A blue rectangular graphic with a white border. On the left side, there is a list of call number categories from A to Z. In the center, the words "Call Numbers" are written in a large, bold, yellow font. On the right side, there is a faint circular logo and contact information for the Sullivan Family Library.


A: General Works
B: Philosophy, Psychology, Religion
C: Auxiliary Sciences of History
D: History - General & Eastern Hemisphere
E-F: History - Western Hemisphere
G: Geography, Anthropology, Recreation
H: Social Sciences
J: Political Science
K: Law
L: Education
M: Music
N: Fine Arts
P: Language and Literature
Q: Sciences
R: Medicine
S: Agriculture
T: Technology
U: Military Science
V: Naval Science
Z: History of Books, Library Science, Bibliography

Call Numbers


Sullivan Family Library
library@chaminade.edu

Welcome to the Sullivan Family Library's online tutorial on Call Numbers.
Slide 1

What's a Call Number?



Like a street address
but for books!



Like a thumbprint,
call numbers are
unique to each book.

A call number is like a street address for a book. Each book has a unique call number that determines its location in the library.

Slide 2

How Libraries are Put Together

3-Tier System

- Collections
 - Reference, General, Hawaii-Pacific

- Within the *collection*, shelved by subject
 - Science, literature, theater, psychology

- Within the *subject*, shelved by call number

The library uses a three-tiered system. The first tier is the broader collection, such as General or Hawaiian-Pacific. Within a collection, books are arranged by subjects like science and literature. Within a subject, books are arranged by unique call numbers.

Slide 3

Breaking Down Call Numbers

- Library of Congress system (universities)
- Subject translated into alpha-numeric code
 - Letters : main subject
 - Numbers : code for sub-topic
 - Alpha-numeric : author or title
 - Number : publication year

The Sullivan Family Library, like many other academic libraries, uses the Library of Congress system. A Library of Congress call number is an alpha-numeric code made up of four pieces of information relating to the book.

Slide 4

Call Numbers

Letter = Subject

A, B, C, D, E, F... Q, R, S, T, U, V, W, Z

Q = Science ... what *kind* of science?

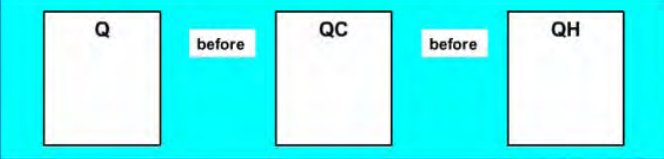
QA - Math & Computer Science
QB - Astronomy
QC - Physics
QD - Chemistry
QR - Microbiology

Here's an example of how the Library of Congress system works. The letter Q represents the broad subject of Science. There are many fields of science, so by adding a second letter, the call number represents a more specific kind of science.

Slide 5

Library Call Numbers

- First line = one or two letters
 - General subject
 - Letters read alphabetically:

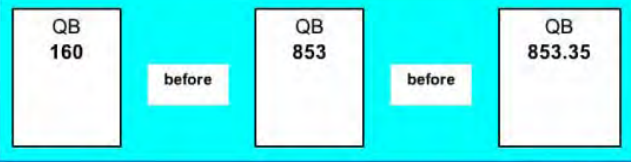


Credit courtesy of Steve Dietz, library

This first line indicates the general subject of the book. The letters are arranged alphabetically on the shelf.
Slide 6

Library Call Numbers

- Second line = number
 - More specific subject
 - Read numerically, as a whole number



The diagram illustrates the structure of library call numbers. It shows three examples in white boxes on a cyan background, separated by 'before' labels. The first box contains 'QB' and '160'. The second box contains 'QB' and '853'. The third box contains 'QB' and '853.35'. The 'before' labels are positioned between the boxes, indicating the sequence of the call number components.

Gift courtesy of Stan Lee Library

The second line is a number that represents a more specific topic within the general subject. This portion of the call number is read numerically as a whole number, and is arranged from lowest to greatest.

Slide 7

Library Call Numbers

- Third line begins with letter
 - Author name or book title
- Letter is shelved alphabetically
 - Number portion is treated as a decimal

QB 160.27 .C45	before	QB 853 .C456	before	QB 853 .E2
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Library Sheet courtesy of Shaw-Giles

The third line of the call number, known as a cutter number, begins with a letter followed by numbers. The letter represents the first initial of the author's last name or the first letter of the book's title. The numbers are treated as a decimal number.

Slide 8

Library Call Numbers

- Sometimes, fourth line
 - Further indicates author or title
 - Treated as a decimal (even if no decimal point)
- Other lines for date, volume, copy etc.

QB 160.27 .C45 M151 2001	before	QB 853 .C456 P90 1998	before	QB 853 .E2 H23 2007
---	--------	--	--------	--

Chart courtesy of State College Library

Sometimes the fourth line will be a second cutter number. When this is the case, the first cutter number relates to the book's subject, and the second cutter number refers to the author or title. The cutter number is followed by the year of publication.

Slide 9

Call Number Review

DU 256 .C45 M151 2001	before	DU 256 .C456 Vol 2	before	DU 256 .C47 2007
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First line = letters
General subject

Second line = number
Specifies subject

Third line begins with letter
Author name or book title
Number read as decimal

Fourth line (sometimes)
Further specifies author or title
Letter in alpha order
Number read as decimal

Other lines
For date, volume, copy

In review, books are arranged alphabetically by the first line then numerically by the second line. The third and fourth lines use alphabetical then numerical arrangement.
Slide 10

Finding Books on the Shelf

Origins : how the planets, stars, galaxies, and the universe began

Title: Origins : how the planets, stars, galaxies, and the universe began
 Author: Eales, Stephen
 ISBN: 9781846234014
 Personal Author: Eales, Stephen
 Publication Information: London : Springer, c2007.
 Physical Description: xi, 284 p. : ill. (some col.) ; 24 cm.
 Series: Astronomers' universe
 Series Title: Astronomers' universe
 Contents: Part I : Planets. Rocks -- The day the solar system lost a planet -- ET and the exoplanets -- Part II : Stars. Connections -- The final frontier -- Part III : Galaxies. Silent movie -- The history of galaxies -- Part IV : The universe. Watching the Big Bang on television -- Plato's ghost
 Subject Terms:
 Cosmology.
 Electronic Access: Table of contents only <http://www.loc.gov/caldir/loc/y0709/2006922509.html>

* Available: 1

Material Type	Call number	Shelf Location	Status
1:BOOK	Q968: E135 2007	GENERAL	General Collection

With a better understanding of the call number system, we're ready to find a book. We'll look for *Origins* by Stephen Eales. Here is the results page from our online catalog. Notice the results display the call number, title, collection, item type and date.
 Slide 11

Finding Books on the Shelf

1. Copy the Call Number

QB981 .E135 2007	copies: 1 (GENERAL)
Origins : how the planets, stars, galaxies, and the universe began / Stephen Eales	type: BOOK
Eales, Stephen.	pubyear: 2007

2. Find on the Shelf

- Alphabetical
- Numerical
- Letter first, then decimal
- Date published

By Stephen Eales
Origins

Location (GENERAL)

QB
981
.E135
2007

Noting the call number and collection, head to the General collection to locate the book. Within the General collection, find the QB section and look within it for 981. Once in the QB 981 area find .E135.
Slide 12

Questions?



Need help?
Contact us at (808) 739-4660
library@chaminade.edu

This concludes the Call Numbers online tutorial. Please view our Finding Books and Search Strategies tutorials for more information on searching for books. If you have any further questions, please email library@chaminade.edu or call 808.739.4660.
Slide 13