

## What Categories Do My Books, and My Authorship, Belong To?

(In response to the charge that I am a “New Age author”)

John Major Jenkins © January 19, 2014

This assessment draws from the facts of how my primary books have been designated by my publishers, by the Library of Congress, and by the Dewey Decimal “publishing data” catalogue system. My four primary books on Maya & 2012 topics published by various trade publishers in the last 20 years are: *The 2012 Story* (2009), *Galactic Alignment* (2002), *Maya Cosmogenesis 2012* (1998), *Tzolkin* (1994 BSRF edition). I’ll list four identifiers for each book:

1. The publisher-defined topic designator which appears on the back cover or inner jacket flap. This is suppose to help bookstores place the book on the shelves, but is often not followed by bookstores.
2. The book’s *content identifiers* on the title page, listed with Roman numerals or regular numbers, which is related to the Library of Congress cataloguing number that the book is given (used in college and university libraries).
3. The Library of Congress catalogue number itself, indicating what the book is about.
4. The Dewey Decimal cataloguing number (used in public libraries).

I will also mention statements made by me within the various books that help to identify what kind of book it is and what kind of author I am. These simply affirm and are congruent with the professional assessments made by my publishers, by the LOC and Dewey content-cataloguing agencies. Importantly, the determination of these agencies cannot be influenced by importunities from the author — they are objectively based on the actual content of the books and the author’s evident approach to the material.

My 1994 book *Tzolkin* (reprinted from my 1992 first edition) is designated “Anthropology/Philosophy” on the back cover. There are no topic identifiers, LOC or Dewey cataloguing numbers on the title page. In public libraries it has been given a 529 Dewey Decimal number, and the 500s mean “Sciences.” In this book I criticize the growth of 1980s New Age publishing as “spiritual materialism” and critique the fallacy of causal astrology (in the first chapter). The book presents two different reconstructions of the Maya Venus Calendar, an evaluation of the Maya calendar correlation problem, a critique of the work of Maya scholar Floyd Lounsbury, and a critique of the Dreamspell system of Jose Arguelles. It also explores a number of topics in Part Two, under the “visionary perspectives” heading, including daykeeper beliefs, shamanism, symbolism, numerology, and Maya astrology. A study of such topics obviously does not constitute being a “New Age” book or a “New Age” author, especially when the personality-driven New Age spiritual marketplace was distinctly critiqued in the same book.

My 1998 book *Maya Cosmogenesis 2012* is designated as “Maya Studies/Anthropology” on the back cover. The title-page topic identifiers are: Maya calendar, Maya cosmology, Mayas-Religion, Cosmology, and Title. This gives it a F1435

LOC catalogue number, which is where academic books on New World History and Mesoamerican Studies are found. Its Dewey number is 529, meaning, again, “Sciences.” In this book I argue a reconstruction of what 2012 likely meant to the ancient Maya, based on studying the archaeological site of Izapa, which scholars have noted is the probable origin place of the Long Count/2012 calendar. My interpretations involve Maya astronomy as well as Maya spirituality or religious beliefs, thus the correct designations of “Maya cosmology” and “Maya Religion” in the topic identifications. In Chapter 17 I gently critique modern spiritual channellers who presume to convey the thoughts of dead Maya kings. In Appendix 6 I critique several books associated with “New Age” writings on 2012, including Cotterell & Gilbert’s 1995 *Mayan Prophecies*. The entire book is oriented to a new reconstruction, based on academic sources [listed in the bibliography](#), and my own interdisciplinary synthesis of the documented evidence.

My 2002 book *Galactic Alignment* is designated as “Ancient History/Astronomy” on the back cover. Its title-page identifiers are: Maya cosmology, Maya astronomy, Maya calendar, Egyptian cosmology, Hindu cosmology, Title. Like my 1998 book, the cataloguing numbers are F1435 and 529. In this book I succinctly state the four points of my work with 2012 and Maya Studies (on page 10) which are all diagnostic of a scientific approach and a documented reconstruction of Maya astronomy and calendar tradition. I also register my view that Theosophy distorted earlier Vedic teachings and Perennial Philosophy ideas.

My 2009 book *The 2012 Story* has the following title-page identifiers: Maya calendar, Maya astronomy, 2012 AD, Title. The publisher did not add a back-cover designation, probably because the title itself was enough to make it an obvious “current events” topic. That was an obvious appeal of the book. The LOC catalog number is, again, F1435, placing it next to other academic books on Mesoamerican Studies. The Dewey Decimal number is, however, 001.9, which gives it a “General Knowledge” identifier. This is the same Dewey number given to the 2011 anthology edited by Dr Joseph Gelfer, in which I have a chapter, called *2012: Decoding the Countercultural Apocalypse*. My 2009 book summarizes my previous work, recent breakthroughs, and critiques New Age authors and theories, as well as the dubious assertions of certain professional Maya scholars, including Anthony Aveni and John Hoopes (re: his “Mayanism” construct).

