

Call Numbers

Materials in the Mary M. Barksdale Library are organized by the **Library of Congress Classification System**. Most academic libraries, including all the libraries in the Virginia Community College System, use the Library of Congress Classification System to organize their collections. Most public libraries use the **Dewey Decimal Classification System**.

Each item in the library is assigned a **Library of Congress (LC) call number**. LC call numbers are made up of letters and numbers. **An LC call number is a unique alpha-numeric code which serves as an "address" which enables you to find the exact location for each item in the library.**

The Library of Congress Classification System organizes library materials into 21 major subject divisions, which are represented by a single capital letter. For example, **N** represents **Fine Arts**. These major subject divisions or classes are further divided into subclasses, represented by a second capital letter in the call number. Items beginning with **NA** deal with **architecture**, for example, while items beginning with **ND** deal with **painting**.

When you are searching for library materials on the online catalog, look first at the **Collection** the item belongs to, such as **Circulating, Reference, New Books, CD**, etc. Then write down the complete LC call number to locate the item on the shelf. Look at the guides which are displayed on the sides of the shelves in the Circulating collection. These guides display the range of call numbers which are found on those shelves.



View Record	Mark	Author	Title	Year	Call Number	Campus (owned/out)	Ext Link
1	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vollmar, Klausbernd.	Dream symbols /	2007	Circulating Collection--BF1091 .V65 2007	Danville(1/ 0)	
2	<input type="checkbox"/>	Parker, Derek,	Dreaming : remembering, interpreting, benefiting /	2007	Circulating Collection--BF1091 .P264 2007	Danville(1/ 0)	
3	<input type="checkbox"/>		The dreams of interpretation [electronic resource] : a century down the royal road /	2007	Internet -- Books-- Online access	VCCS	[Consult the NetLibrary ebook link on the Library homepage. Access requires a free individual user account. (eBook available to VCCS users only).]
4	<input type="checkbox"/>	Warren, Jeff,	The head trip : adventures on the wheel of consciousness /	2007	Circulating Collection--BF311 .W37 2007	Danville(1/ 0)	
5	<input type="checkbox"/>	Moorcroft, William H.,	Understanding sleep and dreaming /	2003	Circulating Collection--RC547 .M667 2003	Danville(1/ 0)	[Table of contents]

Look at the first record displayed above, **Dream Symbols**, by Klausbernd Vollmar. To find this item in the library, first note the collection it belongs to, which is **Circulating**. Next write down the complete LC Call number to find this book on the shelves: **BF1091.V65 2007**. The call number is found on a label which is on the spine of the book, or sometimes on the front of the item.

BF	Read the first line alphabetically
1091	Read the second line as a whole number
.V65	Read the third line first alphabetically and then read the number as a decimal
2007	This line is the publication date and should be read in chronological order

The call numbers shown below all represent items which deal with dreams, and are displayed in correct call number order-- the order in which the items are found on the shelves:

BF 1091 .B25 2000	BF 1091 .D3796 1997	BF 1091 .G84 1994	BF 1091 .P264 2007	BF 1091 .S36 1993	BF 1091 .S665 2001	BF 1095 .B74 2003	BF 1099 .N53 H37 1984
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Remember to read the **third line** as a **decimal**. Thus, a call number with **.R399** would **come before** a call number with **.R4**. Note the order of the call numbers shown below (.G377 comes before .G38; .L35 comes before .L4).

E 185.86 .C68 2006	E 185.86 .G377 1996	E 185.86 .G38 1990	E 185.86 .L35 1987	E 185.86 .L4 1992	E 185.86 .L48 1983	E 185.86 .L5 1969	E 185.86 .L68 2002
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Note: Some call numbers may have more than one combination of letter-numbers in the third line, such as: ND553.**M7 M54** 1991 and ND553.**M7 T83** 1990. With multi-volume sets, you will also see the volume number displayed at the bottom of the call number. The call number for the first volume of **The World Book Encyclopedia** is: **REF AE5.W55 2010 v.1**. (The **REF** at the top of the call number **identifies the item as belonging to the Reference Collection**. Other codes you will see at the top of the call number are **CCC** for **Child Care Collection**, **CD** for the **Compact Disc Collection**, **VID CIRC** for the **Video Circulating Collection**, etc).

The call number for a book entitled **The Judgment of Paris: the revolutionary decade that gave the world Impressionism**, by Ross King, is **ND 547.K47 2006**. The first two lines refer to the subject of the book. ND indicates that the book deals with painting, and 547 indicates it deals with painting specifically in the 19th century. K47 is called a Cutter number, and refers to the author's last name. 2006 is the year of publication.

Call Number Exercise

Place the following items in correct call number order. (Answers are given below).

R

121

.B47

1955 This call number should be placed in which blank box below?

B 29 .F693 1976	D 52 .W6 1964		F 67 .D774 1967		R 121 .M65 2003	RA 11 .H54 2003
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M

176.5

.M8

B4

1989 This call number should be placed in which blank box below?

M 174 .M85 1984	M 176 .K8 G6 1966		M 422 .G65 C6 1989	ML 19 .L9 1994	ML 60 .K92 1966	
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HF

1106

.L48

1988 This call number should be placed in which box blank box below?

HF 695 .M66 1973	HF 1001 .E463 2004	HF 1001 .E466 2001		HF 1111 .M169 1954		HM 1007 .E53 2007
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Answers

Place R121.B47 1955 in the box after F67.D774 1967

Place M176.5.M8 B4 1989 in the box after M176.K8 G6 1966

Place HF 1106.L48 1988 in the box after HF 1001.E466 2001

For further practice, see the *Library of Congress Call Number Quiz* developed by Joan Reitz at Western Connecticut State University at <http://people.wcsu.edu/reitzj/lcquiz/lcquiz.html>

