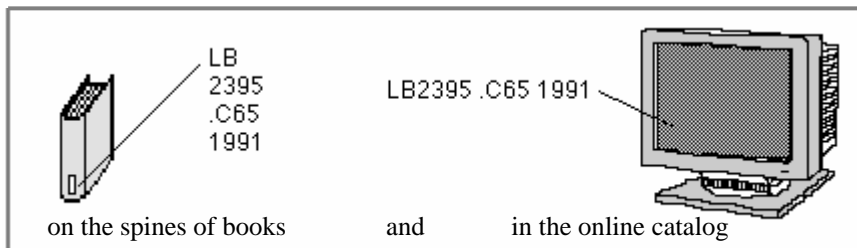


LPC Library – Tip Sheet for Library of Congress Call Numbers/

Call Numbers

Call numbers are used by libraries to arrange books by subject and to indicate where they are located on the shelves. A call number is like an address. Call numbers appear:



Reading Call Numbers

Read call numbers line by line:

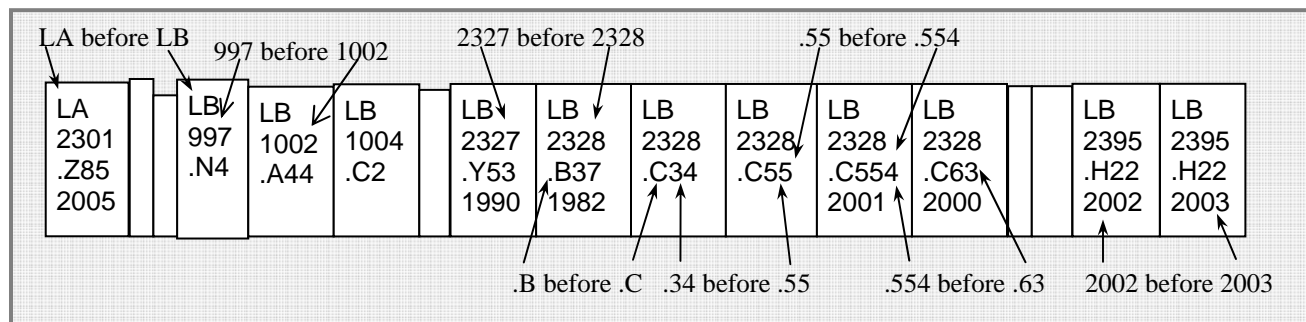
LB → Read the first line in alphabetical order: A, B, BF, C, D ... L, LA, LB, LC, M, ML ...

2395 → Read the second line as a whole number: 1, 2, 3, 45, 100, 101, 1000, 2000, 2430 ...

.C65 → 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.)


1991 → This is the year the book was published. Chronological order: 1985, 1987, 1991, 1992 ...

Finding Books by Call Number Order on the Shelf



How Do You Read a Call Number?

The first sections of the call number represent the subject of the book. The letter and decimal section of the call number often represents the author's last name.

 Title: *What You Need to Know About Developing Study Skills, Taking Notes & Tests, Using Dictionaries & Libraries*
 Author: Coman, Marcia J.
 Call number LB2395 .C65 1991

The first two lines describe the subject of the book.
 LB2395 = Methods of Study, in Higher Education

This line often represents the author's last name.
 .C65 = Coman

The year the book was published.
 1991

Note: this section on Call Numbers was adapted from Honolulu Community College Library, <http://www.hcc.hawaii.edu/education/hcc/library/callno.html>