Browsing the Shelves of the Genealogy Collection
at the Arlington Public Library

This doesn’t look like the Dewey Decimal System…

The Genealogy Collection uses an original classification system instead of the Dewey Decimal System. The collection is first divided into LETTER classifications AA-ZZ:

- **AA**: General information, indexes, how-to books
- **AK-WY**: State and US territory information, organized by state abbreviations
- **WZ**: Information located in more than one state or territory
- **YZ**: Ethnic groups information located in more than one state or territory
- **ZZ**: International information

How is the information within each letter classification organized?

After the letter classification, there will be a decimal point followed by a number:

- **.016** Bibliographies and general indexes
- **.1** How-to books, general information, charts
- **.13** Dictionaries and encyclopedias
- **.2** Heraldry, books about names
- **.29** Family history, biography
- **.3** US Federal Census lists
- **.35** Census lists from other sources
- **.4** Military and pension lists
- **.5** Cemetery lists, obituaries, mortality lists
- **.6** Court and county records: marriages, births, deeds, wills, slaves; logs and rolls: ship, tax, voters, land owners, and lotteries
- **.67** Records and abstracts from newspapers; histories of newspapers
- **.7** Ethnic and religious groups, church histories, church schools, baptismal records, naturalization/emigration/immigration lists
- **.8** Societies (DAR, Daughters of the Republic of TX, etc.) and miscellaneous
- **.9** Histories of states, counties, cities, areas, etc.
- **.912** Atlases, maps
- **.98** Periodical, Genealogical Society newsletters, etc.