A note on my chapter in the Gelfer anthology. The first part illustrates my decades of critiques against “New Age” writers or “model makers” in the 2012 marketplace, including José Argüelles and Carl Calleman, and with this evidence I refute the charge (by David Freidel and Marcos Villaseñor) that I am a “New Age apologist.” The second part of my chapter presents the astronomical interpretation of Tortuguero Monument 6 (the “2012” inscription) that I first presented at the by-invitation-only academic conference of the *Society for American Archaeology* (in April 2010).

To summarize, according to the designations determined by my publishers, by the Library of Congress, by the Dewey Decimal categorizing system, and as supported by my own words within the books, I am an author who writes about:

- Maya Studies, Anthropology, Philosophy, Ancient History, and Astronomy. Also, with: Maya cosmology, Maya astronomy, Maya calendar, Egyptian cosmology, Hindu cosmology, 2012, Maya Religion, and cosmology.

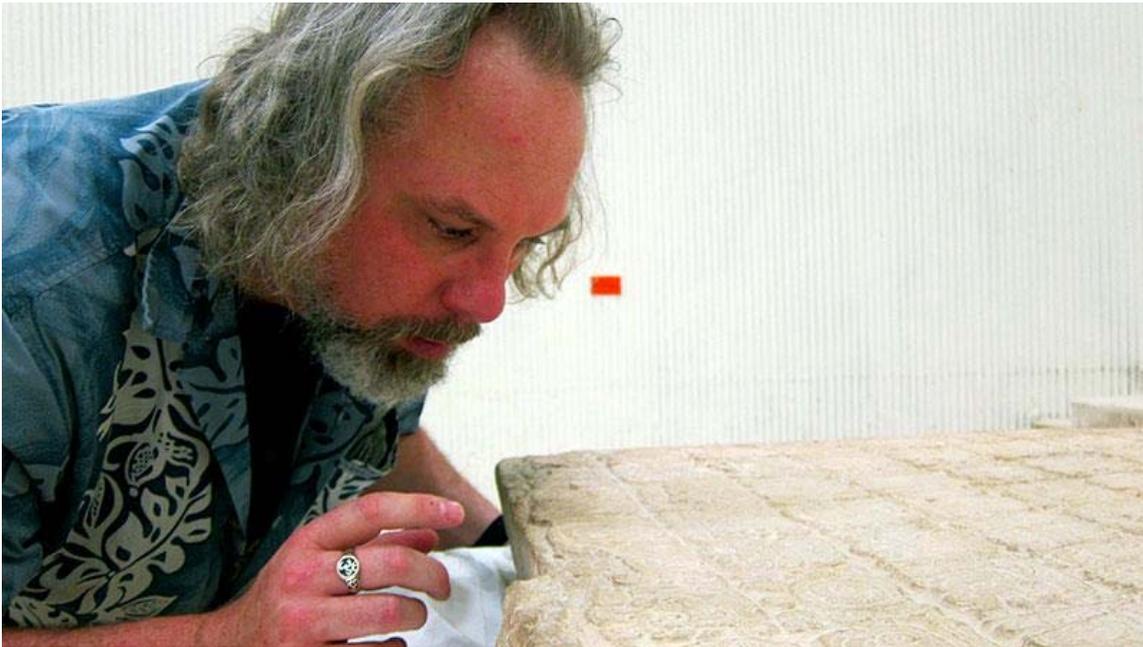
- My books are catalogued under the Dewey Decimal and Library of Congress headings for Mesoamerican Studies (F1435), Sciences / Mathematics (529), and (for *The 2012 Story*) General Knowledge (001.9).

This is the evidence, not just my own after-the-fact preferential assertion. It should be noted that other books containing material on the Maya have been designated “New Age” on the cover or with “astrology” in the title-page identifiers and those books would not be placed next to Mesoamerican studies books in the F1435 section — because they are *completely different in nature from my books*. It is difficult to understand how this objective evidence can result in being identified on Wikipedia and elsewhere as a “New Age author,” unless such assertions are being made by unethical, intellectually dishonest, and undiscerning critics who are intending to malign my work.

References to articles and books are within the text.

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The author examining Tortuguero Monument 6 in Mexico, March 2011. Resulted in the following study: <http://www.thecenterfor2012studies.com/T6Monument.pdf>

See also: [MEC-FACEBOOK Debate on my work](#) (December 2010)

[New York Times coverage of my work](#) (July 2007)

[The Center for 2012 Studies](#) - [Update2012.com](#) - [SAA presentation](#) (April 2010)