

Dr. S.R. Ranganathan

Father of Library Science in India



S. R. Ranganathan, a painting by A. Ramakrishna, retrieved from thehindu.com

12 August 1892 –
27 September 1972



Dr. Shiyali Ramamrita Ranganathan (S.R.R.) was the head librarian of the Madras University library in India in 1924 and became a professor of Library Science at Delhi University from 1947-1955.

He studied Library Science in England and was dissatisfied with the classification systems already established.

He developed the Colon Classification system which is more general than specific but also allows more nuance than the Dewey Decimal system does

Example of Colon Classification:

Subject: Dental Surgery

Call number: L 214:4:7

Explanation: L is the letter for medicine, 214 is the number for teeth, 4 is the number for diseases, and 7 is the number for surgery

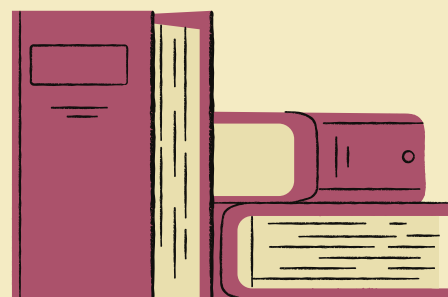
Example from
<https://www.britannica.com/science/Colon-Classification>

Dr. Ranganathan sought open and equal access to information for all, regardless of background, gender, or economic status



Dr. Ranganathan's most notable contributions to the LIS field are the Colon Classification System and the "Five Laws of Library Science"

The Five Laws of Library Science



The laws are meant to be a basis for planning and patron services that are applicable to any type of library

1 Books are for use

Books are meant to be used by the people.

A library is not meant to just store and preserve books, but to be a place where others can interact with books

2 Every reader has his/her book

Every reader should be allowed to access the book of their interest. A library is there to serve all that come through its doors

3 Every book has its reader

Books will be found useful by different people. But to make sure that the book can be found by its reader, the readers must have access to the books

4 Save the time of the reader

To be an excellent library, the reader should be able to find their desired book in as little time as possible.

5 The library is a growing organism

The library must adapt and grow as any living organism would. The library should have room to grow and its contents and methods should change with the times



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