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DEWEY DECIMAL SCAVENGER HUNT

In chapter 1 of *Assess and Select Your Sources,* Valerie Bodden explains that libraries use organizational systems to categorize their books. Many libraries organize their books using the Dewey decimal system. While you can search for a book with the library catalog, sometimes it is helpful to look at a whole shelf of books. The Dewey decimal system can help you find many possible sources. Try this activity to sharpen your research skills.

The Dewey decimal system organizes books using three-digit numbers, or call numbers. Call numbers are assigned to book topics. Trains, for example, is assigned 385. So a book about trains would have a call number of 385. Books often have additional numbers that tell you even more about their topic. A book about passenger trains (trains that carry people) would have a call number of 385.22. You can find a library book's call number on its spine.

To get started with your book search, you'll just need the first three digits of the call number. Search your local library for a book with the call numbers listed below. Write down the title of the book. Then guess the topic assigned to the number. What other books on the shelf have the same number?

Dewey	Title		Topic
150			
201			
326			
387			
398			
413			
551			
582			
598			
641			
700			
813			
915			
973			

When you finish, check with a librarian to see if your answers are correct!

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This assignment addresses the following Common Core Standards:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.5.7

Draw on information from multiple print or digital sources, demonstrating the ability to locate an answer to a question quickly or to solve a problem efficiently.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.5.8

Recall relevant information from experiences or gather relevant information from print and digital sources; summarize or paraphrase information in notes and finished work, and provide a list of sources.