

A Brief Subject Index to the Library of Congress Classification System

Books in the library are arranged on the shelves according to the Library of Congress Classification System. The LC system groups books into broad subject categories which are identified by a letter of the alphabet. The specific subject of books is defined by the number following the first letters. Look closely at the call numbers of these two books:

JL Burnett, Ben G.
952 Political forces in Latin America.
B934 1968

JL Scott, Robert E.
1231 Mexican government in transition.
S428 Rev. ed. 1964
1964

The J classification includes books about political science. JL is the subdivision for books about the political science of the Americas outside of the United States. JL 950 to JL 979 are numbers reserved for the political science of Latin America in general. JL 1200 to JL 1299 are reserved for the political science of Mexico.

Following the initial combination of one or more letters with a number, you will find a further group composed of a single capital letter followed by one or more digits. This is used to represent the author's name and is called the Cutter number. In the examples, B934 stands for Burnett, and S428 stands for Scott. By putting the Cutter numbers in order within any particular subject number, the books are arranged alphabetically by their authors. Dates of publication may be added below the Cutter numbers to distinguish editions of the same book.

Agriculture S
Anthropology GN
Archaeology CC
Architecture NA
Art N
Astronomy QB
Bibliography Z
Biology QH
Botany QK
Business HF
Chemistry QD
Cookbooks TX
Dance GV
Drama - see Literature
Economics HB-HJ
Education L
Fiction - see Literature
Games GV
Geography G-GC
Geology QE
History
 Africa DT
 Asia DS
 Europe
 France DC
 German DD
 Great Britain DA
 Russia DK
 Spain DP
 Latin America F
 North America E-F
 Oceania DU
 United States E-F
 World & General D
Languages PA-PM
Law K
Library Science Z
Linguistics P

Literature

American PS
British PR
Classical PA
Children's PZ
French, Italian, Spanish PQ
Germanic PT
Near Eastern PJ-PK
Oriental PL
Slavic PG
Mathematics QA
Medicine R
Military Science U
Music M
Naval Science V
Novels - See Literature
Oceanography GG
Philosophy B-BJ
Photography TR
Physical Education GV
Physics QC
Plays - See Literature
Poetry - See Literature
Political Science J
Psychiatry RC
Psychology BF
Religion BL-BX
Science Q
Social Science H
Sociology HM-HV
Sports GV
Statistics HA
Technology T
Zoology Q