Understanding Call Numbers

The Library of Congress (LC) Classification System

jc 10/00

Call numbers appear like this, from top to bottom, on the spines of books:

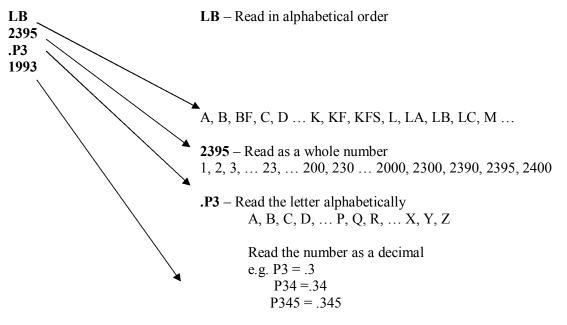
and like this, from left to right, in the online catalog:

LB2395.P3 1993

LB 2395 .P3 1993

Reading a Call Number

Read a call number by sections, line-by-line:



1993 – Read this chronologically, this is the date the book was published 1979, 1985, 1992, 1999 ...

The following Call Numbers are in Order:

LA2301 .M37	
LB1771 .K55	(LB comes after LA)
LB1771 .T47 1987	(Both start with LB1771, T comes after K)
LB2301 .E38	(2301 comes after 1771)
LB2301 .N2	(N comes after E)
LB2301 .N27	(.N27 comes after .N2)
LB2301 .N271 1948	(Decimal 271 comes after 27)
LB2325 .K43 1963	
LB2325 .K43 1972	(Same call number except for date, 1972 comes after 1963)

What the Call Numbers Mean

Like many other academic libraries, Clemson uses the Library of Congress Classification System, which arranges materials by subject. The first section of the call number (letter or letters) represents the broad subject category of the book. The second section of the call number (letter and number) often represents the author's last name. The last section of the call number represents the date of publication. Consider the example we've been using:

Title: How to Study in College

Walter Pauk Author: Call Number: LB2395 .P3 1993

Subject of the book: Study Skills ♦ LB2395

♦ .P3 Pauk, the author's last name

• 1993 The publication year

The following chart lists the general subject categories of the LC Classification Scheme:

A General Works

Philosophy-Religion-Psychology В

History (Civilization) C

D History (Except America)

American History Ε

Local American, Latin American History F

G Geography-Anthropology

H Social Sciences

J Political Science

K Law

L Education

M Music Scores

ML Music (Literature of Music)

N Fine Arts

P Linguistics

PC Romance Languages

PD Germanic Languages

PE English Language

PQ Romance Literature

PR English Literature

PS American Literature

PT Germanic Literature

O Science

QA Mathematics

QB Astronomy

QC Physics

QD Chemistry

OE Geology

QH Biology

OK Botany

QL Zoology

QM Human Anatomy

QP Physiology

QR Microbiology

R Medicine

Agriculture

Technology

U Military Science

V Naval Science

Z Bibliography Library Science

Because books are classified by subject, you can often find other helpful books on the same shelf, or on nearby shelves. For example, within the call number used in the examples above, (LB2395) there are other guides to study skills:

LB2395 .A34 Getting good grades: how to succeed in college LB2395 .C6 1991 What you need to know about developing study skills

LB2395 .P3 1993 How to study in college

LB2395 .S93 1990 The college student's handbook for better grades, job search, and career success

Teaching reading and study strategies at the college level LB2395 .T4 1991

Locating a Book in Cooper Library

The library's online catalog record indicates both a location and call number for materials. If the location is simply "Cooper Library", then the first letter of the call number determines the floor where the item will be shelved. Consult the chart below to determine whether the material is on Level 1, 2, 5, or 6 of Cooper Library. If the material is in a special location, check the location chart below the call number chart to determine its location.

A - K	Level 1
L - P	Level 2
Q - R	Level 5
S - Z	Level 6

Architecture Library 112 Lee Hall

Chemistry Library 205 Hunter Chemistry Building

Federal Documents Public Documents, Cooper Library, Level 3

Juvenile Cooper Library, Level 2 Popular Reading Cooper Library, Level 4

Reference Collection, Cooper Library, Level 4

Reserves and Media Cooper Library, Level 2
Special Collections Strom Thurmond Institute

S.C. State Documents Public Documents, Cooper Library, Level 3

Locating a Magazine or Journal in Cooper Library

All of our periodicals (magazines and journals) are arranged by call number. Each title has its own unique call number, and the call number is the same regardless of format: e.g. *Science* is call number Q1 .S41 for current issues, bound volumes, and microfilm.

Generally, *bound periodicals* (magazines or journals which have hard covers, like a book) are arranged by call number just as if they were a regular book. Therefore, the first letter of the call number of the periodical determines where it is located. Check the chart above to see which call numbers are shelved on which floors. These are listed in the online catalog as *Library Has*.

e.g. LIBRARY HAS: v.1 (1984) – v.10 (1993)

Current issues of periodicals (magazines or journals) are those that are not yet bound into hard covers. These loose issues are also arranged by call number. Most often, these current issues are located in the Current Periodicals Area on Level 4.

Occasionally, current issues of heavily used magazines are kept in the Reserve Room on Level 2. Current issues are listed in the online catalog, with a note telling the location.

e.g. CURRENT ISSUES: v.3:no.12 (2000:Dec.)

Current Issues in Periodicals Area, Level 4

Microfilm and *microfiche* issues of periodicals are arranged by call number in the Reserve and Media Room on Level 2.