



# FIND THAT BOOK

## Deciphering the mystery of call numbers

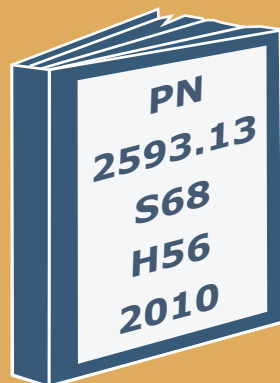
**Call numbers** reveal book subjects and act as their home addresses, helping us find them on the shelf in the library. They come from a classification system, and at the University of Waterloo, we use the Library of Congress (LC) classification system that organizes items by main subject.

### Reading Call Numbers



Call numbers appear **vertically on the spines** of the books, read line by line from top to bottom.

**Omni**, our library catalogue, shows them horizontally, read from left to right. **PN2593.13.S68 H56 2010**



### Cracking the Secret Code

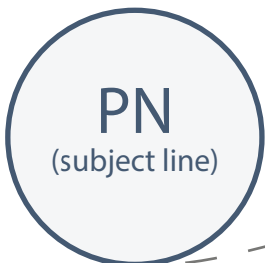


LC call numbers have an **alpha-numeric** sequence and expand by adding additional lines.

Tackle it with a **line-by-line approach!**

#### 1st line: read alphabetically

**Hint:** Single letters come before double.



#### 3rd line: read letters alphabetically & the numbers digit-by-digit

**Hint:** These are always decimals even if period is not present (e.g., S68 reads as S, six, eight, not as S sixty-eight).

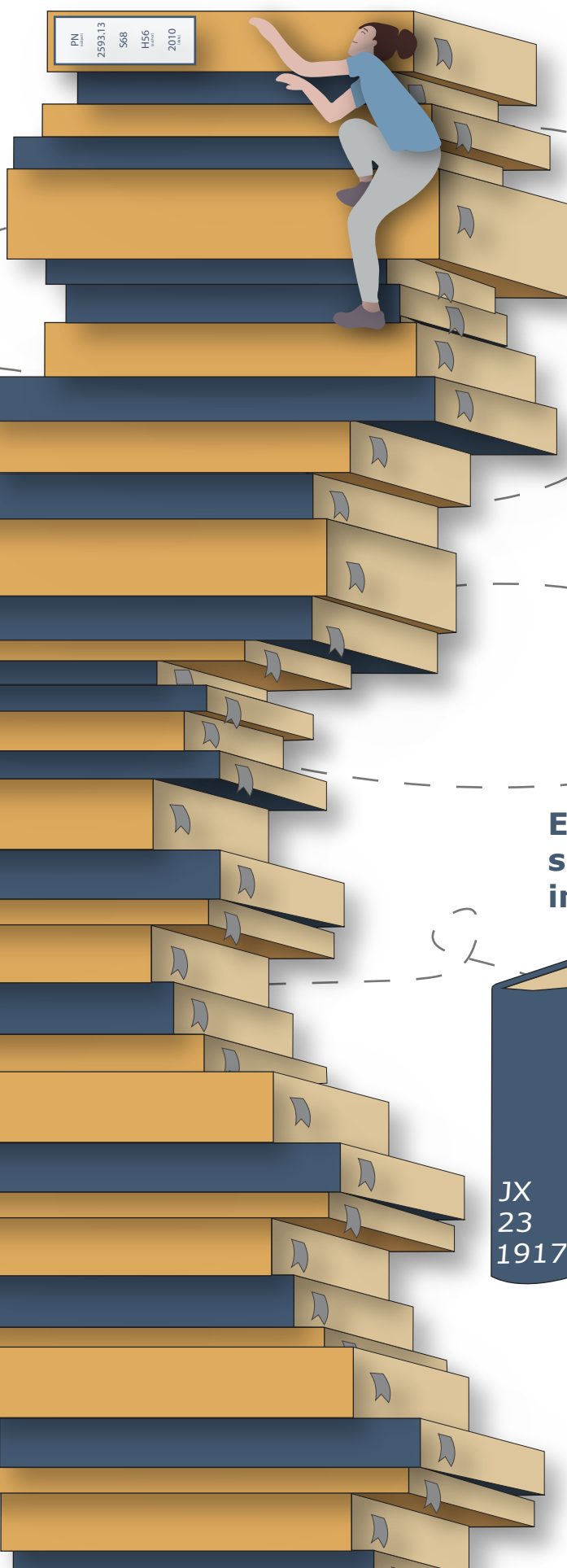


#### 5th line: Read chronologically

**Hint:** These details differentiate copies with identical call numbers.



Call numbers also help you **browse subject areas** as books on related topics are shelved together. **For example**, if you find this book on Dramaturgy, you can look to the left, right, above, and below that book on the shelf for others on a similar topic.



#### 2nd line: read numerically as a whole number

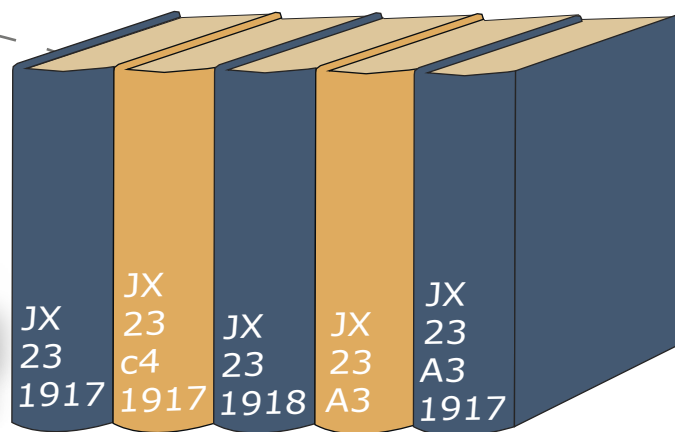
2593.13

**Hint:** If the whole number is followed by a decimal point, read it digit by digit (e.g., 9.4 is 9.40).

#### 4th line: read the same as the 3rd line, if present



#### Example of books on the shelf with call numbers in order



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