

## Contribution of Melvil Dewey for LIS Profession: An Overview

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### Abstract

*Contribution of Melvil Dewey in American librarianship is not possible to ignore it. The American librarian and reformer Melvil Dewey played a significant role in developing professional institutions for librarians. His range of knowledge and work was wide and varied. He was a pioneer for women in the creation of job opportunities. He developed the Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC) system and Dewey's promotion of his classification and emphasis on centralization of cataloging in a new era.*

### Introduction

**M**elvil Dewey was born in Adams Center, New York and, Joel and Eliza Greene Dewey were his child. He had changed his name with 'Melville' to 'Melvil' without redundant letters and had changed his surname to 'Dui'. He admitted in rural schools and determined to reform education of the masses. He attended Alfred University. He had earned a bachelor's degree in 1874 and a master's in 1877. He had founded the Library Bureau, which sold high-quality index-cards and filing-cabinets, and established the standard dimensions for catalog cards. He had worked as a chief librarian at Columbia University during the period of 1883-1888 and worked as director of the New York State Library in 1888-1906. He also established a program of mobile libraries. Melvil Dewey has served as secretary and executive officer of the University of the State of New York in the period of 1888-1900.

### Contributions for LIS Profession

Melvil Dewey was a pioneer in American librarianship who played vital role of his contribution in the development of libraries in America. He is developed the decimal classification system (DDC) which is used in many type of libraries in the world. The state's school and public library services was the his idea to control the state library. In Boston, Massachusetts, he has founded the Library Bureau, a private company for the furnishing libraries with equipment.

### Contribution of Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC)

Melvil Dewey has worked out for a new scheme that superimposed a system of decimal numbers on a structure of knowledge which was first outlined by Sir Francis Bacon. The first publication of his system was published and copyrighted the system in 1876. Arranging the various fields of knowledge into a logical order and using a decimal system of notation to indicate the arrangement of books. In 1877, Dewey moved to Boston, where he founded and became editor of the library journal. He was one of the founders of the American Library Association, of which he was secretary from 1876 to 1891, and president in 1891 and 1893. The DDC was translated into 30 languages. Translations of full and abridged editions of DDC are completed or underway in Chinese, Arabic, French, Greek, Icelandic, Hebrew, Italian, Korean, Norwegian, Spanish and Russian.

### Contribution for New York State Library

Melvil Dewey became librarian of Columbia College in 1883. The proposal of establishing the school was approved by the college's Board of Trustees on 5th May 1884. The school was officially opened on January 5, 1887 with 20 students were enrolled. Melvil Dewey was the director of the New York State Library in the period from 1888 to 1906. He founded the New York Library Club in 1885.

### Contribution of Mobile Libraries

In New York, Melvil Dewey had conducted a program of traveling libraries collections of one hundred books sent to communities without public

libraries. His efforts spurred other state organizations and private individuals to create traveling libraries.

### **Contribution for Metric System**

Melvil Dewey established the American Metric Bureau in 1876 and was a secretary of it. He edited the Bureau's official publication, the Metric Bulletin (later called Metric Advocate), first issue published in July 1876. He functioned as member of the Advisory Board and chairman of the Metric Education Committee in the American Metric Association.

### **Contribution for Winter Sports**

Dewey was the promoter of winter sports in Lake Placid and was actively arranged the Winter Olympics. He was the founder of Lake Placid Club Education Foundation in 1922 and established a southern branch of the Lake Placid Club in Florida in 1926.

### **Conclusion**

Melvil Dewey has developed the Decimal Classification System and was also known as a pioneer worked in American librarianship. His contribution in the field of LIS Profession is being used by LIS professionals in their libraries for classifying the library resources.

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