300 Social sciences
310 Collections of general statistics
320 Political science
330 Economics
340 Law
350 Public administration & military science
360 Social problems & services
370 Education
380 Commerce, communications, transportation
390 Customs, etiquette, folklore

400 Language
410 Linguistics
420 English & Old English
430 Germanic languages
440 Romance languages (French)
450 Italian, Romanian, Rhaeto-Romanic
460 Spanish & Portuguese languages
470 Italic languages (Latin)
480 Hellenic languages
490 Other languages (Irish)

500 Natural sciences & mathematics
510 Mathematics
520 Astronomy & allied sciences
530 Physics
540 Chemistry & allied sciences
550 Earth sciences
560 Paleontology
570 Life sciences (Biology)
580 Plants
590 Animals

600 Technology (Applied sciences)
610 Medical sciences
620 Engineering
630 Agriculture
640 Home economics
650 Management
660 Chemical engineering
670 Manufacturing
680 Manufacture for specific uses
690 Buildings

700 The Arts
710 Civic & landscape art
720 Architecture
730 Sculpture
740 Drawing & decorative arts
750 Painting and paintings
760 Graphic arts (Printmaking)
770 Photography
780 Music
790 Recreational & performing arts

800 Literature & rhetoric
810 American literature in English
820 English & Old English literatures
830 Literatures of Germanic languages
840 Literatures of Romance languages
850 Italian, Romanian, Rhaeto-Romanic
860 Spanish & Portuguese literatures
870 Italic literatures (Latin)
880 Hellenic literatures (Classical Greek)
890 Literatures of other languages (Irish)

900 Geography & history
910 Geography & travel
920 Biography, genealogy, insignia
930 History of the ancient world
940 General history of Europe
950 General history of Asia
960 General history of Africa
970 General history of North America
980 General history of South America
990 General history of other areas
Classification / How Books are Shelved

Classification is a way of arranging books and other library materials so that they may be easily found.

Library material is usually classified by its subject or discipline using an existing system of classification such as Library of Congress Classification (LC) or Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC).

The system of classification used by GMIT Libraries is DDC.

Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC)

In 1876 an American librarian, Melvil Dewey, devised DDC. He divided the world of knowledge into ten main classes as follows:

000 Generalities
100 Philosophy & psychology
200 Religion
300 Social Sciences
400 Language
500 Natural Sciences & Mathematics
600 Technology (Applied Sciences)
700 The Arts
800 Literature & Rhetoric
900 Geography & History

Each of the classes has ten divisions which are in turn divided and further divided...The longer a class number is the more specific the subject matter is.

For example:
500 Natural Sciences
  510 Mathematics
    512 Algebra
      512.2 Groups and group theory

Although Dewey’s system is over 100 years old, constant revisions have ensured that it remains relevant reflecting advances in technology and changes to economic, political and social structures.

The latest edition was published in 2003 (Dewey 22)

Dewey Classification in GMIT

Each book or journal that GMIT library acquires is assigned a Dewey class number that identifies its subject matter. This number can be found on the spine of the book. As Dewey is a numerical system the books are arranged on the shelves in numerical order.

001-499 and 700-999 are held on the Ground Floor.
500-699 are held on the First Floor.

Locating Books in GMIT

When searching the library catalogue please note the location of the item you require as well as its class number.

Journals, Reference Books, Desk Reserve, Special Collections, Official Publications and Theses are shelved in separate areas to the general book collection.

Please consult the floor plans for details.