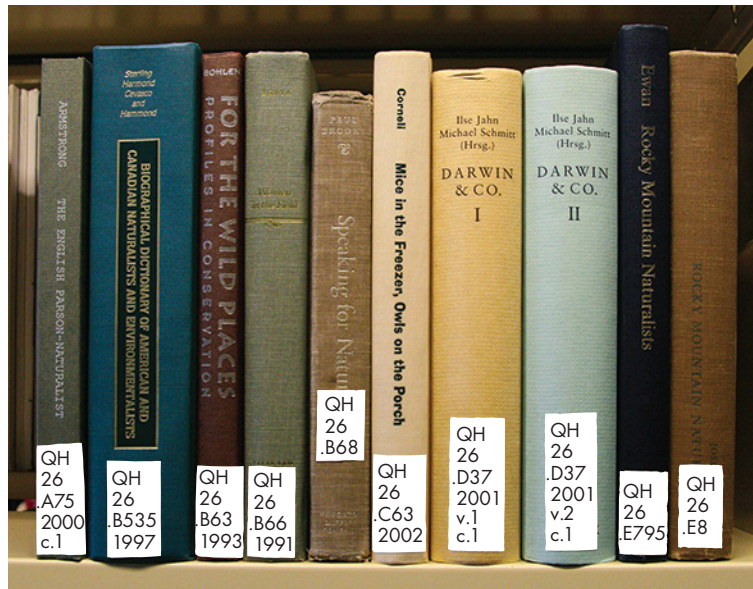# Understanding the Call Numbers
Your Guide to Shelf Location in the Library

Read the call number line by line. **The third line is read as a decimal.**

e.g. E795 comes before E8

How are the Books & Journals Arranged on the Shelves 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.

Reading a Library of Congress Call Number:

QH26.E795

Read letters in alphabetical order
e.g. Q, QA, QB, QC... QH... etc.

Read as a whole number

Read numbers as a DECIMAL
Read letters in alphabetical order

e.g. E795 comes before E8

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 that 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: America
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