Most academic libraries use the Library of Congress Classification Schedule which is divided into 21 branches of knowledge represented by letters:

A – General works  M – Music
B – Philosophy      N – Visual arts
C – Auxiliary sciences of history  P – Language and literature
D – History (general)  Q – Science
E-F – History (Americas)  R – Medicine
G – Geography  S – Agriculture
H – Social sciences; Business  T – Technology
J – Political science  U – Military Science
K – Law  V – Naval science
L – Education  Z – Bibliography; Library science

Each branch is divided into more specific topics represented by combinations of letters and numbers. In order to classify the specific subject of a book, the general subject heading of the book is first identified within the Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH). Then the book can be specifically classified within the branches of the general subject heading.

For example, the book *Teleworking* has the call number HD 2336.3 B523 1995. This is how this book is classified in the LCSH system:

H – Social sciences and business
HD – Economic history and conditions
  2321-4760 – Industry
  2331-2336 – Household Industry
  2336.3 – Telecommuting

Call numbers are used to organize items by subject within the library collection. They can be helpful when browsing the stacks for similar or related items on a subject.