Dewey Decimal Vs Library of Congress

Libraries use classification system to organize the books on the shelves. Usage of the Library of Congress (LC) or Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC) by a library is based on the collection size. DDC is divided into 10 classes, or broad subjects, thus limiting the number and variety of call numbers that can be assigned to the books. This is better suited for libraries with a smaller collection, such as school libraries or public libraries. LC, on the other hand, has 21 classes, which allows for more call numbers and hence a greater variety and number of books, such as in large academic libraries. The following examples highlight the distinct features of the 2 popular systems that most libraries use.

Dewey Decimal (DDC) Call No.

Example:
959.5705 TAD

DDC

1. Developed by Melvi Dewey in 1876.
2. Widely used by public and school libraries.
3. Number building – constructing a number by adding notation from the Tables.
4. 4 volumes only.
5. Numbers can be very long.
   - **Broader numbers** represent broader subjects; more specific, **longer numbers** represent more specific subjects.

   Example:
600	Technology
630	Agriculture and related technologies
636	Animal husbandry
636.7	Dogs
636.8	Cats
6. Notation consists only of Arabic numbers.
7. DDC is now owned by OCLC, available in print and web editions, but maintained in the LC.

Library of Congress (LC) Call No.

Example:
R Z696.D52 2011

LC

1. Designed to arrange LC's collections.
2. Widely used in academic libraries.
3. Enumerative – more is spelled out in the schedules.
4. Larger – over 40 separate volumes.
5. Economical notation (shorter numbers)
   - Basic arrangement is by **disciplines**. Various aspects of a subject are generally not grouped together, but are classed with the discipline.

   Example: Marriage
   Ethnology – GN480
   Folklore – GR465
   Sociology - HQ503 – HQ1057
6. Notation is alphanumeric, using both capital letters and Arabic numbers.
7. LCC is owned and maintained by LC.

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source Look at its origins. Is it trustworthy?

understand Know what you're reading. Search for clarity.

research Dig deeper. Go beyond the initial source.

evaluate Find the balance. Exercise fair judgement.

s.u.r.e.
Source·Understand·Research·Evaluate