



# **INTRODUCTION TO CLASSIFICATION**

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**IMC111 WEEK 6**

# CLASSIFICATION SYSTEMS

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- The chief purpose of the classification system in a library is to provide a basis for **organizing books and materials** so that they can be **found quickly and easily** by those persons who use the library; it is also a means of **bringing materials on the same subject** together so that they can be used easily and conveniently.
- Two major classification systems are:
  - Library of Congress Classification System (LCCS)
  - Dewey Decimal Classification System (DDC)



# CLASSIFICATION SYSTEMS

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## ☐ Uses

- To group materials of the same subject together
- Allows easy storage and retrieval of materials
- Shows the main subject area of a library collection.

## ☐ Uses notation to represent its subject

# CLASSIFICATION SYSTEMS

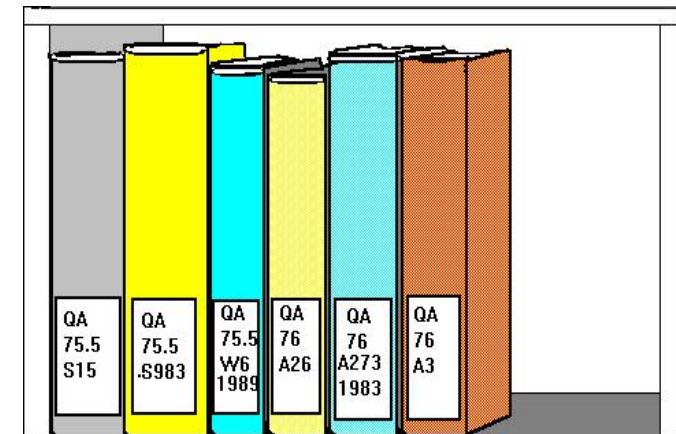
## Notation

- ❑ = alphabets, numbers and symbols used in a classification scheme.
- ❑ 2 types of notation
  - Pure : uses only numbers [0 – 9] or alphabets [A – Z] e.g. Dewey Decimal Classification Scheme.
  - Mixed : uses numbers and alphabets – alphanumeric – e.g. Library of Congress Classification Scheme, and, symbols [ +,=,/,: ] e.g. Universal Decimal Classification Scheme

## Pure notation



## Mix notation



# Library of Congress Classification System (LCCS)

- The Library of Congress was founded in 1800. The earliest classification of books in the library.
- The LC system is used in most **academic libraries**. Books on similar subjects are grouped together under **21 primary classes**, which are represented by **letters** of the alphabet.
- The LC system combines letters of the alphabet and Arabic numerals. (**Mix – Notation**).
- Organizes knowledge in 21 broad categories, labeled A – Z. Alphabets I, O, W, X, Y not in use.

Example, PN 6109.9 ( Collection of poetry by women authors) TK 7800 (electronics)  
Example : Q = Science QE = Geology

LC number can begin with 1, 2 or 3 letters  
E = U.S. History  
KFH = Law of Hawaii

Most subject areas will have call number beginning with 1 or 2 letters.

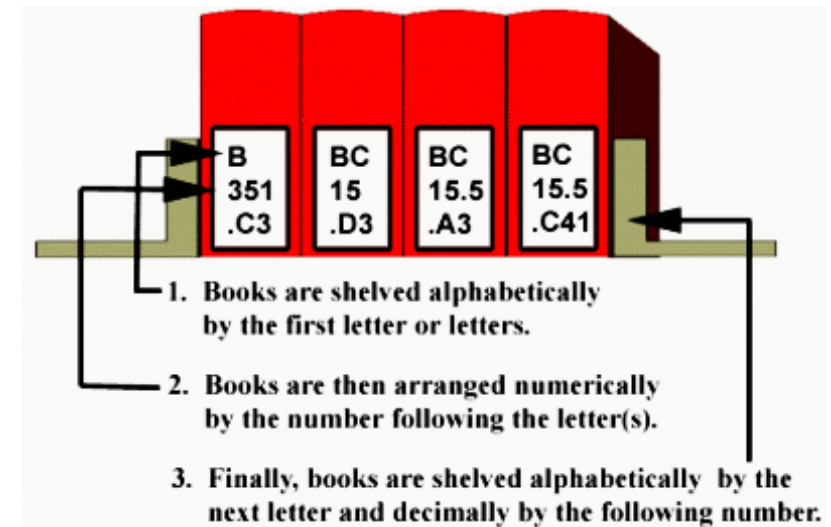
Books are arranged on the shelf according to the classification and within each class, alphabetically by author. The following examples show the way the call number looks on the spine of a book and how the books would be arranged on the shelf:

### Typical Book Shelf

PE 2300 .S45 1982	PN 1 .A4	PN 1993 .M45 1976	PN 1993 .N42	PN 1993 .N422 1999	PN 1993 .N51	PN 1993 .R5 1990	PN 1993 .R5 1995
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Annotations for the Typical Book Shelf:

- PE before PN
- 1 before 1993
- .N422 before .N51
- .M before .N
- .N42 before .N422
- 1990 before 1995



# Library of Congress Classification

## Library of Congress Classification Outline

Listed below are the letters and titles of the main classes of the Library of Congress Classification. Click on any class to view an outline of its subclasses. Online access to the complete text of the schedules is available in Classification Web, a subscription product that may also be purchased from the [Cataloging Distribution Service](#).

