

“Librarian’s Shelf” by Heather St. Clair

Locating Non-Fiction at the Columbus Public Library

For those of you who regularly visit the Columbus Public Library, you may notice some changes in our adult nonfiction collection.

In order to make the best use of our shelving space, and hopefully to reduce confusion, our travel and history books have been moved to the second floor of the library. In order to do this, the biographies have been moved to the first floor.

This move has provided us with extra space on the first floor, which will be used to spread out the rest of the books on the first floor and alleviate the tightness on shelves packed with books.

On the first floor, in addition to the newly moved biographies, you will find call numbers ranging from 001 to 699, which cover computers, philosophy, religion, social sciences, language, science, and technology and applied science.

On the second floor, you will find call numbers ranging from 700 to 999, covering art, literature and history.

All of our non-fiction, or factual, books are given a call number, which is a sequence of numbers and letters assigned to identify and arrange each book based on the topic covered within the book, rather than by the author, like you will see in our fiction areas. For example, books covering history would be found with a 900 number. Books with a 900 number will be further sub-divided based on the era or country the history covers; books with the number 940.54 are about World War II.

I described above the topics each range of numbers cover, but each area often covers much more than the topics I provided. For example, the 700 range of numbers is generally referred to as art, but it also covers recreation. You will find works by artists such as Picasso and Ansel Adams, floor plans for homes, knitting, painting, weaving, art collecting, landscaping, music, card games and sports all within the 700 section.

Another section that covers a large number of topics is the technology and applied sciences section which have 600 numbers. This section includes health, medicine and diseases; cars, trains, tractors and planes; gardening, pets, cooking, and resume guides, in addition to many other sub topics.

Some areas are a little more straight-forward such as the religion (200s) and science (500s) sections. Religion covers mainstream religions, as well as cults and sects. The science section covers biology, chemistry, astronomy, physics, as well as mathematics.

If all of this seems intimidating to you, it is okay. The staff at the Columbus Public Library is here to help you locate the books you are looking for.

If you need help or have any questions about these or other materials, please feel free to stop in the library, call us at 564-7116, or email us at library@columbusne.us.

The Columbus Public Library is also looking for donations of yearbooks from any Platte County high school, and will accept any year. We wish to fill the gaps in our collection.