LIBRARY OF CONGRESS CLASSIFICATION (LOC) SYSTEM

Ever searched for a book in the library? Well, it's changed in recent years. In fact, most university libraries use a system developed by the United States Library of Congress. It's called the LOC system or the Library of Congress Classification System. It's simple: All books are assigned an LOC Letter (or Letters) and a number. These letters correspond to a subject. If the letter is doubled (an example might look like AB, PE, QR, etc.), then it refers to a subcategorization of the subject.

Below is further explanation of the subject system and a short sample descriptions of how the subject subsystem works.

SUBJECT SYSTEM
Library of Congress Classification System is used widely by all university libraries in the United States. Additionally, almost all books in print contain a LOC number.

A= General Works
B=Philosophy, Psychology, Religion
C= Auxiliary Sciences of History
D= World History
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
V= Naval Science
Z= Bibliography, Library Science, Information Resources

SUBJECT SUBSYSTEM
The LOC system assigns a letter to a specific topic.
Subtopics are possible within the system.

P=Language
PA= Greek/Latin Language
PB= Modern/Celtic Languages
PC= Romance Languages

PD= Germanic/Scandinavian Languages
PE= English Language
PG= Slavic/Baltic Languages
PJ= Asian Language
PK= Indo-Iranian Languages
PM= Indian Languages
PN= General Literature
PQ= French/Italian/Spanish/Portuguese Literature
PS= American Literature
PT= German/Dutch/Flemish/Afrikaans/Scandinavian/Icelandic/Danish/Swedish Literature
PZ= Fiction and Juvenile Belles Lettres