

How to Find Books in the Library

Let's start at the very beginning...

Books in the Library are divided into two types:
fiction and **non-fiction**.



What's the difference between **fiction** and **non-fiction**?

Fiction books are stories created by the author i.e. are not true.

Non-fiction books give information or facts i.e. information that is true.

How **Fiction** and **Non-fiction** are placed on the shelf

Fiction books are put on the shelf in **alphabetical order**, by the author's surname. So

- Necropolis by Anthony Horowitz will be under **H**
- books by Malorie **B**lackman will be on the shelves before those by Eoin **C**olfer

In our Library we divide fiction into **junior** (JF) and **senior** (SF) sections, Although you can borrow from either section sometimes it helps to know whether the book is intended for children/teenagers or adults.



Spine labels on the books will have **JF** or **SF** on them to tell you which section to look in, and will also have the first three letters of the author's surname. For example, Goodnight Mister Tom by Michelle Magorian will be labelled **JF MAG**.

This means that all fiction books by the same author will be in the same place on the shelves. So if you like a particular book and want to read another by that author, it is easy to find.



Non-fiction books are shelved according to their **subject**. This means that books on the same subject will be found together and similar subjects will be nearby (think of a supermarket where similar foods are kept together).

For example, you will find all the books on global warming in the same place and other books on the environment close by. Usually it does not matter who has written a non-fiction book - the important thing is its subject. If we shelved non-fiction alphabetically like fiction, then books on the same subject would be scattered all over the place and would be very difficult to find.

So how do you know where each subject will be found?

Each separate subject is given a **call number**, which tells you where in the Library it will be found. Our Library uses the **Dewey Decimal Classification Scheme**, which means that our call numbers are just decimal numbers. For example:

Sport	796
Football	796.334
British History	941
Scottish History	941.1

Call numbers are put on a label on the spine of each non-fiction book and the books are then ordered in 'numerical order'. So at the beginning of the non-fiction section (at the top of the spiral staircase) we have the 000 books and at the end of the non-fiction section (the other end of the upper floor) we have the 900 books.

So **fiction** and **non-fiction** books are shelved this way so you can easily find the book of your choice.

Think about it!
If they weren't shelved this way,
Libraries would be in **total chaos**!