



For the Young and Young at Heart

Some great mammal books to share with children!



School Matters: Warm Fuzzy Friends = Mammals

Looking for some information about mammals? That's not hard, because librarians also use the word "mammals" to organize books.

Things become more complex when you want to research for specific kinds of animals. Research is easiest when you use the same search words a librarian uses. Let's review the difference between KEY WORDS and SUBJECT HEADINGS.

Keywords

These are words that appear in documents. They are words that we use when we talk and write. Different people use different words to talk about ideas

For example, what do you call a fountain to get a drink of water? In Wisconsin, it is commonly called a bubbler. In other places, people may call this a "drinking fountain."

What do you call fizzy drinks like Coke and Pepsi? In Wisconsin, it is commonly called "pop" or "soda pop". Others might just call it a "soft drink" or "soda." Do you see how we use words differently?

Keyword Searches

A keyword search looks for when a word is used. Most Internet searches are keyword searches, though today's search engines use technology to find related items and not just the keyword we used.

Google has created special ways to search the Internet with keywords. Google actually is performing the search when you use YAHOO search and some other search engines too.

You can do keyword searches with library computer catalogs too. But be careful. Different people describe the same topic with different words. Keyword searches can be frustrating, especially when using a library catalog or database. Different people use words differently.

Subject Headings

Librarians know that we actually look for ideas, topics, and information, not keywords. If different people use different words for ideas and topics, we should still be able to find what we want.

Librarians gather information and organize it - nonfiction, informational books, are placed together on the shelves by subject. Librarians use a list of words called "subject headings."

A number code, a Dewey Number, is assigned based on the subject heading. Librarians use subject headings that come from a controlled list. Most school and public libraries use subject headings that come from the book, *Sears List of Subject Headings*.

Subject Heading Searches

If you can find the subject headings that a library uses for the information you want, searching with the subject terms will be a faster, more accurate search. The same is true when searching databases.

Sometimes, we don't know the subject headings. An easy way to find out will be to use keyword searches to find ONE book or item about the topic or idea we want.

Then, look for the subject heading that a librarian uses. Most computer catalogs and databases show subject headings along with all searches.

Usually, related subject headings presented off to the left or right. Sometimes, they are included with each item's listing, usually presented as links.

You can just click on the subject headings you want and you will find more of the same information!

Think Like A Librarian Subject Headings

Researching animals? Mammals? Looking for COWS? Then search for CATTLE. It is easy if you use the same words librarians use. Most school and public libraries use SEARS SUBJECT HEADINGS. Dewey numbers are assigned by these subject headings.

These numbers tell you where to find information on the shelves. For example, a book about Monkeys has the subject heading *Primates* and is numbered 599.8. Here are some subject headings and Dewey Numbers for mammals (599's for wild animals, 636's for domesticated):

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|-------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| ✓ Mammals (599) | ✓ Deer (599.65/636.7) | ✓ Primates (599.8) |
| ✓ Bats (599.4) | ✓ Dogs (599.77) | ✓ Rabbits (599.32/636) |
| ✓ Beavers (599.37) | ✓ Elephants (599.67) | ✓ Reindeer (599.65/636.2) |
| ✓ Bison (599.64/636.2) | ✓ Fossil Mammals (569) | ✓ Seals (599.79) |
| ✓ Camels (599.63/636.2) | ✓ Horses (599.665/636.1) | ✓ Sheep (599.649/636.3) |
| ✓ Cats (636.8) | ✓ Marine mammals (599.5) | ✓ Squirrels (599.36) |
| ✓ Cattle (599.64/636.2) | ✓ Mice (599.35/636.008) | ✓ Whales (599.5) |
| ✓ Chipmunks (599.36) | ✓ Pigs (599.63/636.4) | ✓ Wild Cats (599.75/636.8) |

