



Library of Congress Classification

LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER 6000 WEST OLIVE AVENUE GLENDALE, ARIZONA 85302 TELEPHONE: 623.845.3112 FAX: 623.845.3102

UNDERSTANDING THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS CLASSIFICATION

The Library Media Center uses the Library of Congress (LC) Classification system to organize and arrange books, videos, DVDs, etc. on the shelves. The "LC" System divides all knowledge into 21 areas. Each general category is identified by a letter of the alphabet, subdivisions by combinations of letters, and specific topics within categories and subdivisions by a numerical notation.

A General Works

General encyclopedias, reference books, periodicals, etc.

B Philosophy-Religion

B - BJ Philosophy, including
BF Psychology
BL - BX Mythology-Religion

C Auxiliary Sciences of History

CB History of Civilization (General)
CC Archaeology
CR Heraldry
CS Genealogy
CT Biography (General)

D History: General and Old World

D World History including World Wars
DA Great Britain

E-F History of American

E 1-43 America (General)
E 151-857 United States (General)
F 1-957 United States: States and Local
F 1021, etc. Other individual countries

G Geography, Anthropology, Folklore, etc.

G Geography (General)
GB Physical Geography
GN Anthropology
GR Folklore
GV Recreation

H Social Sciences

HA Statistics
HB - HJ Economics
HM - HX Sociology

J Political Science

JA - JC Political Science
JF - JQ Constitutional History
JS Local Government

K Law

L Education

LB 1051-1091 Educational Psychology
LB 1140 Preschool Education
LB 1501-1547 Primary Education
LB 1603-1659 Secondary Education

M Music

M Scores
ML Literature of Music

N Fine Arts

N 5300-7415 Art History
NA Architecture
NB Sculpture
ND Painting
NK Decorative Arts

P Language and Literature

P Philology and Linguistics
PA Classical Literature
PC Romance Languages
PN Gen. & Comparative Lit.
PN 1995 Moving Picture - Reviews
PQ 6600-6700 Spanish Literature
PR English Literature
PS American Literature

Q Science

QA Mathematics/Computer Science
QB Astronomy
QC Physics
QC 900 Greenhouse Effect
QD Chemistry
QM Human Anatomy

R Medicine

RS Pharmacy
RT Nursing

S Agriculture

T Technology

TA General & Civil Engineering
TH Building Construction
TJ Mechanical Engineering
TK Electrical & Nuclear Engineering
TL Motor Vehicles, Aeronautics
TR Photography
TT Handicrafts, Arts and Crafts
TX Home Economics

U Military Science

V Naval Science

Z Bibliography and Library Science

Guide to Understanding LC Classification

This system uses a combination of letters, whole numbers, and decimal numbers to classify books by their subject content and to organize them on the shelves. It is commonly used by academic libraries because it allows for more precise organization of books by subject and is expandable to accommodate new areas of knowledge. The Dewey Decimal system, another major classification scheme, uses numbers primarily, and is generally used by schools and public libraries.

In the Library of Congress System, the complete call number consists of at least three main parts: the general subject, the specific subject subdivision, and the author. Each part is on a separate line. The top line is a letter or letter combination, the second line is a whole number, and the third line is a decimal letter/number combination. Here is a typical call number:

(letters)	BF	the first line is the <u>general</u> subject, Psychology
(whole number)	408	the second line is the <u>specific</u> subdivision within psychology, in this case, Memory
(decimal number)	.B34	the third line combines the first letter of the <u>author's name</u> , Bates , with numbers. Always assume a decimal point. The numbers on this line are decimal numbers, not whole numbers.

Sometimes the specific subject line, the second line [408] is expanded by another line of alpha-numeric characters. In this case, "love" is a subcategory of "affection, feelings, emotions." It is a decimal number also.

BF	Psychology
575	Affections, Feelings, Emotions
.L8	Love
B84	Buscaglia (the author's name)

Additional lines below the third (or fourth) line are common. These usually provide more specific organization information about the book - publication date, volume number, copy number, etc.

Shelf Arrangement:

Books are shelved by call number classification, reading from left to right.

Line 1: BF	arrangement on the shelf is alphabetical,	B, BA, BC, ...BF...BH...BM...BR....
Line 2: 408	arrangement within the BF's is numerical,	1,2,3,...225...355...408...750...9999
Line 3: .B34	arrangement of the BF408's is first alphabetical, B , and then numerical as if the number is a decimal, .34 . Many books will have the decimal on the spine label; in others, the decimal is implied.	

For example, here is the proper arrangement for books in the B-BF range:

B	BC	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF	BF
10	322	408	408	408	408	408	408	408	408	553
.C42	.M2	.B3	B35	.B37	.B4	.B53	.B6	.C55	C9	.A2
										D25

Volumes or Dates are arranged sequentially or chronologically.

BF	BF	BF	BF	BF
408	408	408	408	408
.J25	.J25	J3	.M5	.M5
v.1	v.2		1978	1985

