HOW TO READ A LIBRARY OF CONGRESS CALL NUMBER

Each item in the SLCC library is assigned a unique call number. Like an address, a call number tells you where an item is located in the library. The SLCC Library, like many academic libraries, uses the Library of Congress Classification for call numbers. The Library of Congress Classification System uses a combination of letters and numbers to organize material in libraries by subject in order to make it easier to browse the shelves for materials on a specific topic. Call numbers can be found:

In the Online Catalog:  OR  On the Book Spine:

HQ 777.6 .G35 2000

HQ
The first line indicates the general subject area of the book, in this case, The Family and Marriage. Read the first line in alphabetical order:
A, B, BF, C, D... L, LA, LB, LC, M, ML...

777.6
The second line is a sub-classification of the general subject area, Children and child development. Read the second line as a whole number:
1, 2, 3, 45, 100, 101, 1000, 2000, 2430...

.G35
The third line is a combination of a letter and numbers. Read the letter alphabetically. Read the number as a decimal. When trying to locate an item it can helpful to add an imaginary zero. For example, .A23 comes before .A3, which is the same as .A30.

2000
The last line is the year the book was published. Read in chronological order:
1985, 1991, 1992...

Location Prefixes
Some call numbers are preceded by a location prefix written in red indicating that the item is shelved in a special location and may have loan restrictions. For example:

Ref - Reference item located on the Reference shelves.
Media DVD, Media VHS – Media item located on the short set of shelves in the middle of the library.
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

The Library of Congress Classification System organizes material in libraries by subject in order to make it easier to browse the shelves for materials on a specific topic. The call numbers begin with letters, which identify the subject of a work. Additional letters and numbers further subdivide the subject.

A - General Works
B - Philosophy, Psychology, Religion
   B Philosophy
   BF Psychology
   BL - BX Religions and Mythology
C - Auxiliary Sciences of History
D - World History (except American History)
   D - DR Europe
   DS Asia
   DT Africa
   DU Oceania (South Seas)
E - United States History
F - United States Local History and North and South America
G - Geography, Maps, Anthropology, Recreation
   G - GA Geography, Atlases, Maps
   GC – GE Environmental Sciences
   GN Anthropology
   GR Folklore
   GV Recreation, Leisure
H - Social Sciences
   HA Statistics
   HB Economics
   HD Management, Industries, Land Use, Labor
   HF Accounting, Business, Career information
   HM Sociology
   HQ Family, Marriage, Women
   HV Social service, Social and public welfare, Criminology
   HX Socialism, Communism, Anarchism
J - Political Science
K - Law
L - Education
M - Music
N - Fine arts
P - Language and Literature
   P General Philology and Linguistics
   PA Classical languages and literature
   PB - PH European Languages
   PJ – PL Asian Languages
   PM - American Indian and Artificial Languages
   PN Literature (General)
   PQ Romance literature
   PR English literature
   PS American literature
   PT Germanic literature
   PZ Juvenile literature
Q - Science
   Q Science (General)
   QA Mathematics, Computer Science
   QB Astronomy
   QC Physics
   QD Chemistry
   QE Geology, Paleontology, Paleozoology
   QH Biology, Natural History
   QK Botany
   QL Zoology
   QM Human anatomy
  QP Physiology
   QR - Microbiology
R - Medicine
   R Medicine (General)
   RG Gynecology and obstetrics (including Midwifery)
   RJ Pediatrics
   RT Nursing
S - Agriculture
T - Technology
U - Military Science
V - Naval Science
Z - Bibliography, Library Science