

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS CALL NUMBERS

October 1990

(Reformatted: February 20, 2003)

(Edited: January 29, 2005)

To interpret a call number, begin with the first line, working alphabetically, then numerically across from left to right, one line at a time. A call number may be written in one of the following ways:

Vertical Format

RA
302
S82
1982

or

Horizontal Format

RA 302 S82 1982
RA302 .S82 1982

TS
113
A6B4
1985

or

TS113 A6B4 1985
TS113.A6 B4 1985

(The A6 is considered the class subdivision)

Single letters are filed before double letters in alphabetical order. That means RA is filed after R and before RB.

Letters are followed by numbers in numerical order.

Once you find the RA 302s, once again alphabetical order is followed. In the horizontal example, the number following the decimal, "S82" is called the book number. It is considered an alphanumeric decimal number because it incorporates both alphabets and numerals with decimal values. When interpreting these numbers for shelf arrangement of books, numbers such as .S82, .S8356, or .S8.... any number comes before .S9.

Even though a decimal point may not be present in a second or third series of numbers, read the numbers as though the decimal is present.

The last part of the call number may contain the books's publication date. All dates are filed chronologically.