Ditching Dewey...?
Re-imagining our fiction and non-fiction collections

Lizzy Martin
Junior School Teacher Librarian
St Catherine’s School, Waverley
Why ‘Ditch’ Dewey?

Student Centred - Easier browsing for students and teachers

Spot gaps in the collection

Allows for more logical arrangement of subjects

More flexible and can grow with changes to the curriculum
**What Fiction Genres Did We Choose?**

- Adventure
- Classics
- Fantasy
- Historical
- Humour
- Mystery
- Relationships
- Faction
What Does It Look Like?
What Does It Look Like?
The Next Challenge: The Non-Fiction Collection
What Was Our Planning Process?

Explored METIS and other alternatives to DDC

Looked at quirks within DDC and which subjects we would like to have together

Highlighted opportunities to organise books more closely matched to the curriculum
The Process.....
What Organisation System Did We Choose?

......Our own!

Used our existing Syba Signs
Non-fiction Coloured squares
Subject podding
Made Shortcuts - $$$
Our 9 Categories vs. DDC

1. General
2. Religion
3. Communities
4. Literature
5. Languages
6. Earth
7. STEM
8. Arts & Recreation
9. History & Geography

000 Generalities
100 Philosophy and Psychology
200 Religion
300 Social Sciences
400 Language
500 Natural Science and Mathematics
600 Applied Science and Technology
700 Fine Arts and Recreation
800 Literature
900 Geography and History
WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE ON THE CATALOGUE?
What We’ve Noticed So Far.....

Increased interest in the Non-Fiction collection
Showcases library collection more effectively
De-mystifies DDC and the library collection
Shelves appear less ‘scary’ - more space and easier to find books
More independent searching by students - find related subjects
What do the students think?

“It’s so much easier to find books you’re looking for” Gemma, Year 4

“The old way took more time to find things. The words on the folders help me find the books and it’s nice and neat” Chiara, Year 4

“I really love it. I didn’t like looking at the information books before but now I do! I found some books on pandas all by myself!” Grace, Year 2
So you might be sitting there thinking....

How will students find things in other libraries?

Dewey is already a perfect way to organise books. Why change it?

Teaching students dewey is a life skill!

Mr Melvil Dewey must be turning in his grave!
Want More Info?

Lizzy Martin
St Catherine’s School, Waverley
lmartin@stcaths.nsw.edu.au