

# Library of Congress

## Call Number and Classification System

The Library of Congress Call Number and Classification System is an alpha-numeric code for categorizing and locating books in the Virginia Highlands Community College Library.

Two purposes are served:

- *Call number:* There will be a label with the Library of Congress Call Number on each book in the VHCC Library. This is used like to locate exactly where the book is found in the library. Sometimes there will be three letters preceding the main part of the call number. If the call number begins with **REF**, then these materials are found in the Reference collection. If it begins with **MAPS**, then is it found in the Atlas section.
- *Classification:* Books on the same subject are grouped together using this same call number system. Therefore, after you locate a desired book on the shelf, look immediately around that book and on adjacent shelves and you may find other materials of interest.

## How to read Call Numbers

Library of Congress call numbers should be read one line at a time as follows:

Example of a complete call number:

DA	Line 1
36	Line 2
A77	Line 3

### 1. First, look at Line 1:

Books are arranged in **alphabetical order**, by the letters on the first line of the call number.

**Example:** first come all the **D** call numbers, then all the **DA** call numbers, then **DB**, etc.

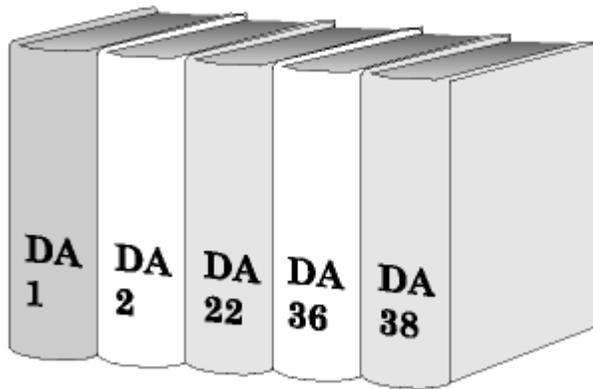


### 2. Next, look at Line 2:

Within the **DA** call numbers, books are arranged in **number order**.

The numbers are arranged in numerical order, from low to high.

Example:



### 3. Then look at Line 3:

Line 3 of the call number has a letter and a number. The letters are in alphabetical order.

Then read the numbers-but **BEWARE!**

The numbers are not **WHOLE** numbers, they are **DECIMAL** numbers!

Example: A55 is read as A .55 - this is why A55 comes *before* A6 (A .55, A .6, A .65, etc.)

