

How to

find a book: *anatomy of a call number*

call number prefix:

This letter indicates the location of the book in the library; in this case, the book is located in the **R**eference section of the library, on the 2nd floor.

call number, 1st position:

The "8" represents the "Dewey 100" subject category (800 = literature). The Dewey classification system divides knowledge into 10 categories.

book
spine label ↓

R

813

{54

St34g

call number, 2nd & 3rd positions:

The "1" indicates the book is American, and the "3" indicates the book is a work of fiction.

call number, 4th & 5th positions:

Numbers following the decimal point further classify the work. In this case, the book is a particular type of American literature: a contemporary novel (a work of fiction).

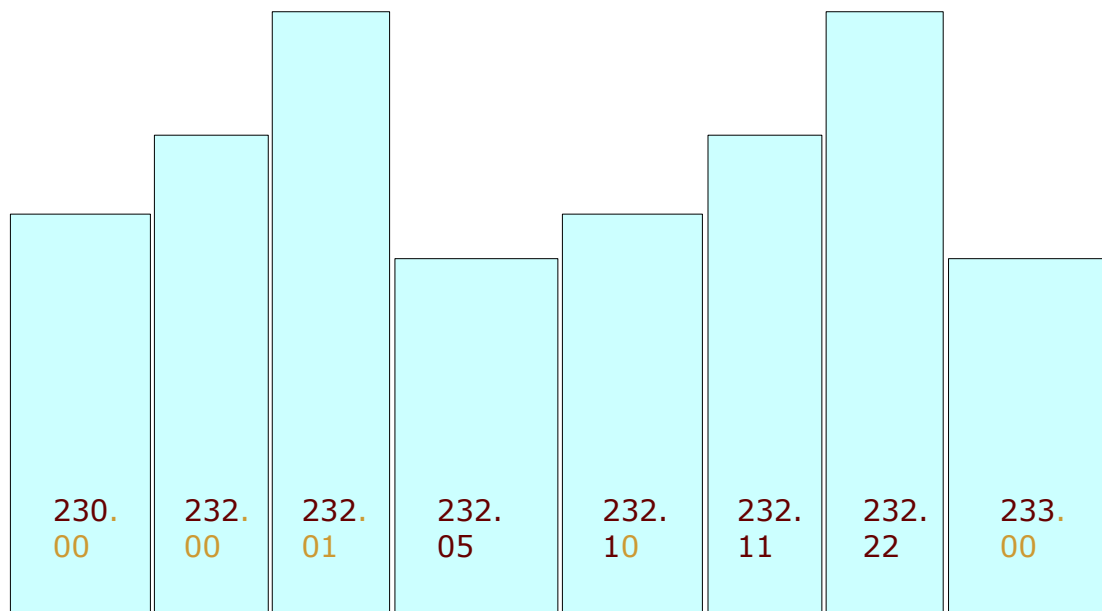
decimal point:

sometimes assumed in this library

Cutter Number:

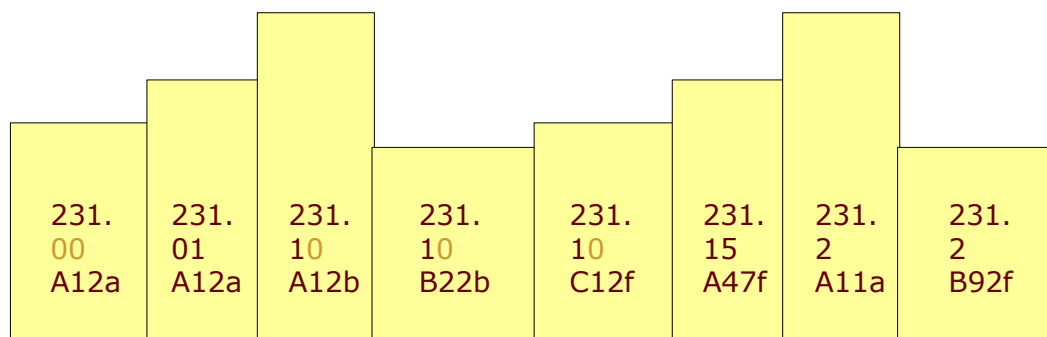
This last row of letters and numbers is called the Cutter Number, an alpha-numeric device for representing names by using one or more letters followed by one or more numerals. The Cutter Number is the organizational method by which an alphabetical arrangement of books is achieved on the shelf. In this example, the letters "St" represent the 1st two letters of the author's last name (**S**teinbeck), followed by a unique number (34) assigned to just this name. The final "g" represents the first letter of the title of the book: *The **G**rapes of Wrath*. Note that articles (a, an, the) at the beginning of a title are not considered when assigning a Cutter Number to a particular book.

