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Students in Transition: Preparing Students for College Research

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Overall Purpose: To familiarize students with the LoC system, the organizational system by which books are arranged on library shelves at most universities. To help students develop alternative ways to think about and refine topic choices for research.

The first two letters of a call number (located on the book spine) denote one of 21 subject areas and indicate the category into which a book has been classified. For instance, a book about Stephen King, *Revisiting Stephen King: A Critical Companion*, by Sharon A. Russell, has the call number **PS3561.I483 Z864 2002**. The letters **PS** indicate the category of American Literature; the numbers 3561 indicate the sub-division called “Individual authors from 1961 – 2000.”

Task 1: Thinking about initial information (5 – 10 min).

How we interpret a book’s title and content might differ from the way a librarian interprets title and content. For instance, we might, logically, place the Bill Murray book in biography or autobiography; some would, also logically, categorize the same book as humor. The LoC system categorizes it as Sports & Recreation. Understanding this difference helps us realize that looking in just one category for information would not deliver the best return, just as when we *google* something. The first search terms we use may not get us what we’re looking for. Understanding also helps us to approach a topic from a fresh perspective.

How would you guess the following books are categorized? What are other logical categories?

Book

Cinderella Story: My Life in Golf Bill Murray

Other possibilities:

Category

GV967 .M78 1999 (Sports & Recreation)

Humor; Biography; Autobiography; Societies and Clubs

The Complete Guide to Divorce Samuel Kling

Other possibilities:

KF535.Z9 K56 (Law)

Family, Marriage, Home; Religion; Manners & Customs; Economic History & Conditions

Chaos in Classical and Quantum Mechanics Martin C. Gutzwiller QC125.2 .G88 1990 (Physics)

Other possibilities:

Technology & Engineering; Astronomy

Death of a Princess: The Investigation Thomas Sancton DA591.A45 D5359 (Great Britain)

Other possibilities:

Law; Forensic Science; Folklore; Family, Marriage, Home; Heraldry; Genealogy

The Power to Transform: Leadership that Brings Learning and Schooling to Life Stephanie Pace Marshall

LB2822.8 .M38 2006 (Education)

Other possibilities:

Law; Business; Public Administration; Psychology United States

Task 2: Further practice in categorizing Working with your group members, look at the following titles and call numbers. Look up the call numbers in the LoC notebook and write in the category names, being as specific as you can; we are concerned only with the part of the call number *before* the decimal.

Ethical issues in death and dying / Robert F. Weir

R726 .E77

R: Medicine

726: Medical philosophy, Medical Ethics

Herbs for sports performance, energy and recovery / Edmund R. Burke

TX819.H4 L6 1998

Defending the undefendable: the pimp, prostitute, scab, slumlord, libeler, moneylender, and other scapegoats in the rogue's gallery of American society / by Walter Block

HB95 .B58

Current methods of autopsy practice / Jergan Ludwig

RA1058 .L8

Ghost hunters of the south / Alan Brown

BF1026 .B76 2006

Task 3: Becoming aware by browsing: Turn to the following areas in the LoC listings; beginning with the given location, run your finger down the listings and see if there are surprises and the implications of any discoveries.

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
BF 1404 – 2055	BJ 1801 – 2195	CB 3 – 482
CC 1 – 960	GR 1 – GV 1860	KZA 1002 – KZD 5680
LC 1200 – LC 5160	ND 25 – 3416	PM 1 – 9021
PN 6010 - 6790	QC 801 - 809	RA 421 – 1270
RC 952 - 1245	SK 1 – 664	TD 1 – 1066
TX 1 - 1110	UB 1 - 440	VK 1 – VM 989

Task 3: Creating a deep pool of possibilities (10 – 15 min). If we were exploring Weddings as a topic, we'd obviously look in BL: Religion; BR: Christianity; we might also check out HM: Sociology; HQ: Family, Marriage, Home; GT: Manners & Customs. But to get a full picture and to develop a more original, subtle, complex idea to research, we'd also be well-served to look in the following categories, among others:

- CS**-Genealogy (What about the children? Will a blood test tell us everything we need to know?)
- CT**-Biography (for famous weddings, i.e. Princess Diana and Prince Charles)
- D**: History (The unions of powerful families formed alliances between countries for political (in)stability)
- GT**-Manners and customs (who gives the bride away, what about thank you notes, jumping the broomstick or crushing a glass)
- JX**-International Law (because marriage is also a legal union with legal implications; if you marry someone from a different country, which laws govern marriage? Divorce?)
- SB**-Plant Culture (flowers/plants used in your area; what if you have severe allergies?)
- TT**-Handicrafts, Arts and crafts (things we make at home to use in ceremonies; bouquets, rice nets, etc)

Another example: Hip Hop; besides Music, where else could we find information about this genre?

