

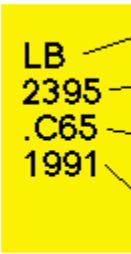
# How Do I Read Library of Congress Call Numbers?

The Jay-Rollins, Harding Simmons and Howard Payne Libraries use the Library of Congress Classification system to organize and shelve their materials. The classification system groups library material by subject area.

The Library of Congress call number system is an alpha-numeric system. To read the call number, simply note the first letter or letters of the call number. "LA" would be shelved before "LB", "LC" before "LD", etc. Numbers follow the initial letter or letters. These numbers are read as whole numbers. A call number of "LA2" will be shelved before "LA4".

Here is a sample of how to read call numbers line by line:

Read call numbers line by line:



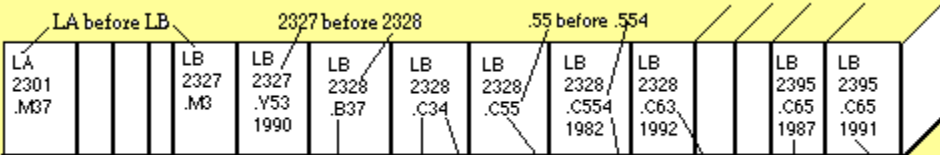
Read the first line in alphabetical order:  
A, B, BF, C, D ... L, LA, LB, LC, M, ML ...

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 ...

Here is a sample of items in call number order:



LA before LB

2327 before 2328

.55 before .554

.B before .C

.34 before .55

.554 before .63

1987 before 1991

LA 2301 .M37			LB 2327 .M3	LB 2327 .Y53 1990	LB 2328 .B37	LB 2328 .C34	LB 2328 .C55	LB 2328 .C554 1982	LB 2328 .C63 1992		LB 2395 .C65 1987	LB 2395 .C65 1991
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Click here for a detailed list of Library of Congress classification subject areas:

<http://www.loc.gov/catdir/cpsolcco/>