

Call numbers are the numbers and letters on the spine or cover of any library item. Think of a call number as an address – it helps you find the item on the shelves. Avondale Libraries use the Dewey Decimal Classification system.

How it works

1. Every item has a number called the “call number” that tells you where it is located
2. That number is between 000 and 900 and may have several decimal places
3. Look at this number: **598.43**

5		5 = the broad topic (Science)
9		9 = a subtopic (Animals)
8.		8 = really subtopics (Birds)
4		.43 decimal place represents sub sub sub topics 4 = Waterbirds
3		3 = Pelicans

Got it? Here’s another one:

599.846 is **5** (science) **9** (animals) **9** (Mammals) **.8** (Primates) **46** (Gorillas) = a book about gorillas.

Underneath those numbers are letters and numbers e.g. **E52** or **R44-1**

This is the author code. The call number will take you to the exact item you require.

Making it work:

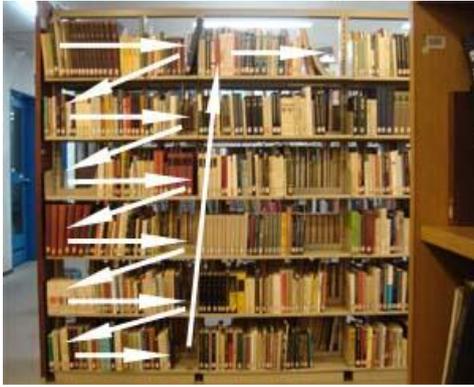
Next time you borrow a book from a section you use a lot, look at its Dewey number. If your assignment is on ancient Egypt, the Dewey number for that is 932. Now you can just browse that section for the books you want. The same number will be found in the main collection as well as in the TMC collection, Journals and Reference.

But beware!! Not everything on Ancient Egypt is at that number. For instance the myths of ancient Egypt are at 398.20932. Women in Ancient Egypt are at 305.40932. The mummies are at 393.30932. For a really specific search, use **PrimoSearch** to tell you exactly where the books are.

Call numbers are shelved by the number first, then alphabetically by the author.

Example The following items would be found on the shelf in this order:

372	372	372.01	372.1	372.1096	372.134	373.005	373.05
G57	G96	A43	P21	F32	M12	F56	F15



How to search the shelves

Items are placed on the shelf in number order first, then alphabetically.

To search for a book, start from the left and go across the shelf. Work your way **DOWN** the bay, then start from the top of the next bay and so on.

Call numbers in PrimoSearch

When you have found the item you are looking for in PrimoSearch click on **Availability**


 ☆ **The practice of public relations / Fraser P. Seitel.**
 11th ed., International ed. Harlow : Pearson Education, 2011
[Check availability](#)
 Book

[Availability](#) [Details](#)

[-] Avondale - Lake Macquarie	Main	659.20973 Se4	Available	
Location	Call Number	Description	Status / Date Due	Request Options
Avondale - Lake Macquarie	659.20973 Se4	Book	On Shelf	Sign in to request :

The Call Number is listed as well as the status. The item is available if it is **On shelf**
 If it is on loan the due date will be listed:

Status / Date Due	
08/11/12	This item is on loan and due back 8 November, 2012.

Prefixes

You may find some letters in front of call numbers:

- R = Reference collection
- TMC = Teaching Materials Centre
- S = Serials or journals
- SPC = Special Collection (ask a librarian if you wish to borrow from the Special Collection)
- F = Fiction (Sydney Library)
- NF = Non fiction (Sydney Library)
- FOL = Folio (extra tall books)

Dewey classes

- 000 Generalities (computers, news media, journalism etc)
- 100 Philosophy and psychology
- 200 Religion
- 300 Social sciences (law, education, family, costume, etiquette, folklore, etc)
- 400 Language
- 500 Natural sciences and mathematics
- 600 Technology (applied sciences)
- 700 The arts
- 800 Literature and rhetoric
- 900 History and geography