



The Organization of Information Part Two: Library of Congress Classification

Understanding how book and other media records are stored in the library catalog can help a researcher use its search functions more effectively and locate items more easily within the library.

Library of Congress Classification (LCC) is a system of classifying books by subject. Knowledge is divided into 21 classes; each class is identified by a letter of the alphabet, and often further divided into subclasses identified by another letter. Subtopics are assigned a number or a range of numbers. The letters and numbers are arranged in a specific format called a call number, which is usually displayed on the front or spine of a book or other type of medium. Books are arranged alphabetically by letters and then sequentially by numbers.

Sample call number

The Renaissance by Paul Johnson

D
203
.J64
2000

In LCC the letter D stands for *World History* (general).

The numbers 200-203 D stand for the subtopic *Later Medieval History*.

The Cutter Number stands for the author's last name – Johnson.

This is the year the book was published. (You may see a volume or copy # here.)

LCC Outline

A -- GENERAL WORKS

B -- PHILOSOPHY, PSYCHOLOGY, RELIGION

C -- AUXILIARY SCIENCES OF HISTORY

D -- WORLD HISTORY; HISTORY OF EUROPE, ASIA, AFRICA, AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, ETC.

E -- HISTORY OF THE AMERICAS (USA)

F -- HISTORY OF THE AMERICAS

G -- GEOGRAPHY, ANTHROPOLOGY, RECREATION

H -- SOCIAL SCIENCES

J -- POLITICAL SCIENCE

K -- LAW

L -- EDUCATION

M -- MUSIC AND BOOKS ON MUSIC

N -- FINE ARTS

P -- LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

Q -- SCIENCE

R -- MEDICINE

S -- AGRICULTURE

T -- TECHNOLOGY

U -- MILITARY SCIENCE

V -- NAVAL SCIENCE

Z -- BIBLIOGRAPHY, LIBRARY SCIENCE, INFORMATION RESOURCES