About This Guide
This guide provides a basic overview of the Library of Congress Classification system used to organize materials at the Leatherby Libraries. It is recommended that you also read the "How to Read a Call Number" guide for a simple breakdown of a sample call number.

Classification
Each item in a library’s collection has a unique “address” known as its call number. Classification systems are used to assign call numbers. Commonly used systems in the United States are the Dewey Decimal Classification System, primarily used at public and school libraries, and the Library of Congress Classification System, primarily used at academic libraries.

Major Classes of the Library of Congress Classification System
The system is made up of 21 major classes. A comprehensive outline of the system is available at www.loc.gov/catdir/cpso/lcco. The letters and titles of the main classes are listed below:

A – General Works
B – Philosophy, Psychology, Religion
C – Auxiliary Sciences of History
D – World History & History of Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia, New Zealand, etc.
E – History of the Americas
F – History of the Americas
G – Geography, Anthropology, Recreation
H – Social Sciences
J – Political Science
K – Law
L – Education
M – Music and Books on Music
N – Fine Arts
P – Language and Literature
Q – Science
R – Medicine
S – Agriculture
T – Technology
U – Military Science
Y – Naval Science
Z – Bibliography, Library Science, Information Resources (General)

This guide is one in a series of "How To" Reference and Instruction Guides created by librarians at the Leatherby Libraries. View the series online at www.chapman.edu/library/reference/guides
Author of this guide: Stacy Russo, MA, MLIS, Chair of Public Services
Date created: July 28, 2009
Subclasses of the Library of Congress Classification System

Each class is then divided into subclasses, allowing the organization of a library’s collection to become more precise. For an example, we will look at the subclasses for N – Fine Arts:

- Subclass N - Visual Arts
- Subclass NA - Architecture
- Subclass NB - Sculpture
- Subclass NC - Drawing, Design, Illustration.
- Subclass ND - Painting
- Subclass NE - Print media
- Subclass NK - Decorative arts
- Subclass NX - Arts in general

We can then look closer at Subclass NB Sculpture and conclude with an example of a book on sculpture from the Leatherby Libraries Online Catalog:

- NB1-1952 - Sculpture
- NB1-50 - General
- NB60-1115 - History
  - Including collective biography
- NB1120-1133 - Study and teaching
- NB1134-1134.4 - Competitions
- NB1135-1150 - General works
- NB1160-1195 - Designs and technique
- NB1199-1200 - Restoration of sculptures
- NB1203-1270 - Special materials
- NB1272-1291 - Mobiles, color, sculpture gardens, etc.
- NB1293-1895 - Special forms
- NB1293-1310 - Portrait sculpture
- NB1312-1313 - Equestrian statues
- NB1330-1685 - Sculptural monuments
- NB1750-1793 - Religious monuments and shrines
- NB1800-1880 - Sepulchral monuments
- NB1910-1952 - Special subjects

(All information above from the Library of Congress Classification Outline for Class N – Fine Arts available at http://www.loc.gov/aba/cataloging/classification/lcco/lcco_n.pdf)

The Leatherby Libraries Online Catalog

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Elske Francq</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Sculpture: techniques in clay, wax, slate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publisher</td>
<td>Philadelphia, Chilton Co. [1959]</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>CALL #</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2nd Fl. Fine Arts</td>
<td>NB1180 E48 1959</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collection</td>
<td>192 p. illus. 27 cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Series</td>
<td>Arts and crafts, series</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subject</td>
<td>Sculpture – Technique, Modeling</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Now that we have examined the NB subclass, we can better understand why a call number beginning with NB1180 was assigned to the book on the left. From the outline of the NB subclass above, we can see that this number falls within the “Designs and techniques” of sculpture. This book, Sculpture: Techniques in Clay, Wax, Slate, has two subjects assigned to it: “Sculpture – Technique” and “Modeling” (see circled area).

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