Library Call Numbers: What they mean and where they’ll be

What’s a call number, and how do I use it?
Call numbers help people find items on the shelves. Books and DVDs have labels with call numbers on their spines. CDs have labels on the front of their cases. Different kinds of items have different kinds of call numbers. Use the list below to help you find the items you’re looking for.

BOOKS
• E=Easy Fiction which is arranged alphabetically by author; a book with the call number E Sendak will be shelved in the easy fiction section under Sendak
• E Reader=Beginning Readers which are arranged alphabetically by author; a book with the call number E Reader Parish will be shelved in the beginning readers area under Parish
• Board=Board Book which are arranged alphabetically by author; a book with the call number Board Walsh will be shelved in the board book section under Walsh
• J=Juvenile Fiction which is arranged alphabetically by author; a book with the call number J Avi means that the book is shelved in the juvenile fiction area under Avi
• JB=Juvenile Biography which is arranged alphabetically by subject; a book with the call number JB King will be shelved with the juvenile biographies under King
• J and a Dewey Decimal Number=Juvenile Non-fiction which is arranged numerically; a book with the call number J745.5 will be shelved with the juvenile non-fiction under that number
• JR and a Dewey Decimal Number=Juvenile Reference which is arranged numerically; a book with the call number JR 970.004 will be shelved with the juvenile reference under that number
• BOOK CD J=Juvenile Audio Book on CD which are shelved alphabetically by author; an audio book with the call number Book CD J Rowling would be shelved with the juvenile audio books under Rowling
• TEEN=Teen Fiction which is arranged alphabetically by author; a book with the call number Teen Green will be shelved in the teen section under Green
• BOOK CD TEEN=Teen Audio Book on CD which are shelved alphabetically by author; an audio book with the call number Book CD Teen Meyer will be shelved with the teen audio books under Meyer
• F= Adult Fiction which is arranged alphabetically by author; a book with the call number F Patterson will be shelved in the adult fiction area under Patterson
• BOOK CD F=Adult Fiction Audio Book on CD which is arranged alphabetically by author; an audio book with the call number Book CD F Brown would be shelved with the adult fiction audio books under Brown
• LP=Large Print which is arranged alphabetically by author; a book with the call number LP Roberts will be shelved in the large print area under Roberts
• LP Dewey Decimal Number=Large Print Non-fiction which is arranged numerically; a book with the call number LP 811.2 will be shelved with the large print non-fiction books under that number
• B=Biography (adult) which is arranged alphabetically by subject; a book with the call number B Einstein will be shelved in the biography section under Einstein
• Dewey Decimal Number=Adult Non-fiction with is arranged numerically; a book with the call number 646.7 will be shelved in the adult non-fiction area under that number
• **R Dewey Decimal Number=Reference Books (adult)** which are arranged numerically; a book with the call number R 364.15 will be shelved in the reference section under that number.

• **ROMANCE/MYSTERY/ WESTERN/ HORROR/ THRILLER/ FANTANSY/SCIENCE FICTION=Genre Adult Paper Back** which are shelved on spinners alphabetically by the author or by series; a book with the call number Science Fiction Star Wars will be shelved on the spinners with the science fiction paperbacks under Star Wars.

**DVD’s and MUSIC**

• **J DVD=Juvenile DVD (fiction)** which are shelved alphabetically by the first letter of the title; a DVD with the call number J DVD L will be shelved with the juvenile DVD’s under L.

• **JDVD Dewey Decimal Number=Juvenile DVD (non-fiction)** which are shelved numerically; a DVD with the call number JDVD 419 will be shelved with the juvenile non-fiction DVD’s under that number.

• **DVD=Adult DVD (fiction)** which are shelved alphabetically by the first letter of the title; a DVD with the call number DVD E will be shelved with the adult DVD’s under E.

• **DVD Dewey Decimal Number=Adult DVD (non-fiction)** which are shelved numerically; a DVD with the call number DVD 613.71 will be shelved with the adult non-fiction DVD’s under that number.

• **CD *Style* *Letter*=Adult Music CD** which are shelved by music style and then alphabetically by artist; a CD with the call number CD Pop/Rock C will be shelved with the Pop/Rock CD’s under C.

**Graphic Novels**

[Graphic Novel] is not part of the book’s actual call number but is a separate label on the books. Graphic novels are separated from the rest of the collection differently at each library branch but basically fall into the following sections:

• **F [Graphic Novel]=Adult Fiction Graphic Novel** which are shelved alphabetically by author or series; a graphic novel with the call number F Spiderman [Graphic Novel] will be shelved with the adult fiction graphic novels under Spiderman.

• **Dewey Decimal Number [Graphic Novel]=Adult Non-fiction Graphic Novel** which are shelved numerically with the adult non-fiction regular books or in their own area depending on the library branch.

• **TEEN [Graphic Novel]=Teen Graphic Novel** which are arranged alphabetically by author or series; a graphic novel with the call number Teen Naruto [Graphic Novel] will be shelved with the teen graphic novels under Naruto.

• **J [Graphic Novel]=Juvenile Graphic Novel** which are arranged alphabetically by author or series; a graphic novel with the call number J Pokemon [Graphic Novel] will be shelved in with the other juvenile graphics novels (whether they have their own section or are mixed in with the regular juvenile fiction) under Pokemon.

**Letters after the Dewey Decimal Number**

When items have the same Dewey Decimal Number, a letter (often the first letter of the author’s last name) will be added after the number to distinguish each item. The items will be arranged on the shelf first numerically by the Dewey Decimal Number and then alphabetically by the letter. For example, a book with the call number 598 G will be shelved with the other 598’s and then under G within that group.

598 A, 598 C, **598 G**, 598 K