

Understanding Library of Congress Classification Numbers

Call Numbers

Each book in the Butte College Library has a unique call number. The call number appears on the spine of a library book. The call number serves as an address of the book and tells its exact location on the shelf.

Call numbers begin with one, two, or three letters

- Most subject areas will have call numbers beginning with one or two letters.
- The first letter of a call number represents one of the 21 major divisions of the LC System (see other side for an outline of these divisions.) For example, the letter “**Q**” is Science.
- If the call number has a second letter, it represents a subdivision of the main subject. For example, all books in the **QLs** are primarily about Zoology.
- For most of the subject areas, the single letter represents books of a general nature for that subject area (i.e. **Q** - General Science or **D** - General World History).

Numbers after letters

- The first set of numbers in a call number help to define the subject of a book.
- The second set of letters and numbers generally refers to the author or title of the work.

Example:

ZA ----- The first line tells the main subject of the book
4225 ----- The first two lines together describes the precise subject of the book
.W55 ----- The third line is a combination of a letter and numbers, it represents the author
2004 ----- This line tells the year the book was published.

Shelving and Locating

Books in Butte College Library are shelved in Library of Congress Classification number order.

An example of a shelving sequence is below. Read call numbers from top to bottom.

On the end panel of each book stack are signs indicating the call number range of the books located on each side of the stack.

Example:

Assume you are looking for a book with the call number **B 86 .K7 1986**.

Find the call number range sign showing where the book should be located. Now find the book on the shelf according to the call number.

B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
1	1	1	86	86	86	86.2	86.2
.A25*	.A8	.A86	.K57	.K7	.K8	.A24	.A3
				1986			

* From the third line onward, read the numbers decimally: A25 comes before A8.

Class	
A	General Works Encyclopedias, reference books
B	Philosophy, Psychology, Religion
B	Philosophy (General)
BF	Psychology
BL-BX	Religion
C	Auxiliary Sciences of History
CB	History of civilization
CC	Archaeology
CS	Genealogy
CT	Biography
D	History (General)
D	World history
DA-DZ	Individual countries
E-F	History
E 11-143	America
E 151-889	United States
F 1-957	States and Local
F 1001-1140	Canada
F 1202+	Other countries
G	Geography, Anthropology, Recreation
G-GB	Geography
GE	Environmental sciences
GN	Anthropology
GR	Folklore
GV	Recreation-Sports-Physical Ed.
H	Social Sciences
HA	Statistics
HB-HJ	Economics-Business
HM	Sociology (General)
HQ	Family-Marriage-Women
J	Political Science
JA	Political science (General)
JF-JQ	Public administration
JS	Local government
JZ	International relations
K	Law
KDZ	America-North America
KF	United States
KZ	Law of nations
L	Education
LA	History of education
LB	Theory and practice
M	Music
ML	Literature on music
MT	Musical instruction

Class	
N	Fine Arts
NA	Architecture
NC	Drawing-Design-Illustration
ND	Painting
P	Language and Literature
P	Philology-Linguistics
P 87-96	Communication-Mass Media
PA	Classical languages
PN	Literature (General)
PQ	Romance literature
PR	English literature
PS	American literature
Q	Science
QA	Mathematics
QA 76	Computer Science
QB-QC	Astronomy-Physics
QD	Chemistry
QE	Geology
QH	Biology-Natural history
QK	Botany
QL	Zoology
QP	Physiology
QR	Microbiology
R	Medicine
RA	Public health
RC	Internal medicine
RC	Psychiatry
RT	Nursing
S	Agriculture
SB	Plant Science-Horticulture
SD	Forestry
SF	Animal Science
SK	Hunting sports Wildlife
T	Technology
TA	Engineering & Civil engineering
TD	Environmental technology
TH	Building construction
TJ	Mechanical engineering
TK	Electrical engineering
TN-TP	Mining-Metallurgy
TP	Chemical technology
TR	Photography
TS	Manufacturing
TT-TX	Home economics
U	Military Science
V	Naval Science
Z	Bibliography and Library Science