

Introduction to Call Numbers

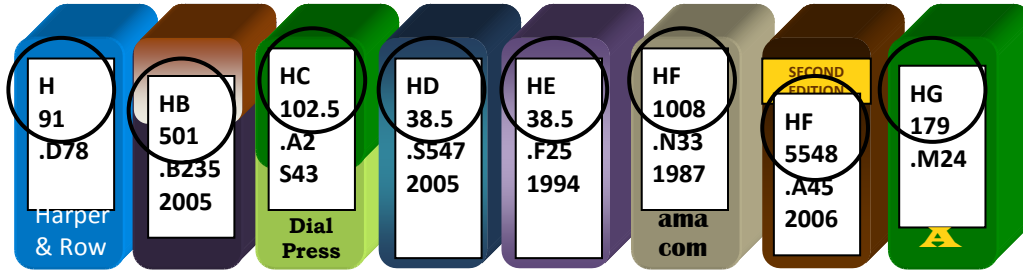
The Butte College Library uses the Library of Congress classification system for shelving books. The Library of Congress classification system assigns a unique **call number** to a book which acts like an **address** which tells us the book's exact location on the shelf. Just as a piece of mail needs all of the correct information (i.e. house number, apartment number, zip code, etc.,) in order to be delivered, a book has multiple lines that must be read correctly in order to "deliver" it to the proper place on the shelf.

Example: QB	This line describes the main subject of the book.	Astronomy
43.3	This line describes the precise subject of the book.	General Astronomy
.S425	This line represents the author.	Seeds, Michael A.
2004	This line states the year the book was published.	2004



I. Lines 1 & 2 – Items are shelved according to alphabetical and numerical order.

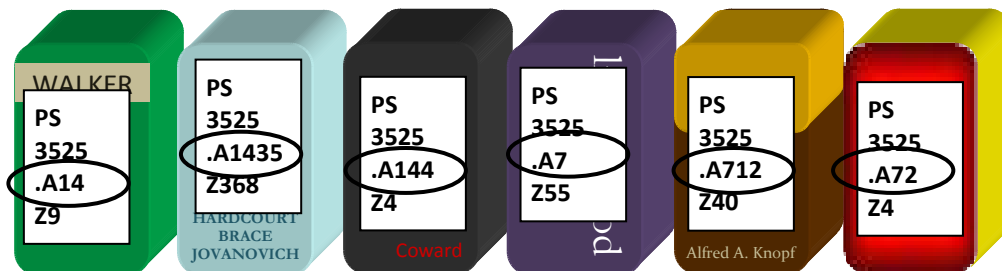
In order to put items on the shelf correctly, the first step is to put the items into alphabetical and numerical order. Do this by comparing the first two lines with items that are already shelved.



The first two lines are straightforward, but once we get to the third line the decimal system comes into play.

II. Line 3 – This line is considered a decimal point.

The third line of the call number is to be treated as a decimal which means that longer, larger numbers are not always last. In addition to the decimal, the third line number is also accompanied by at least one letter. These letters are to be put into alphabetical order and then the number afterwards is taken into consideration.

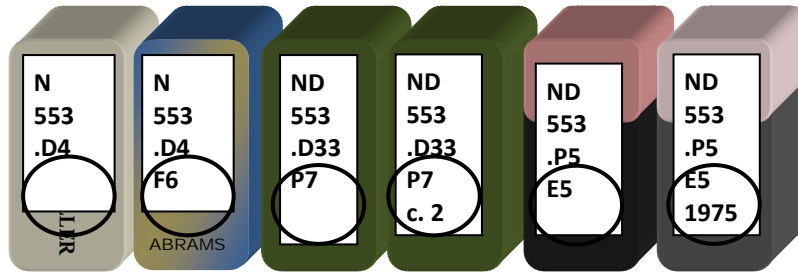


Often items will have the same or very similar call numbers. When this happens the fourth or fifth line will determine the placement of the item.

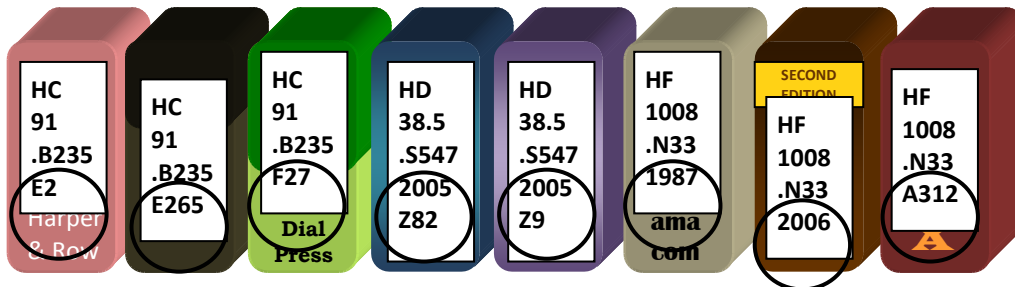
III. Line 4 and Beyond

The fourth line and beyond of a call number are dictated by two rules.

