

ALVIN SHERMAN LIBRARY, RESEARCH, AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CENTER

How To Read a Library of Congress Call Number

The Library of Congress System organizes material in libraries according to twenty-one branches of knowledge. The 21 categories (labeled A-Z except I,O,W,X and Y) are further divided by adding one or two additional letters and a set of numbers. For example, the Library of Congress call number **BJ 1725 .M34 2000**, for the book, **Meaningful Work: Rethinking Professional Ethics**, by Mike W. Martin, can be broken down this way:

B: Philosophy (General)

BJ: Ethics

BJ 1725: Ethics of social groups, classes, etc. Professional ethics.

BJ 1725 .M34: Individual item on this topic authored by person with surname beginning with "M"

BJ 1725 .M34 2000: 2000 indicates the year the book was published

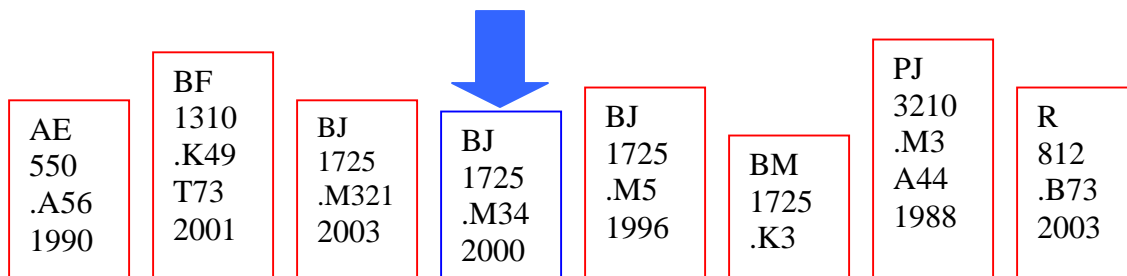
The first line, **BJ**, is arranged in alphabetical order.

The second line, **1725**, is arranged in numerical order.

The third line, **.M34**, is arranged in alphabetical and then decimal order.

The fourth line, **2000**, is arranged in chronological order.

On the shelf it would be located here:



The fine print!

Sometimes there is another classification line before the publication year that is arranged like the third line, **.M34** in alphabetical and then decimal order, but is missing the decimal. Sometimes the year is not included in the call number.

RK/LM 10/03

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