

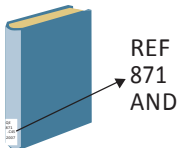
Reading Dewey Decimal Call Numbers

School & Public Libraries

Once you've researched the library's catalog, how do you locate your items in the library? Some catalogs will list the section and floor for each item. It will also list a call number so you can zero in on the correct shelf in the library. Most school and public libraries in the U. S., use the *Dewey Decimal Classification System* to assign call numbers to most library materials, including books and journals.

What is the purpose of call numbers? Each book or journal has a call number, which provides an address or location for the item, and also provides valuable information about it, such as the subject and the first letters of the author's last name.

Call numbers appear:
on the spine of books... and ...in the library catalog



Note that the same call number can be written from top-to-bottom, or left-to-right.

How do you read call numbers? The Dewey Decimal Classification System uses a system of numbers to arrange materials on library shelves by subject:

Read call numbers line by line

REF
871.1
CHA
2007

Read the first line-- REF typically means the book is in the Reference section.

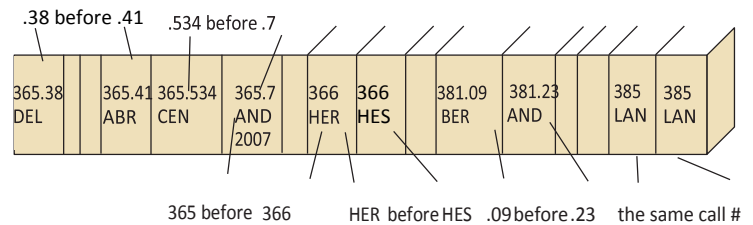
Read the second line as a number. Remember to add extra 0's to make the numbers after the decimal the same
301.09; 301.453; 301.5; 301.679

Is like 301.090; 301.453; 301.500; 301.679. These are in correct order.

The third line is the first 3 letters of the author's last name.

The last line is the publication date—not all libraries include this.

In what order do call numbers appear on the shelf? Call numbers are arranged first by the decimal number, and then if identical, with the letters of the authors last name.



What information does the call number tell you? The Dewey Decimal Classification System arranges materials by subjects. The first section of the call number represent the subject of the book. The letters below the decimal number of the call number often represents the author's last name.:



Title: *Glorified Dinosaurs: the origins and early evolution of birds*

Author: Chiappe, Luis M.

Call Number:
568
CHI

The first line describes the subject of the book:
568 = paleozoology - birds

This line often represents the author's last name:
CHI = Chiappe

568
CHI

Why is this important to know? Although the most efficient way to locate materials on a particular topic is usually to perform a subject search in online catalog and then note the call number for each retrieved item, browsing the shelves can also help you locate material appropriate for your topic. Since books are classified by subject, you can often find several helpful books on the same shelf, or nearby. For example, within the subject classification 568, there may be several guides about the evolution of birds.



568 CHI
Glorified dinosaurs



568 WIT
Mesozoic birds:
above the head of dinosaurs



568 PAU
Dinosaurs of the air



Dewey Decimal Classification

The Dewey Decimal Classification system is used in libraries to organize knowledge into ten broad categories, 000-900. Each category is subdivided into narrower topics. For example, books about how to play basketball are found in 796.323. 700=arts & recreation; 790=sports, games & entertainment; 796=athletic & outdoor sports & games; 796.3=indoor games; 796.32=ball & net sports; 796.323=basketball

<p><u>000 - Computer Science, Information, and General Works</u></p> <p>000 Computer science, knowledge & systems 010 Bibliographies 020 Library & information sciences 030 Encyclopedias & books of facts 040 [Unassigned] 050 Magazines, journals & serials 060 Associations, organizations & museums 070 News media, journalism & publishing 080 Quotations 090 Manuscripts & rare books</p>	<p><u>500 - Science</u></p> <p>500 Science 510 Mathematics 520 Astronomy 530 Physics 540 Chemistry 550 Earth sciences & geology 560 Fossils & prehistoric life 570 Life sciences; biology 580 Plants (Botany) 590 Animals (Zoology)</p>
<p><u>100 - Philosophy and Psychology</u></p> <p>100 Philosophy 110 Metaphysics 120 Epistemology 130 Parapsychology & occultism 140 Philosophical schools of thought 150 Psychology 160 Logic 170 Ethics 180 Ancient, medieval & eastern philosophy 190 Modern western philosophy</p>	<p><u>600 - Technology</u></p> <p>600 Technology 610 Medicine & health 620 Engineering 630 Agriculture 640 Home & family management 650 Management & public relations 660 Chemical engineering 670 Manufacturing 680 Manufacture for specific uses 690 Building & construction</p>
<p><u>200 - Religion</u></p> <p>200 Religion 210 Philosophy & theory of religion 220 The Bible 230 Christianity & Christian theology 240 Christian practice & observance 250 Christian pastoral practice & religious orders 260 Christian organization, social work & worship 270 History of Christianity 280 Christian denominations 290 Other religions</p>	<p><u>700 - Arts and Recreation</u></p> <p>700 Arts 710 Landscaping & area planning 720 Architecture 730 Sculpture, ceramics & metalwork 740 Drawing & decorative arts 750 Painting 760 Graphic arts 770 Photography & computer art 780 Music 790 Sports, games & entertainment</p>
<p><u>300 - Social Sciences</u></p> <p>300 Social sciences, sociology & anthropology 310 Statistics 320 Political science 330 Economics 340 Law 350 Public administration & military science 360 Social problems & social services 370 Education 380 Commerce, communications & transportation 390 Customs, etiquette & folklore</p>	<p><u>800 - Literature</u></p> <p>800 Literature, rhetoric & criticism 810 American literature in English 820 English & Old English literatures 830 German & related literatures 840 French & related literatures 850 Italian, Romanian & related literatures 860 Spanish & Portuguese literatures 870 Latin & Italic literatures 880 Classical & modern Greek literatures 890 Other literatures</p>
<p><u>400 - Language</u></p> <p>400 Language 410 Linguistics 420 English & Old English languages 430 German & related languages 440 French & related languages 450 Italian, Romanian & related languages 460 Spanish & Portuguese languages 470 Latin & Italic languages 480 Classical & modern Greek languages 490 Other languages</p>	<p><u>900 - History and Geography</u></p> <p>900 History 910 Geography & travel 920 Biography & genealogy 930 History of ancient world (to ca. 499) 940 History of Europe 950 History of Asia 960 History of Africa 970 History of North America 980 History of South America 990 History of other areas</p>