient way) by names of subjects or (to coin a word) *biographees*.

Two chapter-heads have been inserted as convenient ones, for which better names would be welcome. These are "Historical Collaterals" (including 1789-1872) and "Linguistics" (531-53). No more satisfactory description was found for the collection of subjects placed under the former, and the latter has been used without leave, as a label for the formal methods of expressing and recording thought by language; "Philology" being taken for the science of language.

THE CLASSES AND CHAPTERS.

CLASS A.—RELIGION.

CHAP.

- I. BIBLE, BIBLICAL STUDY.
- II. HISTORY OF RELIGION.
- III. SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY.
- IV. CHRISTIAN POLITY.
- V. DEVOTIONAL.
- VI. PRACTICAL.
- VII. COLLECTIVE WORKS.

B.—PHILOSOPHY.

- I. MENTAL PHILOSOPHY: HISTORY AND SYSTEMS.
- II. MENTAL PHILOSOPHY: DEPARTMENTS.
- III. MIND AND BODY.
- IV. MORAL PHILOSOPHY.

C.—SOCIETY.

- I. GOVERNMENT AND LAW.
- II. PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.
- III. SOCIAL ORGANIZATION.
- IV. POLITICAL ECONOMY.
- V. EDUCATION: METHODS AND DEPARTMENTS.
- VI. EDUCATION: INSTITUTIONS AND REPORTS.
- VII. BUSINESS.

D.—HISTORY.

- I. GENERAL GEOGRAPHY AND TRAVELS.

- II. UNIVERSAL HISTORY.
- III. HISTORICAL COLLATERALS.
- IV. ANCIENT HISTORY.
- V. MEDIEVAL HISTORY.
- VI. MODERN AND EUROPEAN HISTORY.
- VII. ASIA.
- VIII. AFRICA.
- IX. SOUTH SEAS, AUSTRALASIA, SINGLE ISLANDS.
- X. AMERICA, EXCEPT UNITED STATES.
- XI. UNITED STATES.

E.—BIOGRAPHY.

- I. COLLECTIVE: GENERALLY AND BY NATIONS.
- II. BY CLASSES.
- III. GENEALOGY AND NAMES.

F.—SCIENCE.

- I. GENERAL TREATISES.
- II. MATHEMATICS.
- III. NATURAL PHILOSOPHY.
- IV. ASTRONOMY.
- V. COSMOLOGY.
- VI. GEOLOGY.
- VII. CHEMISTRY.
- VIII. GENERAL NATURAL HISTORY AND ZOOLOGY.
- IX. BOTANY.
- X. GENERAL MEDICINE.

- XI. HYGIENE.
- XII. MEDICAL PRACTICE.
- XIII. SURGICAL PRACTICE.
- XIV. MEDICAL JURISPRUDENCE.

G.—ARTS.

- I. GENERAL TREATISES.
- II. ENGINEERING.
- III. ARCHITECTURE.
- IV. MILITARY ARTS.
- V. NAVAL ARTS.
- VI. MECHANIC ARTS AND TRADES.
- VII. AGRICULTURE.
- VIII. DOMESTIC ARTS.
- IX. FINE ARTS.
- X. MUSIC.
- XI. RECREATIONS.

H.—LITERATURE.

- I. HISTORY OF LITERATURE.
- II. PHILOLOGY.
- III. LINGUISTIC.
- IV. CRITICAL SCIENCE.
- V. POETRY.
- VI. DRAMA.
- VII. FICTION.
- VIII. ORATORY.
- IX. COLLECTIONS.
- X. PERIODICALS.
- XI. ENCYCLOPEDIAS.
- XII. BIBLIOGRAPHY.
- XIII. LIBRARIES.

CLASSES, CHAPTERS AND SECTIONS.

NOTE.—The sections numbered in one series of Arabic figures, running through the whole classification, are the names of the topics or subjects under which the books are to be arranged on the shelves, and also in the topical part of the catalogue.

CLASS A.—RELIGION

Chapter I. Bible, biblical study.

For other sacred books, see names of religions in Chapter II.

Inspiration of Bible, 867, 868.

Bible societies, 937.

Hebrew language, 4713.

Section.

