Library of Congress Classification

Library of Congress (LC) classification system, which is used by most academic libraries, classifies items by broad subject category and then by subcategories. Each item is assigned a unique call number based on how an item is classified, which determines where it will be shelved.

On an item label, the call number is arranged vertically. In the online catalog, call numbers are arranged horizontally.

REF
PB
35
.W7
1984

Note: Be sure to watch for any special Location given in the online catalog such as Reference (REF) or Leisure. On the item label, it is ABOVE the call number, usually abbreviated. In the online catalog, Location: Emmanuel Main Stacks means the circulating collection.

Example of call number order (these call numbers do not reflect actual books in the collection):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>P</th>
<th>PA</th>
<th>PB</th>
<th>PB</th>
<th>PB</th>
<th>PB</th>
<th>PB</th>
<th>PB</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>106</td>
<td>4037</td>
<td>35.2</td>
<td>35.2</td>
<td>2114</td>
<td>2114.353</td>
<td>2114.4</td>
<td>2114.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As you scan the shelves for a book, read each line of the call number:

REF  Note any special Location
PB   Read the first line in alphabetical order. (e.g., P before PA before PN before R)
35.2 Read the second line as a whole number in numerical order. (e.g., 2114.353 before 2114.4)
.W75 Read the third (and possibly fourth) line:
~ the letters alphabetically. (e.g., .J32 before .K537)
~ the numbers as decimals in numerical order. (e.g., .537 before .54)
HINT: add zero(s) to make numbers of equal length, i.e., .54 is read as .540.
1999 Read any dates chronologically. (e.g., 1984 before 1999)