The first rule is that *nothing* comes before *something*. This means that when reading a call number on the spine of a book and discovering that the first three lines of the call numbers are **identical**, the fourth line will dictate the placement of the item on the shelf. When deciding where to place an item with a call number that has no fourth line versus an item that does have a call number with a fourth line, the item with no information will come first.



The second rule when reading the fourth line and beyond is that these numbers are still read like decimal points even though there is not a visible decimal point printed on the call number.

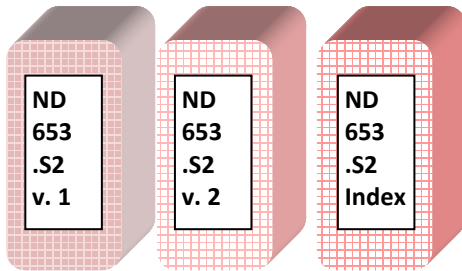


Remember to keep basic rules in mind, work carefully from line to line or digit to digit, and follow standard alphabetical and numerical order. If you keep these rules in mind accurate shelving should be easy.

Please see the following page for specific examples.

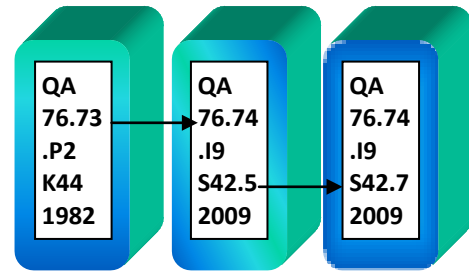
IV. Specific Call Number Examples

Example 1 – Volumes and Indexes



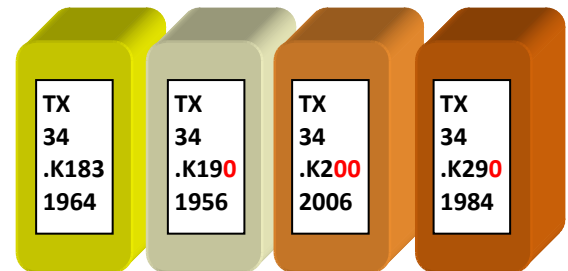
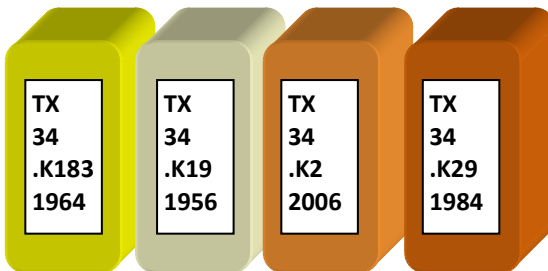
Volumes are shelved in numerical order with Indexes at the end.

Example 2 – Decimal Points in the middle of a line.



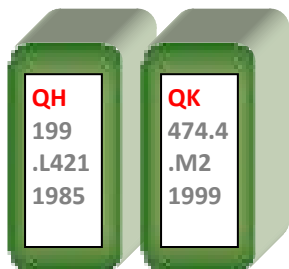
When decimal numbers appear in the middle of a line, order the numbers in regular numeric order.

Example 3 – One trick for reading decimals correctly.

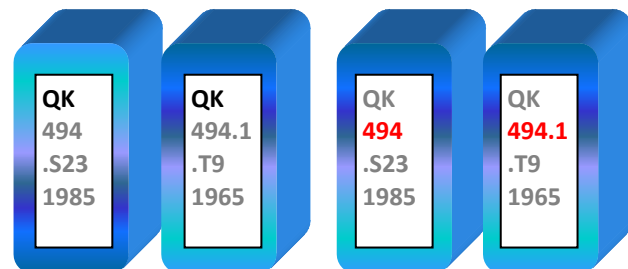


Sometimes adding **zeros** to the decimal in question will clarify where the item should be.

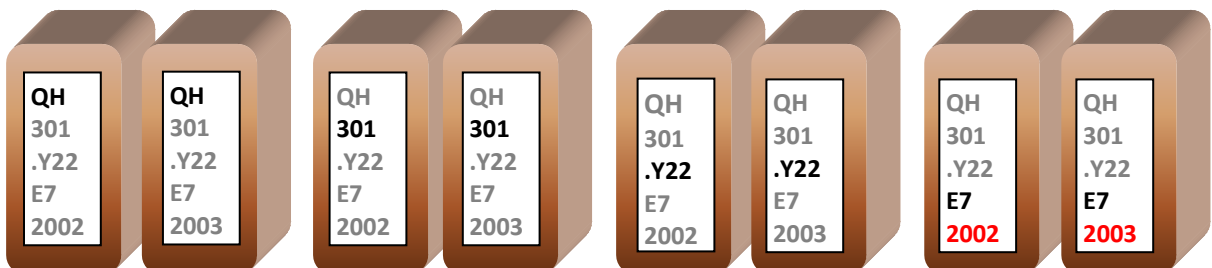
Example 4 – Another trick for reading call numbers correctly is to read the number line by line until a difference is encountered.



