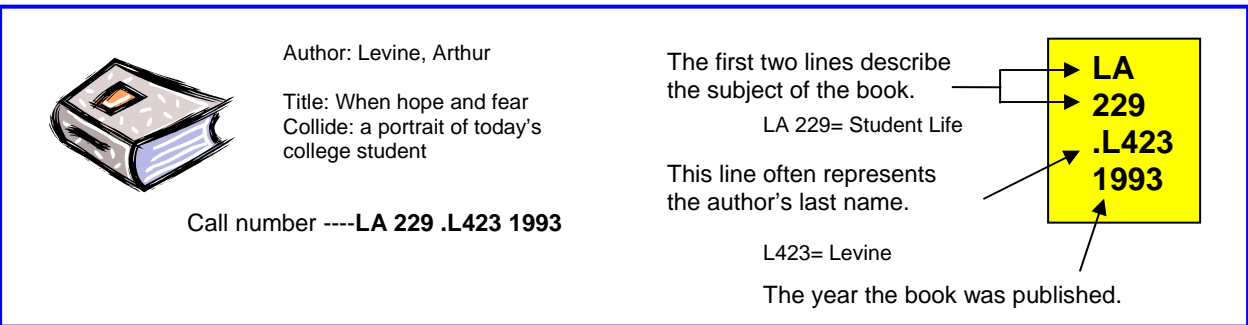


# Understanding Library Call Numbers

## A Quick Reference Guide to the Library of Congress (LC) Classification System

CALL NUMBERS are the letters and numbers printed on the spines of library books and bound periodicals. The shelving codes developed by the Library of Congress are used by the IU East Campus Library and many other academic libraries in the United States. The LC system is used to shelve materials on similar subjects in the same area.

LC call number example:



Author: Levine, Arthur  
Title: When hope and fear  
Collide: a portrait of today's  
college student

Call number ----LA 229 .L423 1993

The first two lines describe the subject of the book.  
LA 229= Student Life

This line often represents the author's last name.  
L423= Levine

The year the book was published.

The following alphabetical prefixes are used in the LC system to designate major subject areas:

- A** Encyclopedias, Dictionaries, Indexes, Yearbooks, Almanacs, Dictionaries
- B** Philosophy, Psychology, Religion
- C** Archaeology, Genealogy, Biography
- D** History: world other than America/Western Hemisphere
- E-F** History: America/Western Hemisphere
- G** Geography, Atlases, Maps, Anthropology, Recreation, Leisure
- H** Statistics, Business, Economics, Sociology
- J** Political Science, State and Local Government
- K** Law
- L** Education
- M** Music
- N** Fine Arts
- P** Language, Literature
- Q** Mathematics, Astronomy, Physics, Chemistry, Geology, Biology, Microbiology
- R** Medicine
- S** Agriculture
- T** Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering
- U** Military Science
- V** Naval Science
- Z** Bibliography, Library Science