



# Library of Congress Classification System & Call Numbers

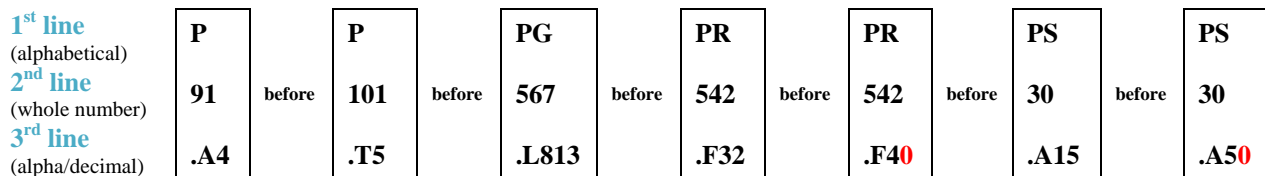
Most books and periodicals in the UM-St. Louis Libraries are arranged on the shelves by the Library of Congress (LC) Classification system. This system allows the materials to be grouped by topic. This grouping is achieved by assigning a "call number" to each book.

LC call numbers consist of a combination of letters and numbers and are arranged on the shelves in alphabetical and numerical sequence. They have three or more lines; the first consists of one or more letters representing the broad subject material of the book. The second line is a whole number (1-9999) representing a narrower topic within the broad subject. The third and subsequent lines consist of a letter/**decimal** combination or a **decimal alone**. These may represent a further subdivision of the topic or an author designation.

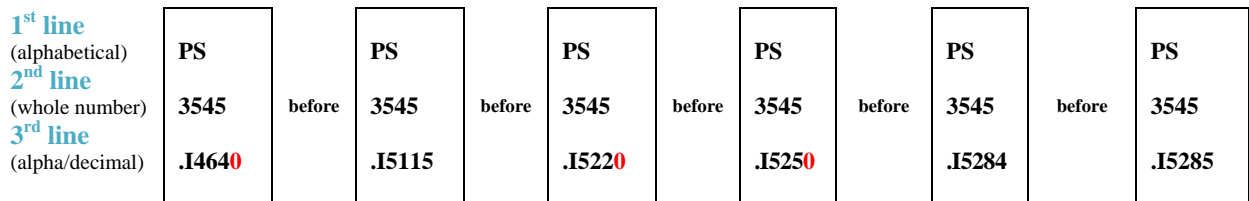
Call numbers are shelved first in **alphabetical** order by the letters of the first line, then **numerically** by the whole numbers of the second line. The third and subsequent lines are arranged **alphabetically, then decimally**.

(Hint: to more easily see the order, imagine 0's at the end of the third line to make equal numbers of characters. In all examples, the red 0's do not actually appear on the label, but help show the correct order of the 3<sup>rd</sup> lines.)

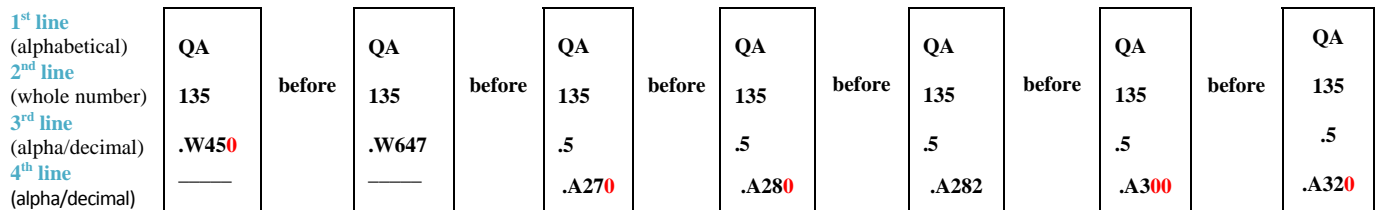
### EXAMPLE 1:



### EXAMPLE 2:



### EXAMPLE 3:



(Hint: Some call numbers have more than three lines. That doesn't affect the order. Comparisons are still done one line at a time. In this example, in the third line some call numbers have letter/number combinations while others only have numbers. When the first 2 lines are the same, third lines with letter/number combinations always come before plain decimals. The general rule is "Letters before numbers". Again, the red 0's do not appear on the labels; they are here to represent the correct order of the decimals.)