- 1 Bible, texts: polyglots.
- 2 originals alone.
- 3 English versions.
- 4 versions in other languages.
- 5-604 *Blanks for alphabeting languages.*
- 505 Old Testament, texts.
- 506 New Testament, texts.
- 507 Other parts of Bible.
- 508 Harmonies of the Gospels.
- 509 Apocrypha, commonly so called.
- 510 Other apocryphal books; Old Testament; Judaic.
- 511 New Testament; Christian.
- 512 Canon of Scripture.
- 513 Commentaries: whole Bible.
- 514 Old Testament and parts.
- 515 New Testament and parts.
- 516-58 single books of Bible.
- 584 Hermeneutics.
- 585 Biblical encyclopedias and dictionaries.
- 586 History of Bible.
- 587 Biblical antiquities.
- 588 Biblical Geography. *See also* Palestine, 3108.
- 589 Biblical natural history.
- 590 Concordances.
- 591-610 Other biblical aids.

II. History of Religion.

Symbolism, 1382.

Christian art, 4291.

Mythology, 1807 etc.

611 History of religion generally.

612 History of Christianity.

For history of other religions and of sects, see their names below. For history of doctrines, see names of sects, and also, under Chapter III, Systematic Theology.

- 613 Persecution; toleration.
- 614 Apostolic and primitive church.
- 615 Patristics.
- 616 Greek and eastern churches.
- 617 Monachism generally.
- 618 Church of Rome: history.
- 619 theology. *Canon law, 1288.*
- 620 monachism in.
- 621 Jesuits.
- 622 Inquisition.
- 623 *Missions, 234.*
- 628 works against.
- 624 Modern church history generally.
- 625 Aibigenes, Waldenses, Vaudois.
- 626 Protestantism generally.
- 627 Reformation.
- 628 Lutheranism.
- 629 Calvinism.
- 630 Church of England.
- 631 English dissent generally.
- 632 Puritanism.
- 633 Puseyism; ritualism.
- 634 Scottish Episcopal church.

- 635 Scottish kirk.
 636 Episcopal church in U. S.
 637 Presbyterians.
 638 Congregationalists and Independents.
 639 Methodists; Arminianism.
 640 Baptists. *Baptism*, 929, 930.
 641 Reformed (Dutch) church.
 642 Moravians.
 643 Quakers.
 644 Unitarians.
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 Christ, 875, 876.
 atonement, 877.
 645 Universalists.
 eschatology, 882.
 future state, 885.
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 646-700 Other Christian sects.
 701 Christian mysticism.
 702 Swedenborgianism.
 703 Shakers.
 704 Mormons. *Utah*, 2868.
 705 Judaism. *Jesus, ancient*, 1897; *medieval and modern*, 1958.
 706 Mohammedanism.
 707 Brahmanism.
 708 Jainism.
 709 Sikh religion.
 710 Buddhism.
 711 Confucianism.
 712 Taoism.
 713-16 Other Chinese beliefs.
 716 Sintoism.
 717 Zoroastrianism and Parsism.
 718-817 Heathenism, other and generally.
 818 Spiritism.
 819 Witchcraft, sorcery, magic, divination.
 820-80 Religious superstitions, fanaticisms, and extravagances, other and generally.

III. Systematic Theology.

- For theologies of sects and religions see their names in Chapter II.*
Theological schools, 1596.
 851 Theological encyclopedias and dictionaries.
 852 History of doctrines generally.
 853 History of heresies.
 854 Creeds.
 855 Natural theology.

- 856 Philosophy of religion. *Religion and Philosophy*, 854.
 857 Supernaturalism.
 858 Atheist works.
 859 Works against atheism.
 860 Deist, infidel, rationalist works.
 861 Works against deism, infidelity, rationalism.
 862 Pantheist works.
 863 Works against pantheism.
 864 Religion and philosophy.
 See also Inspiration of Bible, against, 868.
 See also Miracles, against, 862.
 See also Prophecy, against, 870.
 865 Religion and science.
 866 Evidences of Christianity.
 867 Inspiration of the Bible.
 868 works against.
 869 Prophecy.
 870 works against truth of.
 871 Miracles.
 872 works against truth of.
 873 God: Trinitarian works.
 874 anti-trinitarian works.
 See also Unitarianism, 644.
 875 Christ.
 876 works against deity and divinity of.
 See also Unitarians, 644.
 877 Atonement; salvation; grace; redemption.
 878 Holy Ghost; regeneration; sanctification.
 879 Depravity.
 880 Free will; predestination; fatalism.
 881 Faith; justification.
 882 Eschatology generally.
 883 Millennium; second advent.
 884 Death; resurrection.
 885 Future state; immortality.
 886 Angels, devil, devils.
 887 Hell; eternal punishment.
 888-920 Other single doctrines.

IV. Christian Polity.

- Church architecture and ecclesiology*, 3581.
Church and schools, 1520.
Theological schools, 1596.
 921 Church polity generally.
 922 Ecclesiastical law.
 Canon law, 1328.
 923 Ecclesiastical trials.
 924 Church and state.
 Persecution, 818.