It pays to read the Dewey system like *money* :

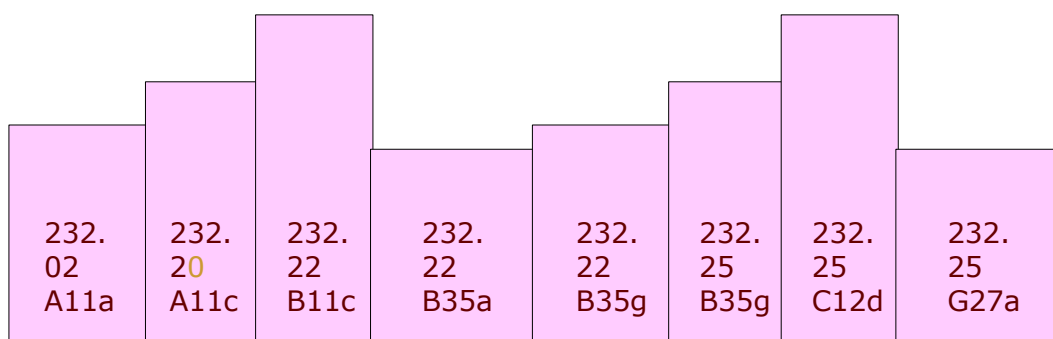


- 230.00
- 232.00
- 232.01
- 232.02
- 232.05
- 232.10
- 232.11
- 232.15
- 232.20
- 232.21
- 232.22
- 232.245
- 232.26
- 233.00
- 233.01
- 233.10

Cutter Numbers are read *alphabetically*, then *numerically*



- 231.00 A12a
- 231.00 A12b
- 231.00 A12f
- 231.00 A22a
- 231.01 A10a
- 231.01 A10c
- 231.10 A12b
- 231.10 A22a
- 232.02 Ba15a
- 232.02 Be15f
- 232.02 Bu15m
- 232.20 A97f
- 232.20 A98a
- 232.21 C27g
- 232.21 C34a
- 232.21 D19g
- 232.21 E15a
- 232.22 Ad12e
- 232.22 Ad12g
- 232.26 R322a
- 233.26 R325b
- 233.01 Ad12e
- 233.10 Ad14a



Dewey Decimal Call Number order is determined first. Then, Cutter Numbers are read from left to right. Follow alphabetical order for letters referencing author name, then numerical order, then alphabetical order again for the letters that reference title.

The Dewey Decimal System in brief:

000 Generalities

- 010 Bibliography
- 020 Library & information sciences
- 030 General encyclopedic works
- 040 ...
- 050 General serial publications
- 060 General organizations & museology
- 070 Journalism, publishing, newspapers
- 080 General collections
- 090 Manuscripts & book rarities

100 Philosophy & related disciplines

- 110 Metaphysics
- 120 Epistemology, causation, humankind
- 130 Paranormal phenomena & arts
- 140 Specific philosophical viewpoints
- 150 Psychology
- 160 Logic
- 170 Ethics (moral philosophy)
- 180 Ancient, medieval, Oriental
- 190 Modern Western philosophy

200 Religion

- 210 Natural religion
- 220 Bible
- 230 Christian theology
- 240 Christian moral & devotional
- 250 Local church & religious orders
- 260 Social & ecclesiastical theology
- 270 History & geography of church
- 280 Christian denominations & sects
- 290 Other & comparative religions

300 Social sciences

- 310 Statistics
- 320 Political science
- 330 Economics
- 340 Law
- 350 Public administration
- 360 Social problems & services
- 370 Education
- 380 Commerce/trade
- 390 Customs, etiquette, folklore

400 Language

- 410 Linguistics
- 420 English & Anglo-Saxon languages
- 430 Germanic languages (German)
- 440 Romance languages (French)
- 450 Italian, Romanian languages
- 460 Spanish & Portuguese languages
- 470 Italic languages (Latin)
- 480 Hellenic (classical Greek)
- 490 Other languages

500 Pure sciences

- 510 Mathematics
- 520 Astronomy & allied sciences
- 530 Physics
- 540 Chemistry & allied sciences
- 550 Sciences of earth & other worlds
- 560 Paleontology/paleo-zoology
- 570 Life sciences
- 580 Botanical sciences
- 590 Zoological sciences

600 Technology (applied sciences)

- 610 Medical sciences/medicine
- 620 Engineering & applied operations
- 630 Agriculture & related technologies
- 640 Home economics & family living
- 650 Management & auxiliary services
- 660 Chemical & related technologies
- 670 Manufactures
- 680 Manufacture for specific uses
- 690 Buildings

700 Arts

- 710 Civic & landscape art
- 720 Architecture
- 730 Plastic arts/sculpture
- 740 Drawing, decorative & minor arts
- 750 Painting & paintings
- 760 Graphic arts/prints
- 770 Photography & photographs
- 780 Music
- 790 Recreational & performing arts

800 Literature

- 810 American literature in English
- 820 English & Anglo-Saxon literatures
- 830 Literatures of Germanic languages
- 840 Literatures of Romance languages
- 850 Literatures of Italian language
- 860 Spanish & Portuguese literatures
- 870 Italic literatures (Latin)
- 880 Hellenic literatures (Greek)
- 890 Literatures of other languages

900 Geography & history

- 910 General geography/travel
- 920 Biography & genealogy
- 930 History of the ancient world
- 940 History of Europe
- 950 History of Asia
- 960 History of Africa
- 970 History of North America
- 980 History of South America
- 990 History of other areas