



How do Library of Congress call numbers work?

**B
H
C
C
L
I
B
R
A
R
Y**

All BHCC library books are classified and shelved according to the rules of a system called "Library of Congress call numbers". Each book has its own individual call number that works like the book's address. The call number tells you exactly which shelf to go to in the BHCC Library to find that book.

Each subject is represented by a letter or letters; on the shelf, the letters are arranged alphabetically. To look at how you would find a book, we'll use this example call number: **TX 724.5 .C5 L454 1993**. The first step is to find your general subject area on the shelf using the signs posted at the end of each shelf. In our example, we'd go to the T section and walk past T, TA, TC, TD, TE, TF and so on until we came to:

TX – Cookery

After the first one or two letters, you'll see numbers ranging from 1 to 9999 that serve to divide the main subject area into smaller, more specific subject areas. On the shelf, these numbers are arranged in increasing order. Be aware that some numbers have decimal points! For our example book, within the **TX** area you would go past **TX 20**, **TX 100**, **TX 700**, and **TX 724** until you came to:

TX 724.5 – Asian

This area may be divided into more categories by using a second letter and number combination, also arranged alphabetically on the shelf. Within **TX 724.5** we would walk past **TX 724.5 .A**, past **TX 724.5 .B**, past **TX 724.5 .C3**, past **TX 724.5 .C4** until we came to:

TX 724.5 .C5 – Chinese



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(CONTINUED FROM OTHER SIDE)

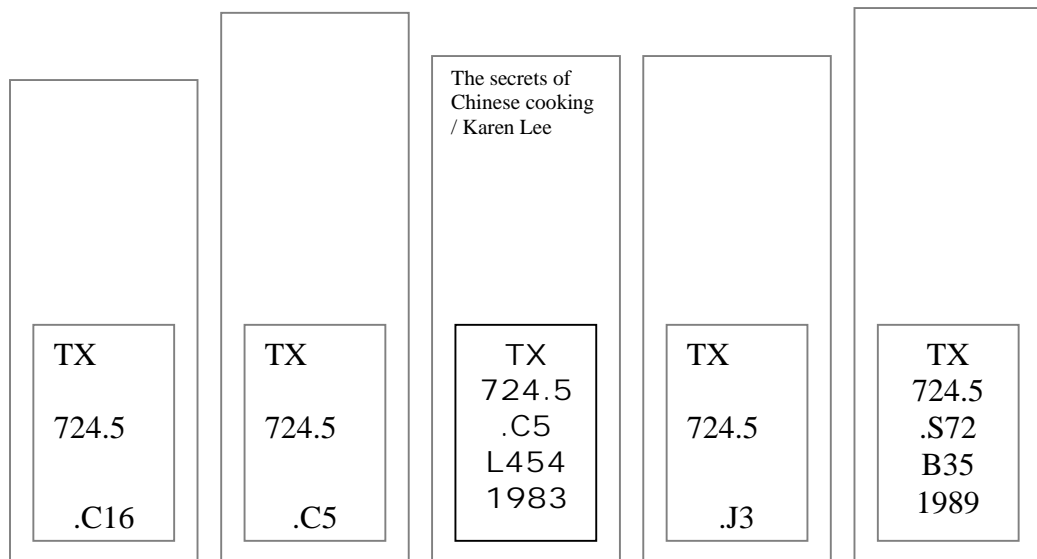
Author information is represented by the next like of numbers and letters; all books by the same author on the same subject would be together on the shelf. Within the TX 724.5 .C5 section, we would follow the same pattern and walk past the letters, increasing in alphabetical order, until we came to:

TX
724.5
.C5
L454 – Author’s name: Lee, Karen

Finally, the year of publication may be at the end of the call number. If there are multiple editions of the same work published several times, they’ll be arranged on the shelves by date:

TX
724.5
.C5
L454
1983 – Year of publication

The book this call number represents is *The secrets of Chinese cooking*, by Karen Lee. Here’s where this book would be in its section on the shelf:



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