For additional information and for an interactive test of your skills of putting call numbers in order, go to <http://www.library.kent.edu/page/13760>

## LOCATIONS

When checking the UMSL LIBRARY CATALOG ([HTTP://WWW.UMSL.EDU/LIBRARY/](http://www.umsu.edu/library/)) to find a call number, please make a note of the "Location". This tells you where the item is on the UM-St. Louis campus. When checking the MERLIN and MOBIUS catalogs, "Location" is even more important because it lets you know if the item is on another campus or in another library. MERLIN includes the four University of Missouri campuses. The MOBIUS catalog includes most universities and colleges in Missouri.

UM-St. Louis Libraries holdings begin with UMSL. The Thomas Jefferson Library materials are marked TJ, the Ward E. Barnes Library materials are marked BARNES, and the Mercantile Library items are marked MERC. "Location" designations will also specify if the material is in a special area within the Libraries. For example: if you were to search for the *Who's Who*, the LIBRARY CATALOG would present a screen with title and author information and a location box similar to this:

<b>Title</b>	<b>Who's who.</b>
<b>Published</b>	London : A. & C. Black ; New York : St. Martin's, 1849-
<b>Loc</b>	<a href="#">UMSL TJ REF</a> DA28 .W6
<b>Lib. Has</b>	1980/81-1998,2001-2007
<b>Loc</b>	<a href="#">UMSL DEPOSITORY</a> DA28 .W6
<b>Lib. Has</b>	1898,1900,1903-1910,1912-1926,1928-1946,1948-1951,1953,1955-1956,1959,1961,1965-1966,1969-1970,1977-1978
<b>Loc</b>	<a href="#">UMSL TJ COM1</a> DA28 .W6
<b>Lib. Has</b>	1931,1949,1955,1960,1962/63,1968/69-1979/80

*In this example the screen indicates that the 1980/81-1998, 2001-2007 volumes are in Thomas Jefferson Library's Reference Department on level three. The volumes 1898,1900,1903-1910,1912-1926,1928-1946,1948-1951,1953,1955-1956,1959,1961,1965-1966,1969-1970,1977-1978 are in the University's Depository facility in Columbia, Missouri, and the volumes 1931,1949,1955,1960,1962/63,1968/69-1979/80 are in the Thomas Jefferson Library in COM1—compact shelving on level one. All volumes have the same call number: DA28 .W6, but different location codes.*

*When in the UMSL Catalog, to see the approximate location of an item in the UMSL libraries, click on the location code and a map will appear. Please consult a Reference Librarian if you have questions about the location codes or questions about access to the Depository items.*

### Call Number Divisions by Floor for Books in the Thomas Jefferson Library

**Level 1** houses **most** circulating items with call numbers beginning A – F

**Level 4** houses **most** circulating items with call numbers beginning with G – Z

**Level 5** houses **most** journals including current issues, bound volumes and microforms; some journals are housed in COM2 on level 2. Check location code in the catalog record.

Library of Congress Classifications	
A – General	M – Music
B – Philosophy, Religion, Psychology	N – Fine Arts
C – Auxiliary Sciences of History	P – Language & Literature
D – History (except for the Americas)	Q – Science
E – History: The Americas (general) & United States (general)	R – Medicine (most items are housed in the Barnes Library on South Campus—check the catalog)
F – United States (local) and other North & South American countries	S – Agriculture
G – Geography, Anthropology, Recreation	T – Technology
H – Social Sciences	U – Military Science
J – Political Science	V – Naval Science
K – Law	Z – Bibliography, Library Science, Information Resources
L – Education (materials housed in the Barnes Library on South Campus)	Desktop Publishing/LC/ Rev. 4-2010