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# Mevil Dewey: Library Genius

Ruth-Anne Brown

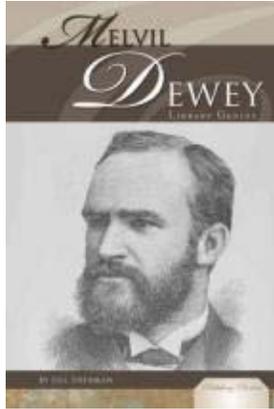
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Sherman, Jill. *Melvil Dewey: Library Genius*. ABDO, 2009. ISBN 9781604537611. \$32.79. 112 p.

Reviewer: Ruth-Anne Brown

Reading Level: Young adult

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Informational books; Biographies;

Subject: Dewey, Melvil, 1851-1931--Juvenile literature; Librarians--United States--Biography--Juvenile literature; Books--Reviews;

In the late eighteenth century, libraries might have a book about horses next to one relating to business—until Melvil Dewey began researching several classification systems to come up with his own decimal system. His system allows for a wide range of subjects and for new subjects to be added later. Today's version of his system divides all knowledge into ten main categories with an assigned number, using more specific numbers or decimals for narrowed topics. The Dewey Decimal Classification System is now used in over 200,000 libraries worldwide. Dewey knew that libraries should be run effectively, so he established the first school for the education of librarians. He also started the conference of librarians that founded the American Library Association. Melvil Dewey is the perfect example of a man who sacrificed his life's work for the betterment of education.

Sherman paints the life of Melvil Dewey in the most direct light. Little known stories, such as young Dewey walking ten miles to the next town to buy a dictionary, make his personality come alive to the reader. Sherman tells the history in true form. Although Dewey experienced many embarrassments and failures, his intentions show through his many endeavors and constant attempts to improve education.

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