UNDERSTANDING LIBRARY CALL NUMBERS

A book's call number indicates its location on the shelves. Ivy Tech Library's books are arranged according to the Library of Congress (LC) system. This means that every book has its own number, i.e., no two books are labeled exactly the same. This differs from the Dewey system found in public libraries where several books can have the same call number.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE LC CALL NUMBER

- LC call numbers are alpha-numeric, i.e., letters and numbers are combined.
- The beginning letters represent specific subject areas (see list on back).
- Books are shelved in alphabetical order.
- The last line of a call number is always the publication date.
- Labels are read from left to right starting with the top line.

For example, a label looks like this

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PN 980
.B9
1964
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but it reads like this

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PN980.B9 1964
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LOCATING A BOOK

When you have found a book title through IvyCat, our online catalog, you will need to click on the title to find which Ivy Tech library owns it and the corresponding call number. Each library location field (ex: Indianapolis General Collection) has its own Call Number. All letters and numbers are necessary so be sure to write them down in order to avoid problems finding the book on the shelves. [Note: also check the Status section to see if the item is on the shelf.]

(Over for LC Subject List)
The following list is a simplified breakdown of the LC system showing some of the subject areas represented by specific letters and letter combinations.

A: General works, almanacs, encyclopedias

B: Philosophy, psychology, religion
   B-BD Philosophy
   BF-BJ Psychology, Ethics
   BL-BX Religion

C: History of civilization, archeology, genealogy, general biography

D: History (except the Americas)

E: History - U. S. & the Americas (general)

F: History - U.S. (states)

G: Geography, folklore, sports
   G-GN Geography, anthropology
   GR-GT Folklore, customs, holidays
   GV Sports, games

H: Social Sciences
   HA Statistics
   HB Economics
   HD Management, human relations
   HF Business, careers, resumes, office automation, marketing, accounting
   HG Finance
   HM Sociology (general)
   HQ Family, marriage, sex, gender
   HV Social services, welfare, criminology, substance abuse

J: Political Science
   JK United States
   JS Local government

K: Law
   KF United States law

L: Education
   LB Theory & practice of education; teaching, study skills, tests

M: Music

N: Fine Arts
   NA Architecture
   NC Graphic art

P: Language and Literature
   PA Classical literature

PE English language, reading, writing
PN Literature - general, collections
PR-PS English & American literature

Q: Science
   QA Mathematics, computer science
   QC Physics
   QD Chemistry
   QH Biology
   QM-QP Human anatomy & physiology

R: Medicine
   R Dictionaries, history, careers
   RA Public health
   RB Pathology, diseases
   RC Internal medicine, radiology, respiratory therapy, psychiatry
   RD Surgery
   RF Ear, nose, throat
   RG Obstetrics & gynecology
   RJ Pediatrics
   RL Dermatology
   RM Pharmacology
   RT Nursing

S: Agriculture

T: Technology
   T Technical writing, safety, drafting computer graphics
   TA Engineering, technical math, materials
   TD Environmental engineering
   TH Building construction, HVAC, fire
   TJ Mechanical engineering, engines, machines, robotics
   TK Electricity, electronics, computer networks
   TL Motor vehicles, aeronautics
   TP Refrigeration, wines
   TR Photography
   TS Manufacturing, quality, welding
   TT Woodworking, fashion
   TX Home economics, culinary arts

U-V: Military & Naval science

Z: Bibliography & library science
   (includes typing & keyboarding)