

HOW TO DECIPHER LIBRARY OF CONGRESS CALL NUMBERS

Library of Congress Call Numbers are arranged **alphabetically** and **numerically**. Read Call Numbers from **left to right**, and from **top to bottom**.

Letters in the **first line** of the Call Number are **alphabetical**:

D 53 .E476 1990	H 155 .A5 1944	HA 21 .A33 1982	HM 13 .S47 1990
---------------------------------	--------------------------------	---------------------------------	---------------------------------

Numbers in the **second line** of the Call Number are in **numerical order**:

D 53 .E476 1990	D 785 .L44 M67 1991	D 1201 .B44 W64 1997	D 1246 .R66 1986
---------------------------------	----------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------	----------------------------------

Letters in the **third line** are **alphabetical**:

D 53 E 476 1990	D 53 G 538 1989	D 53 R 795 1995	D 53 T 38 1989
---------------------------------	---------------------------------	---------------------------------	--------------------------------

Numbers in the **third line** of the Call Number are in **decimal order**. It is important to remember that there is an “invisible” decimal point between the letter and the number:

D 53 E476 1990	D 53 E48 1971	D 53 E483 1976	D 53 E49 1996
--------------------------------	-------------------------------	--------------------------------	-------------------------------

There may be a fourth line of letters and numbers--these will also be in **alphabetical** and **decimal number order**.

The **last line** of a call number may be a **year**. This indicates the publication date.

Remember: if you're having trouble locating an item, please speak with a library staff member.

Adapted from the University of Rhode Island's "Getting Started @ the Libraries: Understanding Library of Congress Call Numbers"

<http://uri.libguides.com/c.php?g=42388&p=268465>