

HOW TO READ CALL NUMBERS

Example of a complete call number

DA	Line 1
36	Line 2
A77	Line 3

Most of the books and periodicals in the library have **Library of Congress** call numbers. Library of Congress call numbers are read **one line at a time** as follows:

1. First, look at line 1.

Books are arranged in **alphabetical order**, by the letters on the first line of the call number.

Example: first come all the **D** call numbers, then all the **DA** call numbers, then the **DB**, etc.

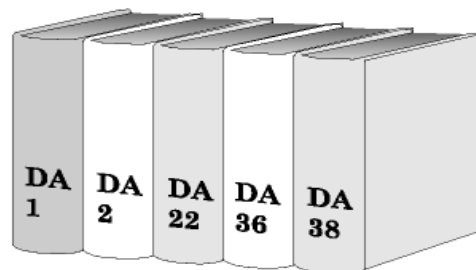


2. Next, look at line 2.

Within the **DA** call numbers, books are arranged in **number order**.

The numbers are arranged in numerical order, from low to high.

Example:



3. Then look at line 3.

Line 3 of the call number has a letter **and** a number. The **letters** are in **alphabetical** order.

Then read the **numbers**—but **BEWARE!**

The numbers are not **WHOLE** numbers, they are **DECIMAL** numbers!

Example: **A55** is read as **A .55** – this is why **A55** comes *before* **A6** (**A.55**, **A.6**, **A.65**, etc.)

Line 1: Alphabetical
Line 2: Numerical
Line 3: Decimal

