



Reading LC Call Numbers

LC classification is an alphanumeric system which groups books by subject categories, or classes and is used by all the libraries in the U of R system: FNUniv, Campion, Luther and Archer.

Learn it. Know it. Use it.

The average call number has 4 lines on a book label and each of those lines is read differently

Z
693
.A52
1977

The first line is made up of 1-3 letters, and is read in alphabetical order.

A BC BF CJ D G GE GR H

Z
693
.A52
1977

The second line is made up of whole numbers, and is read numerically. The numbers in this line may sometimes have decimals.

1 5 25 78 126 333 790 790.5 1357 4274

Z
693
.A52
1977

This line is called the cutter number, which usually represents the author's last name, but can also stand for the name of a corporation or the book's title. It is read first alphabetically by letter and then the numbers are read as a decimal.

.D12 .D3 .G4 .G5 .G56 .G564 .G5643 .G6 .G67

Z
693
.A52
1977

The last line is the year of publication, and is read in chronological order.

1796 1854 1910 1959 1959b 1978

AZ
513
.M7
I5
1984

Some labels may have more than four lines.

This call number has two cutter numbers. The first cutter number narrows the topic; in this case **.M7** stands for Mississippi. The second cutter number on this label, **I5**, represents the book's title. Both are read like the examples of cutter numbers above.