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Decimating Dewey: Introducing a

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Bookshop Arrangement for Shelving the Nonfiction Collection

Australasian Public Libraries and Information Services

Volume 20 Issue 1 (Mar 2007)

Hopkins, Sarah

Abstract: The main areas of interest to borrowers in a suburban public library service

centre on the domestic and the personal: their health, their homes, their holidays, their money and their leisure. While Dewey is a satisfactory method of linking a catalogue record to an item on the shelf, it does not facilitate browsing in the areas of most interest to public library users. In 2005 Bayside Library service did not use Dewey in the traditional sense to determine shelf order in its redeveloped Beaumaris branch. The result was six new nonfiction collections which combine Dewey sequences within subject areas that are meaningful to a contemporary Australian audience. The success and user acceptance of the reorganisation has resulted in Bayside deciding, in principle, to implement the same at its other branches. Edited version of a paper presented at the Alia 2006 Perth biennial conference.

 FULL TEXT PDF (126KB)

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