


# How to Find A Library Book Using Library of Congress Call Numbers

When trying to find a book, DVD, or other media in the Belk library.

 If you have trouble ask one of the helpful staff at the first floor service desk.

## Step-by-step guide

Most books in the Belk Library are arranged by [Library of Congress \(LC\) call number](#) as a means to group like subjects together on the shelves. Each book has a unique identification number (or shelf address), usually found on the spine of the book. In the **ASU Main Stacks**, you will find the LC Call numbers A-J on the 2nd floor and K-Z on the 3rd floor.

**A helpful video of how to read LC Call Numbers:**

This is what you see when you find a book in the library catalog:

| LOCATION                        | CALL #   | STATUS ?      |
|---------------------------------|--|---------------|
| <a href="#">ASU MAIN STACKS</a> | R853.A53 W47 2001<br><a href="#">Nearby on Shelf</a> | NOT CHK'D OUT |

This is what you see when you find a book in APPSearch:

**Available** at ASU MAIN STACKS (Call number: R853.A53 W47 2001) :

This is how the LC Call number looks on the book spine:

R  
853  
.A53  
W47  
2001

## Reading an LC Call Number

When you are looking for a book, always start with the top line of the call number. Remember, books are arranged alphabetically; for example, all BR numbers are together, after BP and before BS, and all B's come after all combinations of A and before all combinations of C.

B . . . BP, BR, BS, . . . C, CA, CB . . .

The first part of the call number contains letters. These letters are read **alphabetically**:

**H   HA   HD**

The second part of the call number contains numbers which are read as a **whole number**:

HD   HD   HD   HD  
**98   100   115   204**

The second part of the call number may also contain a decimal component:

HD   HD   HD  
**98.55   98.78   98.79**

The third part consists of a single letter and then a sequence of numbers. Items are first placed in **alphabetical** order by letter, and then **numerically** according to the sequence of numbers. All the numbers in this line are treated as if they were preceded by a **decimal**:

|      |     |       |      |
|------|-----|-------|------|
| HD   | HD  | HD    | HD   |
| 98   | 98  | 98    | 98   |
| .B69 | .C2 | .C215 | .C25 |

The final line of the call number may include dates, volume, issue numbers, copy numbers:

|      |      |
|------|------|
| HD   | HD   |
| 8039 | 8039 |
| .S52 | .S53 |
| 2002 | .H27 |
| c.2  | v.1  |

## Related Articles

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- [How to Access Library Databases Off Campus](#)
- [How to add Money to AppCard/ASU Guest Express Card Account](#)
- [How to Find Books and Media at the library](#)
- [How to Find Books in the Library Instructional Materials Center \(IMC\)](#)
- [Print Zone FAQs](#)
- [Schedule A Library R.A.P. Session](#)

For more information including resources for support, please visit the [Library Services Website](#).

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