KTTC

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GROUPWORK ASSIGNMENT.

QUESTION: DISCUSS LIBRARY OF CONGRESS CLASSIFICATION.

Members of the group.

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LIBRARY OF CONGRESS CLASSIFICATION LITERACY.

DEFINITION.

The *Library of Congress Classification* (LCC) is a classification system that was first developed in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries to organize and arrange the book collections of the Library of Congress. Over the course of the twentieth century, the system was adopted for use by other libraries as well, especially large academic libraries in the United States. It is currently one of the most widely used library classification systems in the world. The Library's Policy and Standards Division maintains and develops the system, posting list of updates

The system divides all knowledge into **twenty-one basic classes,** each identified by a single letter of the alphabet. Most of these alphabetical classes are further divided into more specific subclasses, identified by two-letter, or occasionally three-letter, combinations. For example, class N, *Art*, has subclasses NA, *Architecture*; NB, *Sculpture*, ND, *Painting*; as well as several other subclasses. Each subclass includes a loosely hierarchical arrangement of the topics pertinent to the subclass, going from the general to the more specific. Individual topics are often broken down by specific places, times, or bibliographic forms (such as periodicals, biographies, etc.). Each topic (often referred to as a *caption*) is assigned a single number or a span of numbers. Whole numbers used in LCC, may range from one to four digits in length, and may be further extended by the use of decimal numbers. Some subtopics appear in alphabetical, rather than hierarchical, lists and are represented by decimal numbers that combine a letter of the alphabet with a numeral, e.g. .B72 or .K535. Relationships among topics in LCC are shown not by the numbers that are assigned to them, but by indenting subtopics under the larger topics that they are a part of, much like an outline. In this respect, it is different from more strictly hierarchical classification systems, such as the DDC numbers that can be continuously subdivided shows hierarchical relationships among topics.

CHARACTERISTICS

1. Main classes are divided into subclasses, which reflect individual discipline or their branches.

2. Classes or subclasses are then further sub divided by topic and l or by form, place or time.

3. The structure of LCC therefore is hierarchical, progressing from the general to the specific.

MAIN CLASSESS

LCC divides the entire field of knowledge into 21 main classes, each identified by a single capital letter of the alphabet[6]. The letters I, O, W, X, Y have not been assigned subject areas but could be used for future expansion.

Twenty-one main classes

A	General Works
B	Philosophy. Psychology. Religion
C	Auxiliary Sciences of History
D	World History and History of Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia, New Zealand, etc.
E	History of the Americas
F	History of the Americas
G	Geography. Anthropology. Recreation
H	Social Sciences
J	Political Science
K	Law
L	Education
M	Music and Books on Music
N	Fine Arts
P	Language and Literature
Q	Science
R	Medicine
S	Agriculture
T	Technology
U	Military Science
V	Naval Science
Z	Bibliography. Library Science. Information Resources (General)

SUBCLASSES

each of the main classes, with the exception of E and F is further divided into subclasses, which represent disciplines or major branches of the main class. Two letter, or occasionally three-letter combinations denote most subclasses. For example, following are some subclasses of class P.

	Class P -- Language and Literature
Subclass P	Philology. Linguistics
Subclass PA	Greek language and literature. Latin language and literature
Subclass PB	Modern languages. Celtic languages and literature
Subclass PC	Romanic languages
Subclass PD	Germanic languages. Scandinavian languages
Subclass PE	English language
Subclass PF	West Germanic languages
Subclass PG	Slavic languages and literatures. Baltic languages. Albanian language
Subclass PH	Uralic languages. Basque language
Subclass PJ	Oriental languages and literatures
Subclass PK	Indo-Iranian languages and literatures
Subclass PL	Languages and literatures of Eastern Asia, Africa, Oceania
Subclass PM	Hyperborean, Native American, and artificial languages
Subclass PN	Literature (General)
Subclass PQ	French literature – Italian literature – Spanish literature – Portuguese literature
Subclass PR	English literature
Subclass PS	American literature
Subclass PT	German literature – Dutch literature – Flemish literature since 1830 – Afrikaans literature -Scandinavian literature – Old Norse literature: Old Icelandic and Old Norwegian – Modern Icelandic literature – Faroese literature – Danish literature – Norwegian literature – Swedish literature

Subclass	
PZ	Fiction and juvenile belles letters

DIVISIONS

Each subclass is further sub divided into divisions that represent components of the subclass to specify form, place, time & subtopics. These are denoted by integers 1-9999, some with decimal extension. A Cutter number (e.g., .S35) may also denote some subtopics.
For example, following are some divisions of subclass PK.

Subclass PK

PK1-(9601)   Indo-Iranian philology and literature
PK1-85   General
PK101-2899 Indo-Aryan languages
PK101-185 General
PK(201)-379 Vedic
PK401-976   Sanskrit
PK1001-1095 Pali
PK1201-1409.5 Prakrit
PK1421-1429.5   Apabhramsa
PK1471-1490   Middle Indo-Aryan dialects
PK1501-2899 Modern Indo-Aryan languages
PK1550-2899   Particular languages and dialects
PK1550-1569   Assamese
PK1651-(1799)   Bengali
PK1801-1831.95 Bihari
PK1841-1870.95 Gujarati
PK1931-2212   Hindi, Urdu, Hindustani languages and literatures
PK1931-1970 Hindi language
PK1971-1979.5 Urdu language
PK1981-2000   Hindustani language
PK2030-2142   Hindi, Hindustani literatures
PK2151-2212 Urdu literature

Advantages:

1. New classes, subclasses and topics can be added. Not all letters for main topics have been used (I, O, W, X, Y).

2. LC numbers allow a unique number to be assigned to a work using cutter numbers, expansion of decimal numbers and the date of publication.

3. Cutter numbers give flexibility so that new topics and geographic areas can be added within a range of numbers.

4. The LCC scheme is backed by the resources of the Library of Congress.

Disadvantages:

1. There is a large number of schedules.

2. There is no overall index.

3. The American emphasis in geographical arrangements and in other areas can be a disadvantage for large international collections and overseas libraries.

4. New editions of schedules may require reclassification decisions, e.g., JX has been replaced by the subclasses JZ (International relations) and KZ (Law of nations).

5. There is relatively little documentation on how to use the classification.

6. Until 1996 the classification depended on the acquisitions of the Library of Congress. The subject coverage of the collection is comprehensive but not exhaustive.

REFERENCES

1. Janis L. Young and Daniel N. Joudrey, Library of Congress, "Library of Congress Subject Headings: Online Training,"
https://www.loc.gov/catworkshop/lcsh/index.html
(accessed March 17, 2020).