Understanding the Call Numbers
Your Guide to Shelf Location in the Library

Books, journals and other items are arranged by call number using the Library of Congress Classification System. A call number is a unique identifier that helps you locate an item in the library. Search the UC Davis Library Catalog to find call numbers, then check a library map for locations.

QH26.E795

- Read letters in alphabetical order
- Read numbers as a DECIMAL
- Read as a whole number
- Some call numbers are followed by:
  - Year of publication (in chronological order)
  - Volume number
  - Copy number (if more than one copy)

For the call number above, Q identifies the category for Science, and QH identifies the subclass of Biology. The letter in the last portion of the call number .E795, identifies the author, Ewan, followed by a decimal. For journals or edited works the letter identifies the title rather than the author. There may be two series of these numbers, followed by publication year, volume, copy.

Library of Congress Classification System: A - Z

A General Works
B Philosophy. Psychology. Religion
C Auxiliary Sciences of History
D History (General) & History of Europe
E History: America
F History: Asia
G Geography. Anthropology. Recreation.
H Social Sciences
J Political Science
K Law
L Education
M Music & Books on Music
N Fine Arts
P Language & Literature
Q Science
R Medicine
S Agriculture
T Technology
U Military Science
V Naval Science
Z Bibliography. Library Science. Information Resources (General)

Q = Science
QA = Mathematics
QB = Astronomy
QC = Physics
QD = Chemistry
QE = Geology
QH = Biology
QK = Botany
QL = Zoology
QM = Human Anatomy
QP = Physiology
QR = Microbiology