Library of Congress call numbers should be read **one line at a time** as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample Call Number</th>
<th>Line 1</th>
<th>Line 2</th>
<th>Line 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DA 36 A77</td>
<td>DA</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>A77</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. **First, look at Line 1**

Books are arranged in **alphabetical order**, by the letters on the first line of the call number.

**Example:** first come all the D call numbers, then all the DA call numbers, then DB, etc.

![Books arranged alphabetically](image)

2. **Next, look at Line 2**

Within the **DA** call numbers, books are arranged in **number order**.

The numbers are arranged in numerical order, from low to high.

**Example:**

![Books arranged numerically](image)

3. **Then look at Line 3**

Line 3 of the call number has a letter and a number. The letters are in alphabetical order. Then read the numbers -but BEWARE! The numbers are not whole numbers, they are **decimal numbers**!

**Example:** A55 is read as A .55 - this is why A55 comes before A6 (A .55, A .6, A .65, etc.)

![Books arranged alphabetically and numerically](image)