

News Release

SOLANO COUNTY LIBRARY
HEADQUARTERS
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March 25, 2005

RELEASE DATE: APRIL 10, 2005

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Local Librarians Celebrate Their Inner Nerds

If you visit a location of Solano County Library this week you'll see members of the library staff proudly wearing a number of their choice. In many ways the number is more revealing than a social security number, bank P.I.N., or license plate number. It's their favorite Dewey Decimal number.

The number badges, nicknamed, "we Dewey... do you?" is a way for library staff to have fun with each other and with their customers during National Library Week, April 10-16. "We hope the number will prompt questions, like, 'Why the heck are you wearing that number around your neck?' and give us a chance to talk about our favorite subject in the library— Shakespeare, Spanish, sex..." said Ann Miller, Solano County Library Community Relations Coordinator. "If they are really interested, we may give in to our inner nerdiness and explain a little about the Dewey Decimal System. It's amazing that something invented by a guy who was born before the Civil War still serves us so well today."

Melvil Dewey, created a system in 1876 that uses ten categories of numbers as a way to classify books. The system, which is simple, easily expanded, and easily understood is still used today in most public libraries. Dewey was also instrumental in making librarianship a profession,

by helping to found the American Library Association, publishing the first library journal, and starting the first professional library school at Columbia University.

“When the idea first came up we asked, ‘Is this too nerdy?’ The answer may be yes, but we sure have had fun with it,” said Miller.

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