

How to Read a Call Number

University of Oregon
Knight Library

Most books in the University of Oregon libraries are arranged according to Library of Congress or LC call numbers. These differ from the Dewey Decimal call numbers used in most school and public libraries. LC numbers always begin with one, two, or three letters.

The first line of an LC call number contains letters and is read alphabetically. For example: A, B, BF, K, KA, KF, KJV, etc.

QC

The second line of the call number is always a number should be read first as a whole number, then as a decimal. Read these numbers as if you were counting from 1 to 9999. For example: 74, 218, 503.1, 3218.3, 5031, etc.

366.2

The following line(s) contain a letter and number. They are read first alphabetically and then in decimal numeric order. For example: .A6, .A64, A641, .A7, etc.

.G66

D97

The above parts of call numbers may be followed by a year. Sometimes you will also see copy and volume numbers as part of the call number.

1992

In order to find an item on the shelf using its call number, you must read each part of the call number, line by line, starting with the first line until you have ordered the entire call number.