The files below are available for downloading in PDF (the first link in each line), WordPerfect format (noted as WP version), and in Word format (noted as Word version).

- ▼ [A -- GENERAL WORKS](#) - [WP version](#) - [Word version](#)
- ▼ [B -- PHILOSOPHY. PSYCHOLOGY. RELIGION](#) - [WP version](#) - [Word version](#)
- ▼ [C -- AUXILIARY SCIENCES OF HISTORY](#) - [WP version](#) - [Word version](#)
- ▼ [D -- WORLD HISTORY AND HISTORY OF EUROPE, ASIA, AFRICA, AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, ETC.](#) - [WP version](#) - [Word version](#)
- ▼ [E -- HISTORY OF THE AMERICAS](#) - [WP version](#) - [Word version](#)
- ▼ [F -- HISTORY OF THE AMERICAS](#) - [WP version](#) - [Word version](#)
- ▼ [G -- GEOGRAPHY. ANTHROPOLOGY. RECREATION](#) - [WP version](#) - [Word version](#)
- ▼ [H -- SOCIAL SCIENCES](#) - [WP version](#) - [Word version](#)
- ▼ [J -- POLITICAL SCIENCE](#) - [WP version](#) - [Word version](#)
- ▼ [K -- LAW](#) - [WP version](#) - [Word version](#)
- ▼ [L -- EDUCATION](#) - [WP version](#) - [Word version](#)
- ▼ [M -- MUSIC AND BOOKS ON MUSIC](#) - [WP version](#) - [Word version](#)
- ▼ [N -- FINE ARTS](#) - [WP version](#) - [Word version](#)
- ▼ [P -- LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE](#) - [WP version](#) - [Word version](#)
- ▼ [Q -- SCIENCE](#) - [WP version](#) - [Word version](#)
- ▼ [R -- MEDICINE](#) - [WP version](#) - [Word version](#)
- ▼ [S -- AGRICULTURE](#) - [WP version](#) - [Word version](#)
- ▼ [T -- TECHNOLOGY](#) - [WP version](#) - [Word version](#)
- ▼ [U -- MILITARY SCIENCE](#) - [WP version](#) - [Word version](#)
- ▼ [V -- NAVAL SCIENCE](#) - [WP version](#) - [Word version](#)
- ▼ [Z -- BIBLIOGRAPHY. LIBRARY SCIENCE. INFORMATION RESOURCES \(GENERAL\)](#) - [WP version](#) - [Word version](#)

# Dewey Decimal Classification System (DDC)

In the Dewey Decimal Classification System , Arabic numerals are used decimally to signify the various classes of subjects.

Dewey divided all knowledge , as represented by books and other materials, into **ten classes**, which is numbered **000-900**.

Call numbers in DDC use numbers and decimals. This is called **pure notation**.

Most **school libraries** and **public libraries** are organized using DDC.

Example 621.38 (electronics and communication engineering), 510 (Mathematics).

The primary classes are represented by numbers.



# Dewey Decimal Classification System (DDC)

The arrangement of classified materials on the shelves follows the outline of the classification system. They will appear on the shelves in this order:

745.4 H8883n	745.4441 F352d	745.5 V882a	745.54 N134b	745.674 L152g
745.7 B121f	810 D191s	810.9 Ar658a	810.903 L1281t	810.917 D193s

The background features several large, overlapping geometric shapes in teal, yellow, and green. A red rounded rectangle is positioned at the top left, containing the title. Below it, a large yellow rectangle contains the list of classification categories. The overall design is modern and abstract.

## Dewey Decimal Classification System (DDC)

**000-099 Generalities**

**100-199 Philosophy & psychology**

**200-299 Religion**

**300-399 Social sciences**

**400-499 Language**

**500-599 Natural sciences & mathematics**

**600-699 Technology (Applied sciences)**

**700-799 The arts**

**800-899 Literature & rhetoric**

**900-999 Geography & history**

# ADVANTAGES OF USING CLASSIFICATION SCHEMES

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- ❑ Shelving of books is more consistent. Its classmark will act as a specific 'address'.
- ❑ Retrieval of books is more straightforward. Library users can look for clear labels on each book instead of the book's author and title which might be difficult to read along the spine.
- ❑ Browsing the book is made easier.



# DISADVANTAGES OF USING CLASSIFICATION SCHEMES

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- ☐ Not all subjects may be catered for in the scheme.
- ☐ Users can be confused by what classmarks, represent, often there is no recognizable link between the subject and the book.
- ☐ A book given the wrong classmark and shelved out of its subject area could be lost forever and of no use to library user.



# Exercise

Sort the following call numbers into correct LCC shelf order.

## Question 1

GN 325 .F47	GN 325.F7 1979	GN 324 .F531 1986	GN 326 .F5 1991	GN 326 .F5 1989
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## Answer:

GN 324 .F531 1986	GN 325 .F47	GN 325.F7 1979	GN 326 .F5 1989	GN 326 .F5 1991
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# Exercise

Sort the following call numbers into correct LCC shelf order.

## Question 2

PL2892 .A53 1987	PL282 .A5 1942	PL2842 .A2 1990	PL8224 .A50 1990	PL42 .A552 1993
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## Answer:

PL282 .A5 1942	PL2842 .A2 1990	PL2892 .A53 1987	PL42 .A552 1993	PL8224 .A50 1990
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**Thank you**

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