In this example the first line is enough.



In this example the second line is needed.



In this example the deciding line turns out to be the last line.

V. Library of Congress Classification Descriptions

Class A – General Works

AC Collections, Series, Collected Works
AE Encyclopedias
AG Dictionaries and other General Reference Works
AI Indexes
AM Museums, Collectors and Collecting
AN Newspapers
AP Periodicals
AS Academies and Learned Societies
AY Yearbooks, Almanacs, Directories
AZ History of Scholarship and Learning. The Humanities

DJ Netherlands (Holland)
DJK Eastern Europe (General)
DK Russia, Soviet Union, Former Soviet Republics – Poland
DL Northern Europe, Scandinavia
DP Spain, Portugal
DQ Switzerland
DR Balkan Peninsula
DS Asia
DT Africa
DU Oceania (South Seas)
DX Romanies

Class B – Philosophy, Psychology, Religion

B Philosophy (General)
BC Logic
BD Speculative Philosophy
BF Psychology
BH Aesthetics
BJ Ethics
BL Religions, Mythology, Theosophy, etc
BM Judaism
BP Islam, Bahaimism, Theosophy, etc
BQ Buddhism
BR Christianity
BS The Bible
BT Doctrinal Theology
BV Practical Theology
BX Denominations

Class E-F – History of the Americas

E 11-143 America
E 151-904 United States
F 1-975 United States Local History
F 1001-1145.2 British America (Canada)
Dutch America
F 1170 French America
F 1201-3799 Latin American, Spanish America

Class C – Auxiliary Sciences of History

C Auxiliary Sciences of History (General)
CB History of Civilization
CC Archaeology
CD Diplomats, Archives, Seals
CE Technical Chronology, Calendar
CJ Numismatics
CN Inscriptions, Epigraphy
CR Heraldry
CS Genealogy
CT Biography

Class G – Geography, Anthropology, Recreation

G Geography (General), Atlases, Maps
GA Mathematical Geography, Cartography
GB Physical Geography
GC Oceanography
GE Environmental Sciences
GF Human Ecology, Anthropogeography
GN Anthropology
GR Folklore
GT Manners and Customs (General)
GV Recreation, Leisure

Class D – World History and History of Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia, New Zealand, etc.

D History (General)
DA Great Britain
DAW Central Europe
DB Austria, Liechtenstein, Hungary, Czechoslovakia
DC France, Andorra, Monaco
DD Germany
DE Greco-Roman World
DF Greece
DG Italy, Malta
DH Low Countries, Benelux Countries

Class H – Social Sciences

H Social Sciences (General)
HA Statistics
HB Economic Theory, Demography
HC Economic History and Conditions
HD Industries, Land Use, Labor
HE Transportation and Communications
HF Commerce
HG Finance
HJ Public Finance
HM Sociology (General)
HN Social History and Conditions, Problems, & Reform
HQ The Family, Marriage, Women
HS Societies: Secret, Benevolent, etc.
HT Communities, Class, Race
HV Social Pathology, Social and Public Welfare, Criminology
HX Socialism, Communism, Anarchism

Library of Congress Classification Descriptions Continued...

Class J – Political Science

- J General Legislative and Executive Papers
- JA Political Science (General)
- JC Political Theory
- JF Political Institutions & Public Administration
- JJ Political Institutions & Public Administration (North America)
- JK Political Institutions & Public Administration (United States)
- JL Political Institutions & Public Administration (Canada, Latin America, etc)
- JN Political Institutions & Public Administration (Europe)
- JQ Political Institutions & Public Administration (Asia, Africa, Australia, Pacific Area, etc)
- JS Local Government, Municipal Government
- JV Colonies and Colonization, Emigration and Immigration, International Migration
- JX (Obsolete) International Law, see JZ and KZ
- JZ International Law and International Relations

Class K – Law

- K Law in General, Comparative and Uniform Law, Jurisprudence
- KB Religious Law in General, Comparative Religious Law, Jurisprudence
- KBM Jewish Law
- KBP Islamic Law
- KBR History of Canon Law
- KBU Law of the Roman Catholic Church, the Holy See
- KD-KDK United Kingdom and Ireland
- KDZ America, North America
- KE Canada
- KF United States
- KG Latin America, Mexico and Central America, West Indies, Caribbean Area
- KH South America
- KJ-KKZ Europe
- KL-KWX Asia and Eurasia, Africa, Pacific Area, Antarctica
- KZ Law of Nations