E: History of the Americas, African-Americans

Example: **Afeni Shakur : evolution of a revolutionary** / Jasmine Guy E185.97.S528 G89 2004

CT: Biography

ML: Music, History & Criticism, Popular Music

Example: **Making beats: the art of sample-based hip-hop** / Joseph G. Schloss ML3531 .S35 2004

LC: Special Aspects of Education

Ex.: **Black in school: Afrocentric reform, urban youth & the promise of hip-hop culture** / Shawn A. Ginwright LC2717 .G56 2004

PN: Literature, Motion Pictures

Ex.: **Representing: hip hop culture and the production of Black cinema** / S. Craig Watkins
PN1995.9.N4 W38

Working with the topic that has been given to your group, use the Table of Contents page in the front of the notebook and list below EVERY area that might prove useful to you in research. Then flip to those sections and get more specific. Your responses will include the full call number (letters and numbers), the name of the major category, name of the sub-category, and what you would hope to find there. List the obvious then move beyond it.

Call Numbers	Subject Area	Specific Area	Why?
Ex: ND1385	Painting: Special Subjects	Sports, Hunting & Fishing	Representations in Art

Library of Congress Classification System

A – General Works

AE – Encyclopedias
AI – Indexes
AY - Yearbooks

B - Philosophy, Psychology, Religion

B – History and Systems
BF - Psychology
BL – Religions, Mythology
BM – Judaism
BQ – Buddhism
BR - Christianity

C – Auxiliary Sciences of History

CB – History of Civilization
CC – Archaeology
CR – Heraldry
CS – Genealogy
CT - Biography

D – History (except America)

D – History (general)
DA – Great Britain
DAW – Central Europe
DC – France
DD – Germany
DE – Mediterranean, Greco-Roman World
DG – Italy
DK – Russia and Poland
DS – Asia
DT – Africa
DU – Oceania, Australia, New Zealand

E – America (general) and United States

51-99 Indians of North America
186-199 Colonial Period
483-655 Civil War

F – United States (local) and America

1-970 – United States (local)
1001-1140 – British North America, Canada
2201-2239 – South America

G – Geography, Anthropology

G – Geography (general)
GB – Physical Geography
GR – Folklore
GT – Manners and Customs
GV – Sports and Recreation

H – Social Sciences (general)

HB – Economic Theory
HC – Economic History and Conditions
HG – Finance
HJ – Public Finance
HM – Sociology
HQ – Family, Marriage, Home
HS – Societies and Clubs
HX – Communism, Socialism, Anarchism

J – Political Science

JK – Constitutional History and Administration
JS – Local Government
JX – International Law, International Relations

K – Law

L – Education

LA – History of Education

M – Music

N – Fine Arts

P – Language and Literature

PA – Classical Philology (Greek and Latin)
PN – Literature, Literary History and Collections
PR – English Literature
PS – American Literature
PZ – Children's Literature

Q – Science

QA – Mathematics
QB – Astronomy
QC – Physics
QD – Chemistry
QE – Geology
QH – Natural history, Biology
QK – Botany
QL – Zoology
QM – Human Anatomy
QP – Physiology
QR – Microbiology

R – Medicine

RB – Pathology
RK – Dentistry
RT – Nursing

S – Agriculture

SB – Plant Culture
SD – Forestry
SF – Animal Culture
SK – Hunting

T – Technology and Engineering

TA – Engineering, Civil Engineering
TJ – Mechanical Engineering
TK – Electronics and Electrical Engineering
TL – Motor Vehicles, Aeronautics, Astronautics
TP – Chemical Technology
TS - Manufactures
TT – Handicrafts, Arts & Crafts

U – Military Science

UA – Armies, Organization and Distribution
UD – Infantry
UH – Other Services

V – Naval Science (general)

VA – Navies, Organization and Distribution
VD – Naval Seamen
VE – Marines
VK – Navigation

Z – Library Science, Bibliography

4-8 – History of Books and Bookmaking
40-115 – Writing
116–550 – Book Industries and trade
551-661 – Copyright
665-997 – Libraries and Library Science
1001-8999 - Bibliography