What are the basic differences between the Dewey Decimal System and the Library of Congress Classification System?

A. DDC has divided knowledge into 10 classes; the LCC has 21:

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| DDC | LCC |
| 000=General Works (Miscellaneous) | A=General Works |
| 100=Philosophy | B=Philosophy and Religion |
| 200=Religion | C=Auxiliary Science |
| 300=Social Sciences | D=Universal History |
| 400=Languages | E =American History |
| 500=Pure Sciences | F=American History |
| 600=Technology | G=Geography, Anthropology, Recreation |
| 700=Fine Arts | H=Social Science |
| 800=Literature | J=Political Science |
| 900=History, Geography, Biography | K=Law |
|  | L=Education |
|  | M=Music |
|  | N=Fine Arts |
|  | P=Language and Literature |
|  | Q=Science |
|  | R=Medicine |
|  | S=Agriculture |
|  | T=Technology |
|  | U=Military Science |
|  | V=Naval Science |
|  | Z=Bibliography, Library Science |
|  | I, O, W, X, and Y are used in subclasses |

B. Other differences:

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| DDC | LCC |
| Uses only numbers. | Uses both letters and numbers. |
| Numbers were assigned to each basic category which became the numbers to the left of a decimal point. New subjects were then added by dividing the original categories and these became the numbers to the right of the decimal point. | Two-letter combinations were used for subclasses which were independently developed by specialists in each field…therefore different topics have different arrangements of subclasses. |
| Easier for librarians and the public to learn. | More technical and harder to learn. |
| Most widely used method of organizing books….. 95% of all school libraries and public libraries use DDC. | Used mostly by government and academic libraries (colleges and universities). |
| Developed by Melvil Dewey because there had previously been no uniform system for organizing books. | Originally developed for Congress to provide members with information to make legislative decisions.  |
| Consistent subclassification and mnemonics…such as, 73 usually refers to the U.S. on both sides of the decimal point (therefore U.S. Cooking is 631.5973 and U.S. History is 973). | Subclassifications have no consistency from one class to the next. |
| Fewer subclassifications. | More classes, more categories, more technical classifications. |
| Subjects are usually subdivided fully by topic before country divisions begin. | Subdivisions are often by country first, rather than by subject. |
| Call numbers can sometimes be longer than LCC’s. | Call numbers usually not as long because of more variety in letter/number combinations. |
| Fiction in alphabetical order by author’s last name rather than using 813. | Literature (P) is arranged by nationality and time period. |
| Ability to bring all topics together under one umbrella: 600 Technology (Applied Sciences)630 Agriculture and related technologies636 Animal husbandry636.7 Dogs636.8 Cats | LCC correct (and in my opinion-confusing) shelf order:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **B778F1544T221996** | **B5545R28**   | **B5545.R71993**  | **E88G2512S571998** | **E88G62D225**  | **E88.G62L1661995** | **E88G62L45**  |
| **F774R28W25481990** | **F774.R28W486**  | **F774R28W731989** | **F5833D271992**  | **F5833D5E42**  | **F5833M76E31**  | **F5833.M76E5**  |
| **Q2285F387**  | **QA333G2591L62**  | **QA333.G2591L7**  | **QA333G437D321994** | **QA333.G55M84**  | **QA2141.B38R5**  | **QA2141B7F48**  |

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