Class L – Education

- L Education (General)
- LA History of Education
- LB Theory of Practice of Education
- LC Special Aspects of Education
- LD Individual Institutions – United States
- LE Individual Institutions – America (Except United States)
- LF Individual Institutions – Europe
- LG Individual Institutions – Asia, Africa, Indian Ocean Islands, Australia, New Zealand, Pacific Islands
- LH College and School Magazines and Papers
- LJ Student Fraternities and Societies, United States
- LT Textbooks

Class M – Music

- M Music
- ML Literature on Music
- MT Instruction and Study

Class N – Fine Arts

- N Visual Arts
- NA Architecture
- NB Sculpture
- NC Drawing, Design, Illustration
- ND Painting
- NE Print Media
- NK Decorative Arts
- NX Arts in General

Class P – Language and Literature

- P Philology, Linguistics
- PA Greek Language and Literature, Latin Language and Literature
- PB Modern Languages, Celtic Languages
- PC Romanic Languages
- PD Germanic Languages, Scandinavian Languages
- PE English Language
- PF West Germanic Languages
- PG Slavic Languages, Baltic Languages, Albanian Language
- PH Uralic Languages, Basque Languages
- PJ Oriental Languages and Literatures
- PK Indo-Iranian Languages and Literatures
- PL Languages and Literatures of Eastern Asia, Africa, Oceania
- PM Hyperborean, Indian, and Artificial Languages
- PN Literature (General)
- PQ French Literature, Italian Literature, Spanish Literature, Portuguese Literature
- PR English Literature
- PS American Literature
- PT German Literature, Dutch Literature, Flemish Literature since 1830, Afrikaans Literature, Scandinavian Literature, Old Norse Literature: Old Icelandic and Old Norwegian, Modern Icelandic Literature, Faroese Literature, Danish Literature, Norwegian Literature, Swedish Literature
- PZ Fiction and Juvenile Belles Letters

Class Q – Science

- Q Science (General)
- QA Mathematics
- QB Astronomy
- QC Physics
- QD Chemistry
- QE Geology
- QH Natural History, Biology
- QK Botany
- QL Zoology
- QM Human Anatomy
- QP Physiology
- QR Microbiology

Library of Congress Classification Descriptions Continued...

Class R – Medicine

- R Medicine (General)
- RA Public Aspects of Medicine
- RB Pathology
- RC Internal Medicine
- RD Surgery
- RE Ophthalmology
- RF Otorhinolaryngology
- RG Gynecology and Obstetrics
- RJ Pediatrics
- RK Dentistry
- RL Dermatology
- RM Therapeutics, Pharmacology
- RS Pharmacy and Materia Medica
- RT Nursing
- RV Botanic, Thomsonian, and Electric Medicine
- RX Homeopathy
- RZ Other Systems of Medicine

Class S – Agriculture

- S Agriculture (General)
- SB Plant Culture
- SD Forestry
- SF Animal Culture
- SH Aquaculture, Fisheries, Angling
- SK Hunting Sports

Class T – Technology

- T Technology (General)
- TA Engineering (General), Civil Engineering
- TC Hydraulic Engineering, Ocean Engineering
- TD Environmental Technology, Sanitary Engineering
- TE Highway Engineering, Roads and Pavement
- TG Bridge Engineering
- TH Building Construction
- TK Electrical Engineering, Electronics, Nuclear Engineering
- TL Motor Vehicles, Aeronautics, Astronautics
- TJ Mechanical Engineering and Machinery
- TN Mining Engineering, Metallurgy
- TP Chemical Technology
- TR Photography
- TS Manufactures
- TT Handicrafts, Arts and Crafts
- TX Home Economics

Class U – Military Science

- U Military Science (General)
- UA Armies: Organization, Distribution, Military Situation
- UB Military Administration
- UC Maintenance and Transportation
- UD Infantry
- UE Cavalry, Armor
- UF Artillery
- UG Military Engineering, Air Forces
- UH Other Services

Class V – Naval Science

- V Naval Science (General)
- VA Navies: Organization, Distribution, Naval Situation
- VB Naval Administration
- VC Naval Maintenance
- VD Naval Seaman
- VE Marines
- VF Naval Ordnance
- VG Minor Services of Navies
- VK Navigation, Merchant Marine
- VM Naval Architecture, Shipbuilding, Marine Engineering

Class Z – Bibliography, Library Science, Information Resources (General)

- Z Books (General), Writing, Paleography, Book Industries and Trade, Libraries, Bibliography
- ZA Information Resources (General)