LibCast: Call Number

Screen shots
“? Boy” Screen

Picture of WCMC-Q, NLM, and LC

Screen of DeLib Catalog

Shelf Video

“A Typical Call Number”

Things to Remember screen (Order of Numbers and Letters)

Things to Remember screen (Subjects)

End

Searching by Keyword

Script

Have you ever asked yourself, what is a call number? Call numbers are a system that the library used to order and classify books and other items with a series of numbers and letters.

Weill Cornell Medical College uses a combination of systems developed by the national library of medicine and the library of congress.

You may have noticed call numbers when you have been searching for books in the library’s catalog.

These numbers are how you can find books and other items on the shelf.

A typical call numbers looks something like this (E185.97 .L77 A33 1968). The easiest way to find a call number is to break it down into its different parts. This begins with one to three letters at the start of the call number. In this case, we would want to find the books and items that begin with “E”. Next, look for a combination of numbers that follow the letters. This can be a whole number or a decimal.

Remember that numbers within the call number are arranged by decimal order. So in this case (GN 205 .K813 1968 and GN 205 .K9 1999), K 813 would come before K9.

It is also good to remember that the letters at the beginning of call numbers correspond to the various subjects. This can be helpful when doing research.

Music Plays