FINDING BOOKS BY CALL NUMBER

Call Numbers

Call numbers are used by libraries to arrange books by subject and to indicate where they are located on the shelves. A call number is like an address. Call numbers appear:

- on the spines of books
- in the online catalog

City College of San Francisco, like many academic libraries in the United States, uses the Library of Congress Classification System for call numbers. It uses letters and numbers to arrange materials by subject. Page two of this document lists the letters that group books on the same broad subject. These letters are the first part of a call number.

Reading Call Numbers

Read call numbers line by line:

- Read the first line in alphabetical order: A, B, BF, C, D ... L, LA, LB, LC, M, ML ...
- Read the second line as a whole number: 1, 2, 3, 45, 100, 101, 1000, 2000, 2430 ...
- The third line is a combination of a letter and numbers. Read the letter alphabetically.
- Read the number as a decimal, e.g. .C65 = .65 .C724 = .724 (Some call numbers have more than one combination letter-number line.)
- This is the year the book was published. Chronological order: 1985, 1987, 1991, 1992 ...

Finding Books by Call Number Order on the Shelf

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LA before LB</th>
<th>997 before 1002</th>
<th>2327 before 2328</th>
<th>.55 before .554</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>LB 1002 .A44</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>LB 2301 .Y53</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2005</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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How Do You Read a Call Number?

The first sections of the call number represent the subject of the book. The letter and decimal section of the call number often represents the author’s last name.

Note: this section on Call Numbers was adapted from Honolulu Community College Library, http://www.hcc.hawaii.edu/education/hcc/library/callno.html

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

This system combines letters and numbers with each single letter denoting a main subject and double letters indicating a subdivision of a main subject. The following is a selected list from the LC Classification System:

A GENERAL WORKS
AE Encyclopedias
AY Almanacs, Yearbooks
B PHILOSOPHY, PSYCHOLOGY & RELIGION
BF Psychology
BL-BX Religion
C HISTORY: AUXILIARY SCIENCES
CC Archaeology
CT General Biography
D HISTORY: GENERAL, OLD WORLD
DA-DR Europe
DS Asia
DT Africa
E-F HISTORY: NORTH & SOUTH AMERICA
G GEOGRAPHY & ANTHROPOLOGY
GC Oceanography
GN Anthropology, Ethnology
GV Recreation & Sports
H SOCIAL SCIENCES
HA Statistics
HB-HD Economics
HF Business & Accounting
HM-HX Sociology
J POLITICAL SCIENCE
JC Theory
JV Emigration & Immigration
K LAW
L EDUCATION
LB Theory & Practice
M MUSIC
ML History & Criticism
N FINE ARTS
NA Architecture
NB Sculpture
NC Graphic Arts & Design
ND Painting
NE Printing & Engraving
NK Decorative Arts
P LANGUAGES & LITERATURE
PA Classical Languages & Literature
PC Romance Languages
PE English Language
PF German Language
PG Russian, Slavic Languages & Literature
PL Asian, African Languages & Literature
PN Theater, Speech, & Journalism
PQ Romance Literature
PR English Literature
PS American Literature
PT German Literature
Q SCIENCE
QA Mathematics
QB Astronomy
QC Physics
QD Chemistry
QE Geology
QH Natural History & Biology
QK Botany
QL Zoology
QM Human Anatomy
QP Physiology
QR Bacteriology
R MEDICINE
RA Public Health
RK Dentistry
RM-RS Pharmacology
RT Nursing
S AGRICULTURE
SB Horticulture
T TECHNOLOGY
TA General & Civil Engineering
TH Building Construction
TJ Mechanical Engineering & Machinery
TK Electrical Engineering
TL Motor Vehicles
TN Mineral Industries
TP Chemical Technology
TS Manufacturing
TT Trades
TX Home Economics
U MILITARY SCIENCE
V NAVAL SCIENCE
Z BIBLIOGRAPHY & LIBRARY SCIENCE
ZA Information Resources