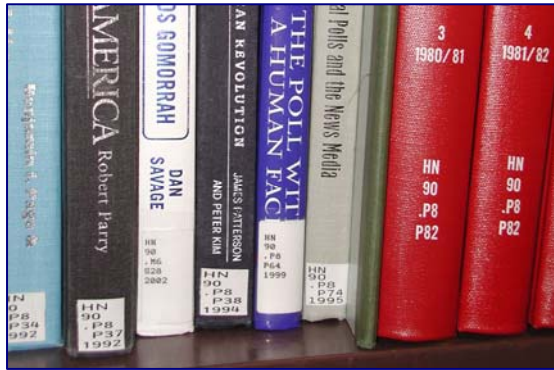


# Understanding Call Numbers

in the University of Nevada, Reno Libraries



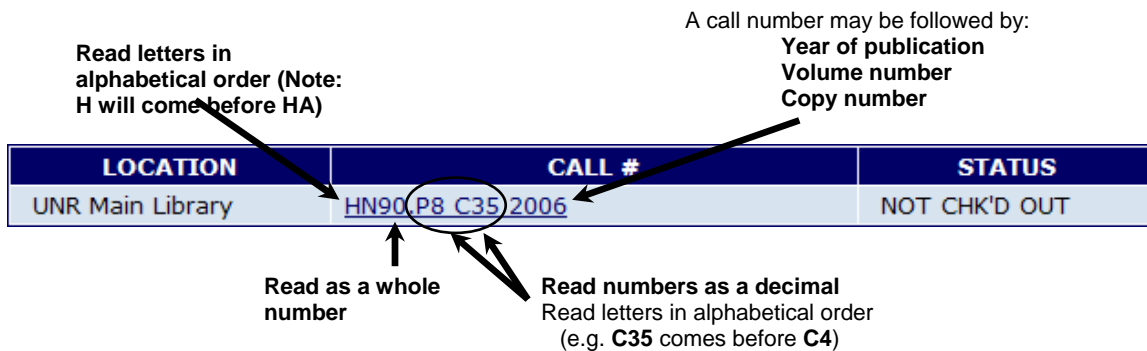
Journals may have the volume & issue number above the call number.

Read the call number line by line. Read the third line (& fourth, if there is one) as a decimal. (e.g. **C35** comes before **C4**)

## What is a call number?

Books (as well as journals and any materials that accompany books) are arranged on the shelf by call numbers (alphabetically from A-Z). The call number is a unique identifier and is created using the Library of Congress Classification System. The rationale behind this alphanumeric system is to classify books by subject both broadly and specifically.

## How to read a call number



|      |
|------|
| HN   |
| 90   |
| .P8  |
| C35  |
| 2006 |

Note: This call number will be found vertically on the spine (or cover) of a book:

In this call number: **HN** is the class for *Social history and conditions*; **90** is the number for the United States; **P8** is for public opinion; **C35** is for the author's name (Caldwell); and **2006** is the publication date.

## General Outline of Library of Congress Classification System\*

**A** General Works  
**B** Philosophy. Psychology. Religion  
**C** Auxiliary Sciences Of History  
**D** History: General and Old World  
**E** History: America  
**F** History: America  
**G** Geography. Anthropology.  
 Recreation  
**H** Social Sciences  
**J** Political Science  
**K** Law  
**L** Education

**M** Music and Books on Music  
**N** Fine Arts  
**P** Language and Literature  
**Q** Science  
**R** Medicine  
**S** Agriculture  
**T** Technology  
**U** Military Science  
**V** Naval Science  
**Z** Bibliography. Library Science.  
 Information Resources (General)

**H – Social Sciences**  
**HA** Statistics  
**HB** Economic theory. Demography  
**HC** Economic history and conditions  
**HD** Industries. Land use. Labor  
**HE** Transportation and communication  
**HF** Commerce  
**HG** Finance  
**HJ** Public Finance  
**HM** Sociology (General)  
**HN** Social history and conditions. Social problems. Social reform ...

\*For a complete outline of the Library of Congress Classification System, go to: <http://www.loc.gov/catdir/cpsolcco/lcco.html>