Dewey or Don’t We: Transitioning to a Deweyless Library

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Transfer (Big Picture Ideas)

• Recognize that there are many different types of valid ways to organize a library collection.

• Have an understanding that a ‘customer-first’ mentality keeps a business thriving.

• Think beyond ‘business-as-usual’ in order to survive and thrive.

Understandings

• Identify potential strategies and partners in helping to transition part or all of their library collection to a “Bookstore Model” and the many ways that can look

• Understand how this model has benefitted end users such as K-12 students and public library patrons.
Benefits

• What are the benefits you foresee in transitioning to this model?

Challenges

• What are some challenges you see in transitioning?
WHY WE DROPPED DEWEY

• What are some of the reasons your library is considering dropping Dewey?

WHY WE DROPPED DEWEY

• Eliminate barriers
  – Dewey was intimidating
  – Dewey was a 'secret' code
  – Dewey was constraining

WHY WE DROPPED DEWEY

• Experience model
  – Focus on customer experience
  – Connections over control
  – Staff flexibility
WHY WE DROPPED DEWEY

• Browsability
  – Self-service
  – Better merchandising
  – Encounter vs. search

WHY WE DROPPED DEWEY

• Symbolic
  – The Anythink brand
  – Welcoming spaces
  – Information as experience
  – Customer-driven

THE PROCESS – STEP ONE

• Identify categories

- COOKING / Methods / Quick & Easy
- COOKING / Methods / Raw Food
- COOKING / Methods / Slow Cooking
- COOKING / Methods / Special Appliances
- COOKING / Methods / World Food
- COOKING / Reference
- COOKING / Regional & Ethnic / General
- COOKING / Regional & Ethnic / Africa
- COOKING / Regional & Ethnic / Americas / General
- COOKING / Regional & Ethnic / Americas / California Style

From http://www.bisg.org/what-we-do/5-136-knowledge-mapping-major-subjects.php
THE PROCESS – STEP ONE

• Category criteria
  — Size (number of items)
  — Community relevance
  — Community interest
  — Exists in BISAC Subject Headings list

THE PROCESS – STEP ONE

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THE PROCESS – STEP ONE

• How would you break down science materials at your library?
THE PROCESS – STEP TWO

• Reclassify the collection
• Behind the scenes
• Batch change by Dewey class
• Do the ‘potpourri’ one-by-one

THE PROCESS – STEP THREE

• Create a map
• Pull shelf list
• Relabel
• Reshelve

UNEXPECTED BENEFITS

• Flexibility
• Collection analysis
• Co-browsing
• Merchandising
• Staff understanding
Are You Ready To Transform The Way You Think About Books?

- If the answer is no, maybe you should stick with Dewey a little while longer
- If the answer is yes, consider the following:
  - Connections between collections
  - A rock and a blade of grass
  - Where should I start

Reasons Why

- Decimals are not taught until 2nd half of 3rd grade—\the Dewey Decimal System requires mastery of this in order to use it.
- Some libraries do not allow younger readers into the nonfiction section for that reason.
- 96% Kinders observed at Red Hawk choose nonfiction over Picture Books. They were able to navigate the nonfiction section unaided by adults.
The Data

• Looking for changes in book selection habits
• Baseline statistics on all Erie Feeder System 4th graders
• Followed these same students as 5th graders when Red Hawk Elementary opened in 2010.
• Surveys
• Observations

What Data Would Make An Impact on Your Principal, Superintendent?

Surveys and Observations

• Surveys of teachers and students confirm the library is easier to use than a traditional school library
• Students checking out a wider variety of books than they had previously
• Online catalog stations are only used when a specific title is needed
• This system promotes browsing
• Easily navigated by the youngest library users
Feeder Wide Statistics

- Baseline data of all 4th graders in the Erie Feeder System
- Book check out data collected on these same students as 5th graders and 6th graders
  - Empowered students
- Kindergarten & 1st grade easily able to navigate nonfiction-they routinely chose non fiction books over picture books. This is not typical of other elementary schools.
- Data shows that Black Rock and Erie Elementary students continued the same pattern of book check outs as 5th graders as they had as 4th graders.

Red Hawk Statistics

- 100% of Red Hawk 5th graders checked out a book in a new category
  - This model motivates those students who evaded checking out books-A few 4th graders only checked out 1-2 books during the entire school year. Those same students as 5th graders at Red Hawk checked books out every week.
- Non fiction check outs doubled and in some cases tripled at Red Hawk.
- These same tendencies are carrying over as 6th graders at Erie Middle.

Benefits for Librarians

- Much more in touch with their collections
- Better able to guide students and staff to the right resources
- Less time needed to help students navigate a classification system, more time available to help students and staff with research questions
Reflection

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Reflection

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Resources

November/December 2013 issue of Knowledge Quest:
http://www.ala.org/aasl/ka/v42n02
Ditching Dewey: Genrefication in your library:
http://www.ala.org/aasl/ecollab/ditching-dewey
Resources

Red Hawk Elementary Library scraps Dewey Decimal System for bookstore model

Would your elementary library work better if you scrapped Dewey for the bookstore model?
http://blog.schoollibrarymedia.com/index.php/2011/07/23/would‐your‐elementary‐library‐work‐better‐if‐you‐scrapped‐dewey‐for‐the‐bookstore‐model/

St. Vrain Media Services Blog
http://blogs.stvrain.k12.co.us/mediaservices/

Using the Bookstore Model of Classification on an Elementary School Library (SlideShare)
http://www.slideshare.net/svvsdlibraries/using‐the‐bookstore‐model‐of‐classification‐in‐classrooms

St. Vrain Valley School District secures copyright on new library classification system
http://www.timescall.com/news/longmont‐schools/ci_21002903/st‐vrain‐valley‐school‐district‐secures‐copyright‐on‐new‐library‐classification‐system/

"The Dewey Dilemma" by Barbara Fister
http://lj.libraryjournal.com/2010/05/public‐services/the‐dewey‐dilemma

Anythink Tank
http://www.anythinklibraries.org/anythinktank

BISG BISAC Subject Headings List
http://www.bisg.org/what‐we‐do‐0‐136‐bisac‐subject‐headings‐list‐major‐subjects.php

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On the web:
http://cslsession.cvlikes.org