A call number is like an address; it tells you where a book is located within the Library. Researchers use call numbers to retrieve books and other materials from the Library's shelves.

The call number scheme used by most university libraries is the LC (Library of Congress) Classification System. LC call numbers use letters of the alphabet and numbers to point to where materials are shelved.

An LC call number can also tell you what an item is about. The Library of Congress system arranges materials by broad subject category, or 'class.' So if you find one book on a shelf that is on a topic of interest to you, look to the left and right of where that book was shelved. Other books you find shelved there - books that have similar call numbers - will likely cover the same topic.